



# 2025 Annual Report



## **OUR VISION**

Dryden is recognized as a vibrant, safe, healthy and inclusive community with a diverse economy, providing an exceptional quality of life.

## **OUR MISSION**

To deliver sustainable municipal services and infrastructure with courtesy, integrity, transparency, and fiscal responsibility.

## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

We would like to acknowledge we are located in the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and Métis people of Treaty Three. The Anishinaabe are the original caretakers of this land and called this place Paawidigong, meaning place of the rapids, which is now known as Dryden.

This land is important to the people of Migisi Sahgaigan (Eagle Lake First Nation), Waabigonii Zaaga'igan (Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation), as well as the Métis people of the area and the residents of Dryden.



## A Message From The Mayor

On behalf of Council, it is my pleasure to present the 2025 Annual Municipal Report for our city, Dryden. This report is not only to share information with our residents regarding the city operations but also to celebrate our collective accomplishments from the past year, as well as highlight some of our upcoming initiatives. The information you will find in this report all ties back to our Strategic Plan and Guiding Principles, which were updated in 2025 and serve as our compass into the future.

2025 will be remembered by me for two things. The unprecedented tragedy of 4 drownings in our community and the exceptional response by our staff and their diligent efforts to prevent this from occurring again. Secondly the increased economic activity in our community is a testament to the confidence investors put in our staff to ensure planning and infrastructure needs are being met in a timely manner.

I take pride in all the efforts and achievements that our employees have accomplished and believe the community has been well served by our dedicated employees and I am confident that as we work together in a spirit of collaboration, we have the talent, dedication and experience to thrive and move our city forward in a sustainable manner and enjoy an exceptional quality of life together.

## A Message From The CAO

As I reflect on 2025, what stands out most is the steady, day-in and day-out commitment of our municipal team serving our community with care, professionalism, and pride. The work of municipal government is often most visible in moments of need — during a storm response, an emergency call, or critical infrastructure repair — but it is the consistency of effort behind those moments that truly defines our organization. This year, our employees continued to show up for one another and for the community, delivering essential services that make a real and lasting difference in people’s lives.

A defining theme of 2025 has been our continued focus on safety, both for our workforce and for the public we serve. Across departments, we strive to strengthen our safety culture through increased awareness, improved practices, and a shared sense of accountability.

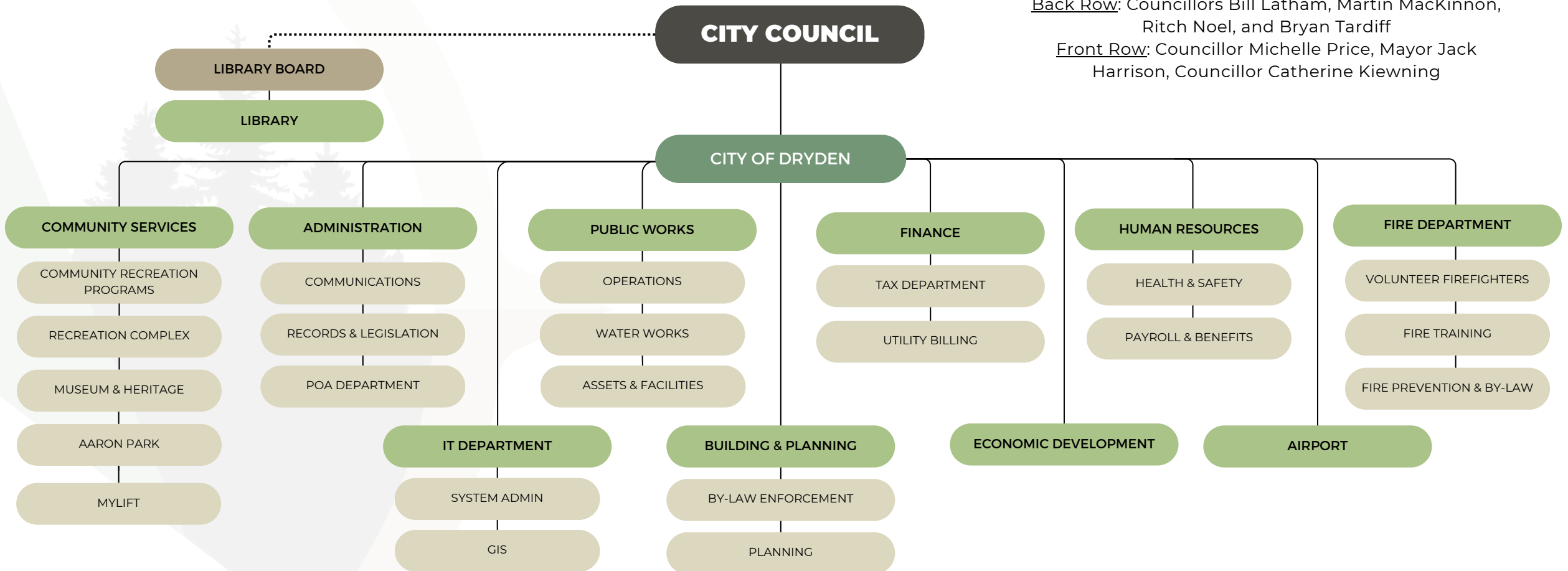
Equally important is the way our employees approach their work. Whether maintaining critical assets, supporting community programs, or delivering front-line services, there is a strong sense of purpose behind what they do. It is reflected in the pride they take in their roles, their willingness to adapt to challenges, and their commitment to continuous improvement. These contributions, while not always visible, are foundational to the quality of life we all enjoy.

I want to sincerely thank every member of our municipal team for their dedication in 2025. Your efforts are building a safer, stronger, and more connected community, and that work matters more than ever.

# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



Back Row: Councillors Bill Latham, Martin MacKinnon, Ritch Noel, and Bryan Tardiff  
Front Row: Councillor Michelle Price, Mayor Jack Harrison, Councillor Catherine Kiewning



## COMMUNITY SAFETY & WELLBEING

### Guiding Principle: Safety

- Actions and planning place people and community safety at the centre of all decisions
- Safe, shared use of community spaces is promoted as an element of quality of life

## 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUPPORTING COMMUNITY SAFETY & WELLBEING

- Dryden Fire Service (DFS) demonstrated strong emergency readiness, risk reduction and firefighter development through 226 fire calls for service, 3,679 training hours, 2,429 response hours, and 301 hours of fire prevention and public education.
- DFS coordinated and completed a multi-agency emergency exercise.
- Enhanced by-law enforcement through the addition of a summer student position, resulting in 199 patrols over 447 hours, 133 properties addressed through property standards enforcement, 510 violations recorded (423 notices, 87 warnings), 48% increase in fines issued and 81% increase in written warnings.
- Public Works completed critical watermain valve replacements and break repairs to maintain reliable essential services.
- The Dryden Regional Airport maintained safe and dependable operations, including 1,079 medevac movements and uninterrupted winter operations during major snow events.
- Community Services expanded programming, including an 8-week Summer Outdoors Program serving over 120 youth, and hosting multiple regional tournaments and large-scale community events.
- Staff helped plan and host the Northwest Response Forum, seeing professionals come from across the region for the emergency response conference.
- In response to recent tragedies, the City installed waterfront safety equipment at both municipal docks.
- Public Works hosted the annual Household Hazardous Waste Day.



## COMMUNITY DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

### Guiding Principle: Inclusion

- Community leadership honours, welcomes, and accepts all people, hearing their diverse voices and working to strengthen cultural relationships and building community inclusiveness
- Encompasses efforts to ensure that programs and services are accessible to all
- Engagement and communication efforts reflect diverse community needs

## 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUPPORTING COMMUNITY DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

- The Dryden & District Museum hosted many exhibits and programs, including:
  - Métis history and culture, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Métis adhesion to Treaty #3, and supported Indigenous Veterans of Treaty #3 exhibit development through regional partnership.
  - Hosted *Iron Willed: Women in STEM* exhibit
  - Expanded March Break, Museum Month, and STEM programming, including the Museum's first escape room experience.
  - Improved accessibility through new audio equipment for visitors who are hard of hearing.
- The Dryden Public Library celebrated its centennial with community events and expanded collections, including the launch of the Envoy Connect audiobook player.
- The Library expanded recreation programming across all ages, increasing participation in summer programs by over 200%.
- In partnership with Grand Council Treaty 3 and Dryden Native Friendship Centre, the City hosted a Truth and Reconciliation Day Pow Wow in Cooper Park.
- Recreation staff organized and hosted Canada Day celebrations at Sandy Beach Park which saw the highest attendance in recent years.
- Incorporating local historical and indigenous knowledge, the City installed new wayfinding signage along the trail from Duke Street Dock along the river and all the way to Van Horne Landing.
- Working Circle awarded Alyssa Donais with the Ogimaapiness Leonard Sky "Building Bridges" Award.



## **ECONOMIC & INVESTMENT DIVERSITY**

### **Guiding Principle: Regional Leadership**

- Reflects Dryden's focus on being the regional hub
- Commitment to innovation and knowledge-sharing
- Build and maintain effective local and regional partnerships

## **2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUPPORTING ECONOMIC & INVESTMENT DIVERSITY**

- The City's Building and Planning department issued 116 building permits representing \$30.5 million in construction value, supported the creation of 77 new residential units, and implemented the new Official Plan and new Zoning By-law, strengthening long-term growth management.
- The City supported five Community Improvement Plan (CIP) applications, leveraging \$158,806 in municipal incentives into \$8.2 million in private-sector investment.
- Staff processed 42 business licence applications, issuing 38 licences to support compliant and safe business operations.
- The City welcomed new and expanding businesses, including Marbella's Coffee Shop, Konstantino's Pizzeria, Firehouse Subs, and future highway commercial developments such as Studio 6 Suites and Boston Pizza.
- Dryden Regional Airport sustained strong airport activity with 7,771 aircraft movements, supporting tourism, commercial operations, government, medevac, and regional connectivity.
- Dryden Tourism Development Corporation supported 15 projects with funding valued at \$121,000.
- Requests for proposals for the South Van Horne Subdivision and Airport Air Passenger feasibility study were issued.
- Staff and Council attended multiple delegations with various ministries across municipal conferences to advocate for Dryden's needs.
- A new investment attraction campaign highlighting Dryden was developed and launched.



## COMMUNICATIONS & OUR PEOPLE

### Guiding Principle: Community Pride

- Civic engagement informs policy and planning through interactions with municipal leadership
- Volunteerism and community leadership is present

## 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUPPORTING COMMUNICATIONS & OUR PEOPLE

- Developed and unveiled a new website and tourism site that is easier to navigate and filled with more community information.
- Staff participated in 10 proclamations and 6 flag raisings to recognize various important organizations and causes to our community.
- Staff developed and released the 2025 edition of the Trailblazer community guide.
- The City began creating regular Council Meeting recaps to be posted to social media for quicker updates.
- Strengthened departmental capacity in Community Services and Building & Planning through the addition of a Recreation Coordinator, expanded recreation maintenance staffing, and a By-law Summer Student position.
- Employees participated in the Annual Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade.
- Staff, alongside the community, filmed and posted videos showcasing our hometown pride.
- In consideration of community feedback, a request for proposals was released and a local artist was selected to transform two important tree trunks into meaningful public art.
- A refreshed Strategic Plan was adopted for the next 5 years.
- Economic Development department conducted a Dryden Business Survey to engage with the business community.

# INFRASTRUCTURE

## Guiding Principle: Community Pride

- Well-maintained properties, assets and infrastructure are appealing to residents and visitors

## 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE

- The City completed key capital projects including:
  - Keith Avenue road reconstruction
  - Sandy Beach Road paving
- Roofing upgrades to City Hall, Library, Bell, and Old Sewage Treatment plant buildings were completed.
- Replaced critical equipment including the landfill compactor, multi-purpose sidewalk tractor, and a 1-ton dump truck to maintain operational reliability.
- A new primary disconnect switch and voltage protection relay were installed at the Water Treatment Plant.
- Recreation Centre upgrades, including pool pump replacement, solar panel repairs, arena flooring upgrades, and facility improvements associated with the Arena Expansion.
- Took ownership of the former Golf and Curling Club building to support expanded community services.
- Improved Aaron Park amenities with new picnic tables, fire pits, and upgraded beach access.
- Maintained proactive airport asset management and winter operations capability to ensure year-round service reliability.
- Columbarium installed and paving completed at the Cemetery.



## ***FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY***

### **Guiding Principle: Quality of Life**

- Maintain alignment with community values and priorities
- Ensure that all decisions consider how quality of life will be impacted or enhanced
- Champion environmental stewardship, protecting our natural beauty and our access to nature

## **2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUPPORTING FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY**

- The City's applications and staff efforts brought in a total of \$8.3 million in grant money from multiple federal, provincial and private entities.
- Generated \$30.5 million in construction activity, strengthening the assessment base.
- Leveraged \$158,806 in municipal CIP investment into \$8.2 million in total project value.
- Increased recreation revenues through expanded programming and higher participation rates.
- Secured external funding through CMOG, MAP, Moffat Family Fund, and NOHFC programs to support operations and capital improvements.
- Continued responsible asset management planning to mitigate long-term equipment and infrastructure risk.
- Significant financial relief for policing costs received from the province for 2025 in the amount of \$1.26 million.
- Supported workforce development through NOHFC internship placements.



# YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

The average household in Dryden contributed \$2,880 in property taxes to municipal services in 2025

Your tax dollars go a long way in providing the services our community relies on



## \$362 Community Services

- My Lift Transit \$6
- Recreation Centre \$55
- Outdoor Facilities \$7
- Museum \$15
- Library \$91
- Cemetery \$11
- Arena \$107
- Pool & Fitness Centre \$70



## \$438 Infrastructure & Engineering

- Public Works \$146
- Fleet Management (-\$15)
- Roads \$301
- Storm Sewer \$46
- Waste Management (-\$81)
- Recycling (-\$18)
- Parks \$62
- Facilities Management (-\$3)



## \$24 City Council



## \$813 Police Services

- OPP Contracted Services (833)
- Court Security (-\$20)



## \$63 NWHU Levy



## \$123 Long-Term Care Levy



## \$207 KDSB Levy

- Child Care \$11
- Social Assistance \$17
- Social Housing \$82
- Land Ambulance \$97



## \$15 Community Safety

- School Safety Guards \$5
- Pet Control \$0
- Parking Control \$10



## \$152 Fire & Emergency Management

- Fire Services \$150
- Emergency Management \$2



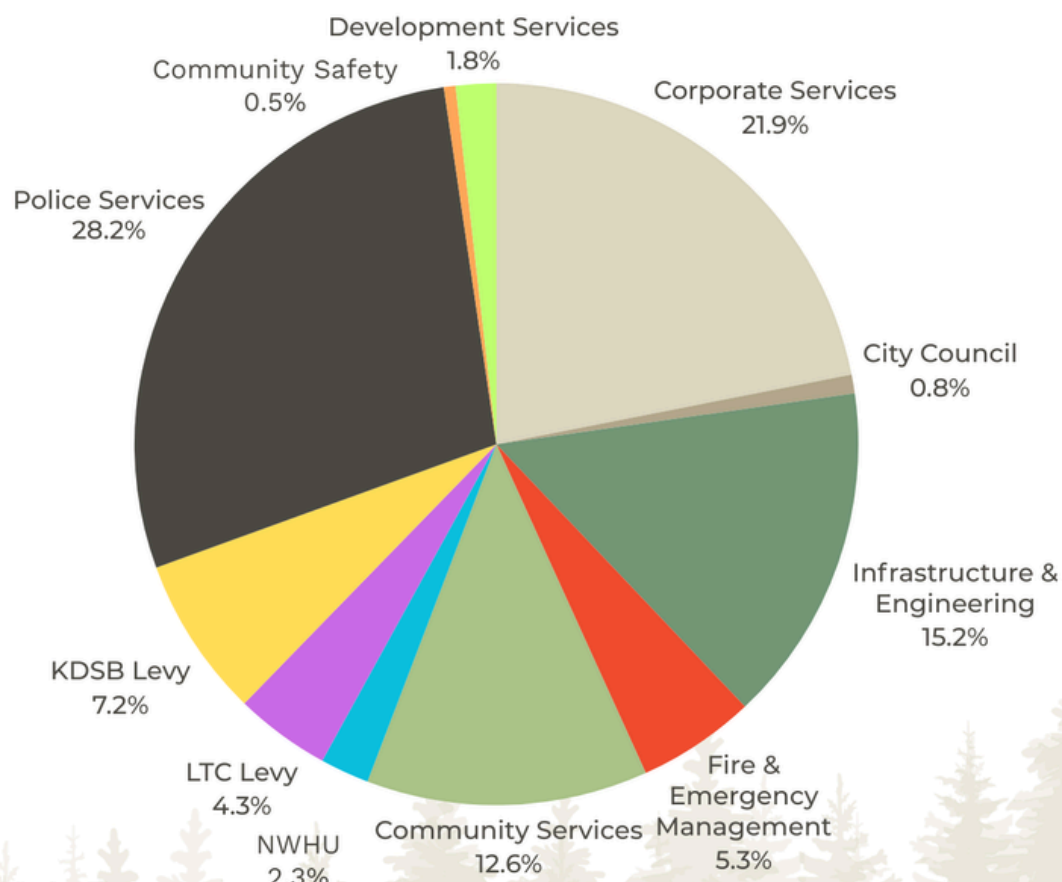
## \$52 Development Services

- Building Inspection \$30
- Planning & Development (-\$5)
- Community Development \$27



## \$631 Corporate Services

- Administration \$86
- Human Resources \$71
- Finance \$332
- IT \$154
- Health & Safety \$17
- Provincial Offences (-\$29)



# 2025 ENHANCEMENTS AT A GLANCE



# LOOKING FORWARD 2026 >>>

- Dryden Cemetery Section K expansion to begin.
- A new playground at Aaron Park to be installed in the summer.
- Funding has been received to extend City services down Van Horne Avenue from Wabigoon Drive to Van Horne Landing. This will be the beginning of the South Van Horne Housing Enabling Project.
- Funding has been received to reconstruct Duke Street from Casimir Avenue to Earl Avenue.
- The City will see 60+ additional multi-residential housing units progress toward completion.
- Budgeted capital investment for City infrastructure totaling \$16.8 million.
- Upgrades planned for the City Hall and Library roofing and HVAC systems with NOHFC support.
- Trailblazer Tagged Fish Contest on Wabigoon Lake has \$100,000 of tagged fish to be caught.
- Continued improvements to the Sandy Beach Golf Course and Clubhouse are planned.
- Council Chambers technology upgrade for clearer Council Meetings in the spring.
- The City is working towards the designation of Community Safety Zones in proximity to three area schools to increase pedestrian safety.
- Significant development will continue in Dryden in both the residential and commercial sectors.