



CITY OF QUESNEL NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
August 5, 2005
City agrees to sell former City Hall**

QUESNEL, B.C. – The City of Quesnel is pleased to announce the sale of the former City Hall building at 405 Barlow Ave. to the Nazko First Nation.

The building is being sold for \$260,000, which will be applied against the outstanding principal remaining on the purchase price of the John Ernst Building, a precondition of sale set forth by City Council.

“Quesnel will see a significant return on this deal,” said Mayor Nate Bello. “Council’s commitment to the public was to accelerate payment of the principal as much as possible. This agreement takes us one step closer to realizing our vision of a vital and self-sustaining City Hall while reducing the level of tax support required to sustain the building.”

Bello added that having First Nations government in such close proximity will be an additional benefit, especially since MLA Bob Simpson recently located his constituency office in the John Ernst Building.

“This deal signifies a new era, during which governments at the municipal, provincial and First Nations level can work side by side,” Bello said. “It will translate into a stronger working relationship.”

Nazko Chief Delores Alec said the Band plans to move its office into the location.

“We’re pleased to finalize the purchase, as this has been in the works for almost a year now,” she said. “The building will provide the Band opportunity for enhanced Member services and a professional environment for our business ventures. Being in the downtown core assists our Council in achieving our vision of building an economically viable and sustainable future.”

The sale will be complete on Aug. 31, with the current tenant, the Quesnel Search and Rescue Society, given 60 days after that time to find a new home. The City is working in conjunction with the society to ensure the transition is smooth for all parties.

The City completed a formal subdivision along the firewall between the Fire Hall and the former City Hall to make the property, zoned as institutional, available for sale. The City also maintained right of first refusal on the property should it ever become available again.

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