

Kamloops Junior City Council Newsletter - January 22, 2026

The Junior Council met on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 3:30 pm in the City of Kamloops Council Chambers. Representatives from local secondary schools and City staff joined together to discuss community updates and exciting local initiatives.

Highlights from the Thompson-Nicola Film Commission

The council welcomed Terri Hadwin, Film Commissioner for the Thompson-Nicola Film Commission. Hadwin shared how Kamloops continues to shine as a filming destination, contributing \$9.75 million to the local economy in recent years.

Kamloops has earned the title of “Best Place to Live and Work as a Filmmaker” for four consecutive years, joining Vancouver as one of only two B.C. cities recognized. Recent film successes include:

- *My Secret Santa* (filmed 100% locally; reached #1 on Netflix with 41.7M views in a week)
- *Edge of Sleep* and *Henderson* (shot entirely in Kamloops)
- *Sugarcane* (Academy Award-nominated documentary)

The Film Commission supports productions through location scouting, permitting, and networking opportunities, while also promoting sustainability by introducing quieter, environmentally friendly E-generators for film sets.

Monthly networking sessions and the annual *Learn About Film* seminar continue to grow, attracting participants from across the province.

Build Kamloops: Investing in the City’s Future

Communications Supervisor Hatch presented updates on Build Kamloops, the City’s major capital development program that aims to expand recreation facilities to meet the needs of a growing population. With Kamloops set to double its growth rate over the next 15 years, the city is taking bold steps to improve local infrastructure and quality of life.

Key projects include:

- Kamloops Centre for the Arts – under construction now; will feature two theatres, a gallery, and café. Expected opening: 2029.

- Arena Multiplex – four new arenas, community and fitness spaces, and spectator seating. Groundbreaking set for later this year.
- Curling and Racquet Sports Complex – a multi-use facility combining curling, pickleball, squash, and community fitness spaces.
- Indoor Field Facility – flexible recreation space for year-round soccer, basketball, and events.
- North Shore Aquatic Centre – modeled after Kelowna’s H2O Centre, details to follow with public input.
- Seniors/Community Centre – filling the gap left by the Brock Centre closure, offering space for all-ages programs and activities.

Upcoming engagement opportunities:

- Jan 23: Curling & Racquet Sports Complex location announcement
 - Jan 29: Neighbour Information Session on KCA construction
 - Feb 21: Hillside Drive Corridor Upgrades engagement
 - Spring–Fall 2026: Facility design feedback and downtown revitalization sessions
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Around the Table

- Councillor J. Hallstrom shared positive feedback about the Riverside Skating Loop, calling it “amazing and fun.”
 - Next Junior Council meeting: February 19, 2026, 3:30 pm, Council Chambers.
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Newsletter Written by Jake Washington

NorKam represents Jake Washington (Gr 12) & Shayne Makortoff (Gr 11)