



# COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL

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**DATE:** January 17, 2017

**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**NAME AND TITLE:** Councillor Jillian Merrick, Chair of the Select Committee on Student Needs

**SUBJECT:** Student Mentorship Program

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None

## RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council consider a 2017 budget allocation of \$6,000 for the Student Mentorship Program

## PURPOSE:

In July, 2016, The Select Committee on Student Needs presented a White Paper to Council that outlined a number of priorities and suggested actions in order that the City consider student input on topics such as housing, transportation, recreation, and job opportunities. The White Paper also included suggestions related to student representation and participation in local government.

Subsequently, Council approved a revised Terms of Reference and membership of the Committee, which included an “action-oriented” mandate. The newly reconstituted Select Committee on Student Needs has met and considered the proposal for a Student Mentorship Program, which would provide students in Prince George with the opportunity to learn more about local government by participating in three annual local government conventions: for the North Central Local Government Association, the Union of BC Municipalities, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Having students from Prince George attend these conferences would have the effect of exposing local students to local government organizations and issues, bringing youth voices to those annual meetings, and enhancing the participation and knowledge of local students in the affairs of the City of Prince George.

The Committee has unanimously endorsed the proposal and seeks Council’s support.

Council would select the participants in the mentorship program from applications submitted in confidence. Members of the Select Committee would be able to apply, as would any student in Prince George who is 19 years of age or older. Applicants would provide Council with their resume, a statement of their interest (and/or involvement) in local government, and proof of student registration.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Council’s Annual Report 2015 and Corporate Plan 2016-18 identify a Council focus on initiatives related to youth engagement and education. The Student Mentorship Program would enhance understanding among students of local government issues, challenges, and opportunities. This knowledge would benefit

the Committee members and the student population broadly in both voicing and influencing local public policy as it relates to students and youth.

In addition, City staff and Councillors would have an opportunity to learn student perspectives on the many policy issues discussed during these events. The presence of student participants would also enhance Prince George's reputation as an "education destination" amongst all levels of government.

This program requires that Administration create a nomination/application process, solicit applications, and administer the program.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

The Student Mentorship Program would enhance understanding of local government among local students. Council would select from among the applicants who would be registered students in Prince George, including members of the Select Committee on Student Needs.

A member of Council and Administration attending the conventions would be assigned the role of co-mentor for each of the student participants, to mentor and guide each participant and ensure that he/she has full access to the range of learning and networking opportunities the conventions provide. Participants would be required to submit a 500-word essay on what they learned following their participation.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**



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Councillor Jillian Merrick

**MEETING DATE:** January 23, 2017