



The Council Highlights provide a snapshot of the progress made in Council decision-making. For more information on each topic, please visit the accompanying link where noted.

We welcome anyone who would like to receive Council Highlights to sign up for **City News & Public Notices** at [nelson.ca/notifyme](https://nelson.ca/notifyme).

November 2023

## Short-Term Rental Update - New Provincial Legislation

Staff provided an overview of the new provincial legislation regarding short-term rentals. They discussed the impact of this legislation on current license holders and highlighted some key requirements. According to the new legislation, all accommodations provided to members of the public for a period of less than 90 consecutive days will be subject to short-term rental regulations. The main requirements are: the rental unit must be the host's principal residence and all operators will need to register with the Provincial Registry.

For those who currently hold a "short-term rental" license in the city, most of the provincial regulations will be in line with the existing municipal regulations. However, for those holding a "tourist accommodation" license, the principal residence requirement will be new. It is worth noting that the Province will exempt some accommodations from this requirement, although only hotels and motels have been named so far.

City staff will continue to monitor any updates to the Province's regulations and keep the community informed. They will also seek further clarification from the Province on how to apply the principal residence requirement to other types of accommodations.

## Adoption of New Complex Building and Part 3 Building Step Code

The following Bylaw changes will be in effect as of May 1, 2024.

- All Part 3 Buildings with Group A Occupancies such as restaurants and libraries will be required to meet minimum Step 2 of the BC Energy Step Code.
- All Part 9 Complex and Part 3 Buildings with Group D & E type occupancies such as offices and stores will be required to meet a minimum of Step 3 of the BC Energy Step Code and Emission Level EL-2 of the BC Zero Carbon Step Code.
- All Part 9 Complex and Part 3 Buildings with Group C - Residential type occupancies will be required to meet minimum Step 3 of the BC Energy Step Code and Emission Level EL-2 of the BC Zero Carbon Step Code.

## Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw

Council has passed the first three readings of the Fees and Charges Bylaw to reduce the business license fee for "Retail Recreation Cannabis" from \$2,500 to \$210, bringing it in line with the fee for "Retail Wine and Beer" businesses. Initially, the higher fee for retail recreation cannabis businesses was set in anticipation of potentially higher resource needs after legalization. However, City departments responsible for business licensing, including issuance, inspection, and enforcement, have concluded that cannabis retail operations do not require additional resources. As a result, the decision to align the license fees reflects an updated understanding of the resource needs associated with cannabis business licenses.

## BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Support - Upgrade the Waterfront/Trans Canada Trail Multi-Use Path

Council approved the 2023/2024 BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant. The project aims to construct a missing link on the waterfront/Trans Canada Trail along the 900 Block of Lakeside Drive. To facilitate the project, Council committed a funding share of \$283,126, paving the way for a multi-use path that will significantly improve walking, biking, and rolling infrastructure along the waterfront. Pending Provincial approval of the grant, this project will enhance the waterfront, aligning with the goals in the Official Community Plan and Active Transportation Plan. It represents a substantial step towards creating a more robust public space with safe and accessible facilities for active transportation.

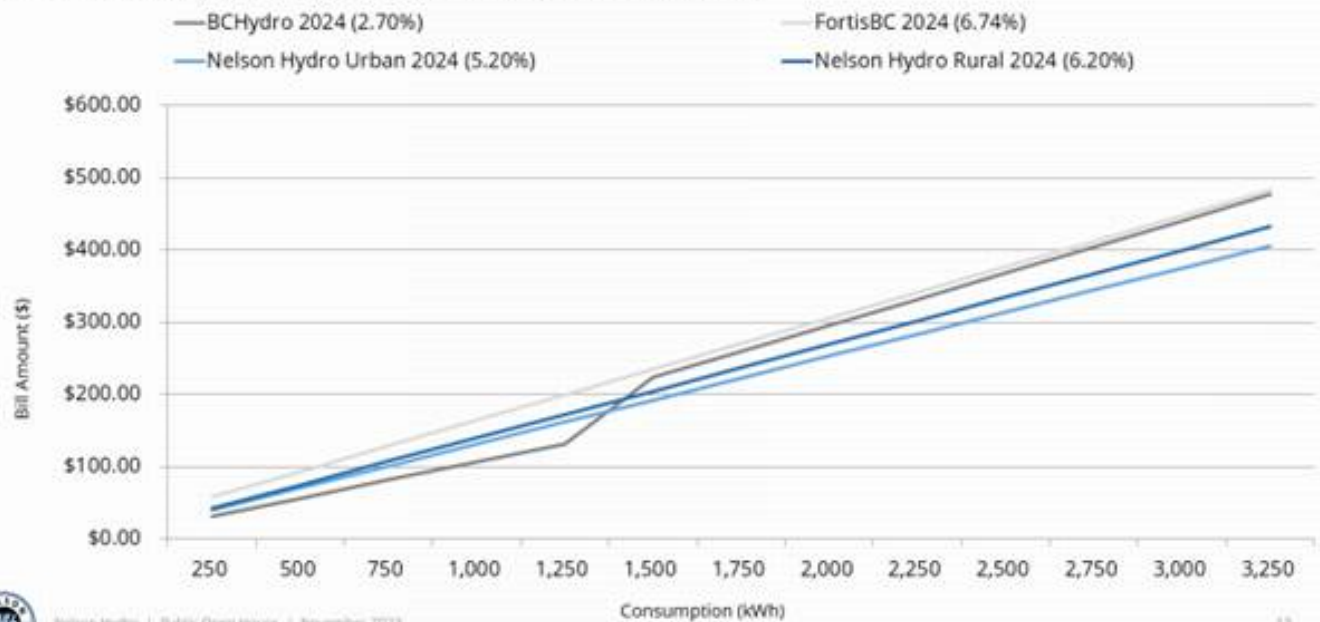
## Request for Letter - Dialysis Service in Nelson

Members of the community requested that Council send a letter to the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District Board (WKBHRHDB) advocating for the creation of a dialysis service in Nelson. Currently, the only kidney dialysis service for hemodialysis patients in the West Kootenay Boundary region is located in Trail at the Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital, and Interior Health does not provide a shuttle service to Trail for this service. As a result, those requiring dialysis who are unable to drive themselves have been left with limited options to travel to Trail. Given the need for a local dialysis service, Council agreed to send a letter to the WKBHRHDB, Interior Health and the Kootenay Lake Hospital Foundation to advocate for this important issue.

## Nelson Hydro 2024 Rate Increases

City Council passed three readings of an amendment of the Hydro Services Bylaw that increases rates to City and Rural customers by 5.2% and 6.2%, respectively. These increases are largely attributable to the 6.74% rate increase from its wholesale electricity supplier FortisBC.

### 2024 RESIDENTIAL BILL COMPARISON



Watch the Council Meeting from November 7, 2023



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are live-streamed.

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