

FREEDOM OF THE CITY POLICY
Council Policy No. 102/19

POLICY:

To establish a policy that outlines the procedure involved to bestow the honour of “Freedom of the City” to an individual or group.

The Freedom of the City is the highest award that the City can bestow on an individual or group to recognize their contributions/achievements.

BACKGROUND:

The Freedom of the City relates back to the medieval term “freeman”, meaning someone who was not the property of a feudal lord and who enjoyed privileges such as the right to earn money and own land. These were traders, merchants, and craftsmen, who were identified as “those responsible for managing the City for the Crown”. They had the right to set up the local court and the ruling council of the city – indeed only freemen could be elected to the Council, and the electorate was confined to freemen.

In accordance with the *Community Charter* Section 158:

- (1) *A council may, by unanimous vote, confer freedom of the municipality on*
 - (a) *a distinguished person, or*
 - (b) *a distinguished unit of the armed forces of Canada or another nation.*

- (2) *Unless the council revokes the honour, a person given freedom of the municipality or the commander of the armed forces unit, as applicable,*
 - (a) *is deemed to be an elector of the municipality and is eligible to be registered as such as and to vote in an election for mayor or councillor, and*
 - (b) *despite any other enactment, if the person is a Canadian citizen, is deemed to be qualified to be nominated, be elected and hold office on the council.*

PROCESS:

- (1) City Council, may by unanimous vote, pass a resolution bestowing an individual or group with the distinguished honour of “Freedom of the City”. The resolution will include the rationale for the designation.

- (2) A proclamation is signed by all members of Council and a press release is issued acknowledging the award and announcing the date and time that an event will take place to acknowledge the honour.

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PROCESS: (continued)

- (3) A special event will be scheduled at which time the Mayor will read the proclamation to the audience.
- (4) The recipient(s) is officially presented with a framed proclamation announcing this designation.
- (5) A framed proclamation is displayed in a prominent place in City Hall

FREEDOM OF THE CITY



AWARDED TO

[CLICK TO ENTER NAME OF RECIPIENT](#)

At a Regular Council meeting, Fort St. John City Council duly convened in Council Chambers in City Hall, in the City of Fort St. John, Province of British Columbia, on [Click to enter month and day](#), [Click to enter year](#) at which all members of Council were present, the following resolution was passed by unanimous vote:

“THAT, in accordance with the powers vested in the City Council by the *Community Charter*, [Click here to enter name of Recipient](#), in recognition and appreciation of [Click to enter reason for bestowing honour](#) be awarded with the Freedom of the Municipality designation.

Councilor Bolin

Councilor Klassen

Councilor Hansen

Councilor Grimsrud

Councilor Zabinsky

Councilor Stewart

Lori Ackerman
Mayor