

# TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

## Economic Development Advisory Committee

### AGENDA - September 11th, 2017 - 11:30 a.m.

#### MEETING - Committee Room - Civic Centre

Page

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Non-agenda Committee items which because of urgency cannot be deferred to a subsequent meeting, identified to be considered later in the meeting.**
3. **Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof**
4. **Approval of Previous Advisory Committee Minutes**
  - 4.1 June 5, 2017 Meeting Minutes. 2 - 3
5. **New Business**
  - 5.1 Presentation from Brent Tookenay, Chief Executive Officer, Seven Generations Education Institute re: Development of a new Trade School.
  - 5.2 Presentation of Canada 150 Volunteer Pins/Certificates.
  - 5.3 Snow Birds Opportunity.
  - 5.4 RCMP Musical Ride - Host the Ride. 4 - 7
6. **Standing Items**
  - 6.1 D. Kircher - Mill Property Matter - Update dated July 21st, 2017 from D. Kircher. 8 - 12
  - 6.2 Implication of Ontario Raising Minimum Wage to \$15.00 Per Hour. 13 - 14
  - 6.3 Rainy Lake Market Square Update.
7. **Non-agenda Items**
8. **Adjourn / Next Meeting Date - October 2nd, 2017**

TOWN OF FORT FRANCES  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

June 5, 2017

The meeting of Economic Development Advisory Committee of the Town of Fort Frances was held in the Committee Room - Civic Centre on June 5, 2017 from 11:42 a.m. to 1:16 p.m.

PRESENT: G. Rogozinski, Chair, D. Fortes, R. Avis, C. Mallory, J. Gillon, K. McCaig, G. McBride, J. Cumming

ALSO PRESENT: G. Gillon, T. Drysdale, Consultant (RRFDC); L. Mose, MNDM; D. Brown, T. Dennis, K. Lawson

REGRETS: K. Perry, J. McTaggart

1. **Call to Order 11:42 a.m.**
2. **Non-agenda Committee items which because of urgency cannot be deferred to a subsequent meeting, identified to be considered later in the meeting. - None identified.**
3. **Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof - none declared.**
4. **Approval of Previous Advisory Committee Minutes**

4.1 April 3rd, 2017.

Fortes-Cumming: THAT the minutes from the April 3rd, 2017 meeting be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

4.2 May 1st, 2017 Report (No quorum available).  
- received as information by the Committee.

**5. New Business**

- 5.1 David Kircher - Verbal update - Mill Property Matter (Mr. Kircher was in attendance from 12:25 p.m. to 12:58 p.m.)  
- Mr. Kircher provided additional input to his deputation to the Committee at the December 5th, 2016 regular meeting. He has a keen interest in the development of a trade school to provide relief of the trades shortage being experienced provincially and country-wide. He also suggested consideration might be given to other uses such as a micro-brewery or casino.  
Mayor Avis advised the committee members that he has reached out to both Resolute Forest Products and a formerly interested party to determine what their intentions were respecting the mill properties. Members felt it might be appropriate to make a recommendation to Council to determine if it is feasible for the Town to purchase a portion of the mill. This item will be furthered at the next regular meeting of EDAC. Tannis also advised that B. Tookenay will be doing a verbal update on the new trade school being developed by 7 Generations.
- 5.2 Proposed Residential Development.  
- T. Dennis, Chief Building Official/Municipal Planner for the Town was on hand to present his report dated May 9th, 2017 re: Residential Property Review and Future Development Planning. Mr. Tyson advised members that there were only two residential lots left to be sold in the Huffman/Williams Avenue property site. He provided members, through information found in the report, sites for consideration for future development. A discussion took place and the consensus of members was that the properties within the Eric Crescent site would be the most suitable for development. Members indicated that they would like to see various types of building development

such as multi-residential buildings within this site.

Cumming-Mallory THAT the Economic Development Advisory Committee receive the May 9th, 2017 report and verbal update from Mr. Tyson Dennis, Chief Building Official/Municipal Planner and further that the Committee recommends to Mayor and Council that the Town select Erin Crescent as the next residential development site in the Town of Fort Frances.

CARRIED

- 5.3 Implications of Ontario Raising Minimum Wage to \$15.00 Per Hour.  
- a discussion was had respecting the anticipated implications of the recent announcement by the Premier's Office. Members felt this was a serious issue which would place significant burdens on small business owners and consumers alike. K. Lawson will confirm with the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) to determine if they are pursuing a formal response to the Premier's Office. If not, this item will be brought to the next EDAC meeting for a formal resolution requesting Council's support for sending a message to the provincial government indicating their objection to this announcement.

**6. Non-agenda Items - None identified.**

**7. Adjourn 1:16 p.m. - Next Meeting Date July 10th, 2017**

# Host the ride

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## **Note:**

The application process for the 2017 cross country tour is now closed. We are currently accepting applications for future tours in 2018 to 2021.

This is what you need to know to host the Musical Ride in your community.

The Musical Ride has a tour planner that works year-round to plan the upcoming performances of the world famous show. Musical Ride pre-tour planning is conducted one year prior to the actual tour. The Musical Ride tour planner will be happy to answer telephone enquiries; however, requests to host the Musical Ride must be [submitted on line \(/en/application-form-host-musical-ride\)](/en/application-form-host-musical-ride) at least one year prior to the actual tour.

The Musical Ride travels to every province on a four-year rotational basis to ensure that Canadians are given an opportunity to see the Musical Ride. The Musical Ride visits approximately 40 venues annually during a 100-day tour. The host is responsible for paying all stabling and feed costs for the Musical Ride horses, securing a suitable performance site, and organizing all the related logistics. The host can obtain local support to assist in covering the costs of hosting the Musical Ride (subject to certain conditions). A pre-tour site inspection and presentation will be conducted at the cost of the RCMP. Please review our [hosting requirements](#) for further information.

Our upcoming annual tour schedule is as follows:

- 2017: Cross Canada Tour - 150th anniversary of Canada
- 2018: Northern Ontario and British Columbia
- 2019: Quebec and Alberta
- 2020: Atlantic Provinces and Saskatchewan
- 2021: Southern Ontario and Manitoba

There are two-types of performances:

- **Community-based performances:**

The Musical Ride travels to the identified provinces (based on the year) and is hosted by non-profit or charitable organizations. The Musical Ride is the main event and additional entertainment is supplied locally to supplement the RCMP's

performance. Tickets can be sold for the performance to recover costs and to support a local cause. The Musical Ride performance supports the mandate of the RCMP and the Government of Canada.

- **Cost recovery performances:**

The Musical Ride may supplement their annual tour with major events in other provinces (subject to logistical feasibility) and with international tours. The Musical Ride has performed at venues in the United States, England, Germany and Switzerland, to name a few. When the Musical Ride is requested to perform at a venue or an event that falls outside their annual tour rotation, the venue is required to pay 100 per cent of the incremental cost of the Musical Ride. The Musical Ride performs at large fairs, exhibitions, horse shows, etc. The Musical Ride is either a feature presentation or a supplementary feature at a major show. An estimate of all costs will be provided.

For telephone enquiries, please contact the Musical Ride tour planner at: 613-993-1485.

## Host requirements and pre-tour information

Please review all host requirements and pre-tour information carefully. The RCMP Musical Ride tour planner will review this information with the selected hosts when they complete the pre-tour site inspection and the pre-tour presentation.

- **► General information**
- **► Feed and bedding**
- **► Stabling requirements**
- **► Types of stabling**
- **► Existing stables**
- **► Stalls**
- **► Arena stabling**
- **► Large building stabling**
- **► Temporary structure stabling**
- **► Musical Ride equipment trailer**

- ▶ **Stable visits**
- ▶ **Possible show sites**

## Show site requirements

- ▶ **General information**
- ▶ **Pre-show**
- ▶ **Sound**
- ▶ **Master of ceremonies**
- ▶ **Seating**
- ▶ **Honoured guests**
- ▶ **Parking**
- ▶ **Washroom facilities**
- ▶ **Safety and security**

## The Musical Ride tours with

- 45 personnel, which includes 39 members of the RCMP
- 4 contracted truck drivers
- 1 bus driver
- 1 farrier

The RCMP pays the salary costs of all Musical Ride personnel.

## The Musical Ride does not

- sell merchandise
- sell tickets to performances

[Apply here to host the ride \(/en/application-form-host-musical-ride\)](/en/application-form-host-musical-ride)

**Date modified:**

2016-05-25

## Kathy Lawson

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**From:** Tichbornes <admin@tichbornes.com>  
**Sent:** July-21-17 1:24 PM  
**To:** Kathy Lawson  
**Subject:** Follow up to my last presentation to the committee  
**Attachments:** Acquisition of Resolute Forest Products follow up to presentation.pdf

To: Economic Development Advisory Committee c/o: Kathy Lawson

I have attached to this email a brief follow up to my last presentation to the Committee, and have asked Kathy to pass it on to the Committee members. I am available to support the Committee and Town of Fort Frances throughout this process if the Committee makes the recommendation.

Thank you,

David Kircher  
Broker of Record  
Tichbornes Real Estate  
576 Scott Street  
Fort Frances, ON P9A1H4  
Ph: 807-274-3221 Fax: 807-274-4119  
Cell Ph: 807-275-7844 Toll Free: 800-263-3221  
[www.tichbornes.com](http://www.tichbornes.com)

- Resolute Forest Products shut down its operations at its Fort Frances Mill February 2014.
- Resolute Forest Products has not sold the facility; and has not tried to re-start operations since February 2014.
- The mill's paper machines and Kraft Mill were operated well beyond the Run Till Failure a benchmark Abitibi-Bowater incorporated into its operating philosophy.
- We are now almost 4 years out from the complete shutdown of operations. It is unlikely Resolute Forest Products will now find a buyer interested in re-starting the existing paper machines and Kraft Mill.
- At some point in time, and now sooner rather than later, Resolute Forest Products will look at the demolition of improvements, salvage of machines and equipment, and environmental remediation of the site, as was done in Kenora.
- The existing facility may still provide opportunities for our Town and region beyond the scope defined by Resolute Forest Products or "for profit" ventures.
- These opportunities, if in fact possible, will be lost if Resolute Forest Products demolishes the buildings and put the machines and equipment up for salvage.
- The Municipal Council of Fort Frances has in the past taken the initiative and provided the leadership necessary for the development and growth of our Town such as:  
     Townsend Theatre; Ice For Kids Arena; Library and Technology Centre; River Walk Corridor, 32 Unit Condominium, Huffman Court and most recently Erin Crescent.
- This pulp and paper mill, as it is today may still be an opportunity for growth. If council will provide the leadership and initiative to look at all of the aspects and prospects for development of this pulp and paper mill to something other than a for profit business or industry. The basis of this approach would begin if the Corporation of the Town of Fort Frances considered the purchase of the facility from Resolute Forest Products in terms of:
  1. How would the purchase be structured and implemented
  2. What are the economic possibilities, benefits, and liabilities of such a purchase to the Town
  3. What other partnerships or opportunities associated with the Town's purchase of the mill
- Canada is about 350,000 skilled Trades people short to meet current development needs. The Federal government is looking at increasing our immigration quota by one hundred thousand to meet demand. Fort Frances is in the middle of Canada; the existing mill could become a new model for a multi-trade school – a post-secondary institution that; accepts tuition from students and implements the programs developed by the college of Trades, completely on site, over a defined and finite length of time. When the apprentice graduates from the Trade School he/she will be ready to meet the expectations of their trade. The initial start up and out 5 to 10 years would require funding- however the school's students would be learning their trade while rehabilitating the paper machines and Kraft Mill. At some point, the school will produce a marketable product and the revenues would then be turned back into school for growth and sustainability. Eventually the "school" would be as big an employer as the pulp and paper mill in its prime. Education generally, is institutional and not for profit. One reason the Town should

look at buying the facility from Resolute Forest Products. The Town could lease the facility to the “school”. In the short term this would be required to replace the loss of revenue due to the Town’s purchase of the mill. In the long term the jobs associated with the school would provide a solid economic tax base for the benefit of the Town and its future residents.

- The Bio Mass Boiler and Co-Generation Plant could be rehabilitated by the “school’s apprentices” and operated by Fort Frances Power Corp.
- Finish the lock in the Dam and promote water traffic from the upper and lower river and points beyond.
- The Multi Trade School if successful, has almost unlimited growth potential.
  - Partner with Thunder Bay Forestry program
  - Heavy equipment operators, mechanics
  - Utilizes scrap fiber piling up in the forest a benefit to Resolute without being in competition; and the MNR
- Once the school is in production – sales staff – administration and HR staff; support services.

The first step in this process has to come from the Economic Development Advisory Committee to endorse a resolution for the Town of Fort Frances to consider the potential opportunities and associated risks for the acquisition of the pulp and paper mill. If Resolute Forest Products demolishes the improvements these opportunities will disappear as well.

## Kathy Lawson

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**From:** John McTaggart <john@mctaggarts.ca>  
**Sent:** December-05-16 9:28 AM  
**To:** Kathy Lawson  
**Subject:** FW: Multi-Trades' School

Kathy,

This is a copy of a letter that David Kircher has sent onto the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development for some direction.

Maybe we could have copies of this available for the meeting.

Thanks

John

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**From:** Tichbornes [mailto:admin@tichbornes.com]  
**Sent:** December-05-16 9:20 AM  
**To:** john@mctaggarts.ca  
**Subject:** FW: Multi-Trades' School

Good Morning John

FYI

Thanks

Dave

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**From:** Tichbornes [mailto:admin@tichbornes.com]  
**Sent:** November-15-16 3:25 PM  
**To:** 'poppy.sanders@ontario.ca' <poppy.sanders@ontario.ca>  
**Subject:** Multi-Trades' School

Dear Ms. Sanders:

A recent article published by Inside Ottawa Valley.Com, indicated there is a shortage of about 300,000 skilled trades' workers in Canada, with many job sites reporting 50% of the skilled trades' people are foreign workers. I live in North Western Ontario and see how difficult the apprenticeship path can be for young adults that have graduated from high school and are looking for a career in the skilled trades.

We have a pulp and paper mill, idled in February 2014 that is situated in the middle of Fort Frances, owned by Resolute Forest Products. Resolute has not, to date, been able to effect a sale of this facility. I believe this pulp and paper mill could be re-habilitated and converted into a multi-trade school. This model would include the delivery of both "hands on" work experience and classroom theory on site, to all apprentices for each applicable trade. Something similar to other Co-Op programs except the entire program would be delivered to the apprentice on site. The program, and ratios of journey people to apprentices would continue to be established by the College of Trades. Like any other post-secondary college or university, the implementation of the apprenticeship program would be the responsibility of the school.

Any information or input you may have for this model of a trade school would be appreciated, my contact information is below.

Thank you,

David Kircher  
Broker of Record  
Tichbornes Real Estate  
576 Scott Street  
Fort Frances, ON P9A1H4  
Ph: 807-274-3221 Fax: 807-274-4119  
Cell Ph: 807-275-7844 Toll Free: 800-263-3221  
[www.tichbornes.com](http://www.tichbornes.com)

## Kathy Lawson

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**From:** Kathy Lawson  
**Sent:** June-07-17 10:10 AM  
**To:** 'Kristen Oliver'  
**Subject:** RE: Provincial Government's Announcement respecting Minimum Wage

Hi Kristen:

Thanks so much for the update.

Best regards,

Kathryn Lawson, Deputy Clerk  
Phone - 807-274-5323 ext 1212  
fax - 807-274-8479  
[klawson@fortfrances.ca](mailto:klawson@fortfrances.ca)

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**From:** Kristen Oliver [mailto:[admin@noma.on.ca](mailto:admin@noma.on.ca)]  
**Sent:** June-07-17 10:01 AM  
**To:** Kathy Lawson <[klawson@fortfrances.ca](mailto:klawson@fortfrances.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Provincial Government's Announcement respecting Minimum Wage

Hi Kathryn,

It's on the next board agenda so we will see what the decision will be at that time.

Thanks!  
Kristen

Sent from my BlackBerry - the most secure mobile device

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**From:** [klawson@fortfrances.ca](mailto:klawson@fortfrances.ca)  
**Sent:** June 7, 2017 10:23 AM  
**To:** [admin@noma.on.ca](mailto:admin@noma.on.ca)  
**Cc:** [dbrown@fortfrances.ca](mailto:dbrown@fortfrances.ca)  
**Subject:** Provincial Government's Announcement respecting Minimum Wage

Good Morning Kristen:

I have been asked to find out if NOMA will be responding in any way to the Premier's announcement respecting the impact of minimum wage increases.

I would appreciate any information you can share.

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Best regards,

Kathryn Lawson, Deputy Clerk  
Phone - 807-274-5323 ext 1212  
fax - 807-274-8479  
[klawson@fortfrances.ca](mailto:klawson@fortfrances.ca)