

FREEDOM OF THE CITY POLICY
Council Policy No. 102/06

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 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 (sample attached) is signed by all members of Council and a press release is issued acknowledging the award and announcing the date and time that a parade and special ceremony will take place to acknowledge the honour.

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PROCESS: (continued)

- (3) The walking parade will start at the 100th Street and 100th Avenue intersection and proceed up to City Hall Council Chambers.
- (4) A special ceremony takes place in City Hall Council Chambers with speeches from the local MLA and Council. The Mayor reads the proclamation to the audience.
- (5) The recipient(s) is officially presented with a framed proclamation announcing this designation.
- (6) A framed proclamation is displayed in a prominent place in City Hall.



FREEDOM OF THE CITY
AWARDED TO

* NAME OF RECIPIENT *

At the ** name of meeting ** of the Fort St. John City Council duly convened in the Council Chambers, City Hall, in the City of Fort St. John, Province of British Columbia, on ** insert day **, the ** insert date ** of ** insert month and year **, at which all members were present, the following resolution was passed by unanimous vote namely:

“THAT, in accordance with the powers vested in the City Council by the *Community Charter*, ** insert name of recipient **, in recognition and appreciation of ** insert reason for bestowing honour ** be awarded with the Freedom of the Municipality designation.

To acknowledge this prestigious award, a parade and special ceremony will be held on ** insert day, date and time **.”

Signed by Mayor and Council