



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Mayor Val van den Broek
Inaugural Address
November 5, 2018

Good Evening,

As the City of Langley's 39th Council, I and fellow Council members Paul Albrecht, Teri James, Gayle Martin, Nathan Pachal, Rudy Storteboom, and Rosemary Wallace would like to thank everyone for attending this special event with us tonight. We're grateful and excited as a team to keep moving the City forward in a positive direction. As an experienced Council, we can immediately hit the ground running. So many great projects have been accomplished in recent years and we will continue to build on that. We were elected to speak to the concerns of the citizens and it's now our responsibility to do that in an open & constructive way.

We also have a responsibility to provide a healthy quality of life for our citizens. Previous Council started by opening the new Timms Recreation Centre, refreshing our parks, trail system & playgrounds. We built community gardens and dog parks. Places for families to picnic & children to play. There has been very positive feedback & we will continue to grow & improve these spaces to support social and physical activities.

A safe community is essential and is a direct result of partnerships – a coordinated effort. This is why I'm continuing the Crime Prevention Task Group with Councillor Pachal. Working with RCMP, ICBC, City staff and volunteers, the task group can encourage and foster crime prevention strategies. Education and awareness is the key to building a safer community.

Homelessness is the most pressing social issue. There are various reasons people are homeless. It is a complex problem as most people do not choose homelessness and there are other underlying medical matters such as mental health and drug addiction. Council will resume working with other communities, the Provincial & Federal Governments to seek solutions for a regional plan.

Volunteers – To them I say thank you in advance. The City couldn't function without this remarkable network of people. We invite everyone in the community to participate with us by getting involved. This could be in the form of attending yearly neighbourhood

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open houses or attending community events, donating your time to a committee or a taskforce. We can't do this alone; you can help us achieve our goals.

This is an exciting time for the City of Langley as we are on the verge of many transformations. Transportation is one. We are part of a regional plan that has already started improved bus services. Options will continue to grow as we do. The continued support and collaboration with neighbouring communities such as the Township of Langley, City of Surrey, Corporation of Delta, and the City of White Rock will help us achieve our goals. Many people live south of the Fraser and rely on Translink to get them to school, doctors' appointments, and work. The more options students, seniors, families and individuals have will decrease the impact on our environment & improve quality of life.

The City of Langley has an incredible support system within its boundaries. Our partnerships with the Downtown Langley Business Association, Discover Langley, Chamber of Commerce and numerous other organizations are invaluable. Councillor Paul Albrecht and Councillor Teri James will co-chair the Economic Development Committee to keep our current businesses prospering and to seek out new businesses and encourage them to relocate here. Langley City shattered growth and development records in 2017, which also means job growth and prosperity. Revitalization and improvements in residential and commercial areas have been made and more are to come. From exciting projects like a new brew pub downtown, to family friendly townhouses, being built, we are closer to being a smart growth walkable & vibrant City.

Taxation remains an important issue for residents. A major portion of our incomes is going to the ever-increasing costs of living and housing. There's usually little money left over. With no impact to the taxpayer, casino proceeds have and will continue to help with infrastructure projects and much needed community services. Council will continue to be fiscally responsible and with the support of our amazing City staff, we can make the difficult financial decisions that lie ahead.

At this time, I'd like to thank Mayor Ted Schaffer for his long-time service and devotion to this community. You sir, are truly remarkable and I'm glad to be able to say that I had the chance to work with you. Your compassion and thoughtfulness for this city and all its residents is priceless. I wish nothing but the best for you and your lovely family.

In the next 4 years I look forward to working with our incredible staff members who truly work hard every day to make this community great.

Fellow Council members – We will create the Langley City of the Future. We come from all walks of life, different perspectives and experiences. We will have differences of opinion at this table, but those differences will only serve to challenge us and to ensure we arrive at the best possible decisions. We will show our community it is possible to disagree, but still maintain a mutual respect and attitude of teamwork, that at the end of the day focuses on moving our city forward...together.

Tonight I stand before you as your new Mayor and I am truly humbled. I will continue the great work and success of the past but will bring new ideas forward for an ever-changing City. I value the quality of life for our community and endeavor to continue its progress so residents are proud of where they live. I will represent not only those who speak loudly and often, but also those whose voices are not readily heard.

Because of all of you and your support for me we can continue to “MOVE FORWARD” In Langley City making it the place to be!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Val', enclosed within a large, loopy circular flourish.

Mayor Val van den Broek