



Settle down.



January 27, 2014

## **MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **FULL HOUSE AT WATER METER OPEN HOUSE**

**Grand Forks, BC** – More than 100 residents came to the City’s informational open house, thirsty to learn more about the upcoming expansion of water meters to all residential homes in Grand Forks.

“On behalf of Council and our staff, we’d like to say thank you to everyone who was able to attend. We were extremely pleased with the turnout and the level of interest,” says Grand Forks Acting Mayor, Bob Kendel. “We had a lot of great questions about the water meter program, the process and what will happen next. The information we received from the comments and the feedback forms will be used to help us better meet the needs and interests of our community as we expand the water meter program to our residential customers.”

The open house was an opportunity for people to learn more about residential water meters, the installation process, comparative costs and how the community and customers can use them to their benefit. It was the first open house held to launch the program and more are planned in the future to ensure the community is informed as the program unfolds.

“One of the most common questions we’ve been getting about the new program is about the cost,” says Mayor Brian Taylor. “The ‘mock billing period’ will be used to show people how much water they use and provide examples of what it might cost. This information will help City Council establish the new water rates. Any proposed new rates would be shared with the community at another open house to provide more information and get feedback prior to adopting.”

Expanding the program to residential homes is a natural progression, as water meters were installed over the past decade in all industrial, commercial, institutional and most multi-family properties in Grand Forks. As well as saving most homeowners money on their water bills, Kendel says water meters will also save the City money on electricity costs and from having to invest in expensive capital upgrades.

So what happens next? The City has issued an *Expression of Interest* for pre-qualified contractors and, once a list of qualified contractors is determined, will issue a *Request For Proposals* to choose the company that will install the meters.

The City plans to host a series of open houses to provide more information as the process unfolds. This includes a “meet and greet” once the contractor is selected and future ones to explain the mock billing process.

If you missed the January 22<sup>nd</sup> open house, you can still view the display panels, read the newsletter and the Frequently Asked Questions on our website at [www.grandforks.ca](http://www.grandforks.ca). Plus, you can click the link to the feedback form and provide your comments before it closes on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>. 2014.

For ongoing updates, you can add your email address to receive project news via email by simply emailing us at [info@grandforks.ca](mailto:info@grandforks.ca) and ask to be added to the list.

Additional information will also be posted on our website at [www.grandforks.ca](http://www.grandforks.ca).

-30-

For media information, please contact:  
Sarah Winton, City of Grand Forks  
250-442-8266

If you have any questions please contact: [info@grandforks.ca](mailto:info@grandforks.ca)