



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE #1

September 19th, 2013

Fire at Grand Forks City Hall Contained

Grand Forks, BC—At approximately 5:30 am PST, Grand Forks Emergency Response was called to a fire at City Hall in Grand Forks, BC.

No one was injured in the incident. Fire crews put out the fire that encompassed most of the first floor of the historic building.

The RCMP are investigating the incident. They have announced that they have a person of interest. They report that this appears to be an isolated incident and there is no information to suggest any risk to public safety.

“We are shocked by this incident and we are extremely thankful that no one was hurt,” says Mayor Brian Taylor. “We are awaiting further information as the proper authorities complete their investigation. In the meantime we are making arrangements to ensure our staff are briefed and alternate arrangements made for our customers.”

Grand Forks City Hall is closed as a result of the incident. Phone calls to City Hall are being rerouted to the Public Works office. Staff are making plans for setting up temporary operations from the Public Works office.

A structural engineer has been called in to assess the damage to the building before investigators can conduct their investigation of the building.

Mayor Brian Taylor and Chief Administrative Officer Doug Allin have cancelled their meetings at the Union of BC Municipalities conference they were attending in Vancouver and are enroute to Grand Forks. They are due to be back in Grand Forks later this afternoon.

A news conference is scheduled for 4:30 today, in front of City Hall, located at 7217 Fourth Street, Grand Forks, BC.

"We will provide further details to staff and residents as they become available," says

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THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

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Mayor Taylor. “We are also working closely with the RCMP to provide any access or information that may assist in their investigation. If any members of our community have any information regarding this incident, we ask they that please contact the local RCMP detachment.”

As plans are put in place to ensure continued service, information will be posted on our website at www.grandforks.ca. If you need to contact City Hall, please call 250-442-8266.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to restore service.

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