



Mayor Fraser Tolmie
State of the City Address - 2019

Persevering in challenging times requires grit and determination.

Persevering takes courage and heart.

Persevering is required to see things through, to weather the storms of the day and achieve the goals set before us.

The challenges of this city cannot be overcome without clear goals, a strong plan and a willingness to work together.

2018 was a year of bringing people and organizations together to make Moose Jaw a better community!

The challenges we faced were numerous. Those challenges were not ignored but were faced head on.

The City led the conversations in uniting people and organizations.

Many of our citizens were invited to participate in strategic planning for our community. The future success of this plan started with a willingness to collaborate between different organizations in our city. A community strategic plan was discussed and put in place. The planning process opened doors between different organizations in our community and built a strong foundation for future cooperation. This cooperation builds on individual organization's strengths to benefit the community as a whole.

The Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Moose Jaw, the Downtown Business Group and the Destination Marketing Fund were, and are, key partners with the City of Moose Jaw.

Using reverse psychology, Doug Griffiths spoke to these organizations. He noted that there are 13 ways to kill a community, but doing the opposite helps grow and strengthen a community. The success of this unity was expanded as we had honest talks about our past and how do we capture our city's unique stories so that we can expand and attract more tourism and more business to provide more jobs and grow our tax base. This was all done collaboratively!

The organizations that partnered with the City also saw success.

The Chamber of Commerce saw 465 people attend their Moose Jaw Business Excellence Awards, the highest attendance numbers for this event to date. It should be noted that the Moose Jaw Chamber of Commerce has the highest number of business memberships per-capita in Saskatchewan.

The surrounding economic climate has posed its challenges, but the businesses of our community continue to persevere by investing in the future and growing.

Parrish and Heimbecker has invested over \$5 million in upgrades to their local plant.

Gibson's Energy is investing \$20 to \$25 million in their local plant to improve efficiencies that will result in an increased capacity of 19% in production.

Doepker Industries has rehired over 110 employees and are almost back to full capacity, and CP Rail has hired 90 new employees as of November.

The City is doing its part by creating new partnerships to prepare for new opportunities in the future.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Canadian Aviation Electronics (CAE) and the City of Moose Jaw.

This memorandum will see a new training program starting this year at our own municipal airport, the first of its kind in Saskatchewan that will have unmanned aerial systems being used in courses to help create innovations in farming, pipelines and security.

This is just the beginning that will lead to other innovations for future applications in this area.

Having a Council and Administration working together to solve problems benefits all citizens in our community.

Jim Puffalt, our new City Manager, is working hard, as is Council, to build a better working relationship and solve problems together.

Mr. Puffalt's first week saw the City move in to solve the High Street issue that affected our local community.

The City recognizes the important role it plays in creating an environment for economic growth in helping businesses.

Key to our economic growth is having an Economic Development Officer pursuing and following-up on potential economic opportunities. This has helped by eliminating red tape and hold-ups for businesses wanting to seek opportunity in our city.

Internal silos and having all the relevant people in the room to collaborate on projects such as economic development when businesses have questions, has proved to cut down wait times and get things moving.

The City of Moose Jaw ended 2018 and enters 2019 on a high note!

The announcement of SaskPower's \$700 million project in our industrial park was a group effort that will pay dividends for our community for many years to come.

Foundation stones have been laid to prepare this city for 2019 and coming years.

2019 will see the return of the Saskatchewan Airshow at 15 Wing. Moose Jaw will not only benefit from the return of the Airshow but have a role as host city to ensure people are made to feel welcome.

Steps are being made to attract more concerts and events to Mosaic Place.

Success has already been achieved with the announcement of the 2020 Scotties Tournament of Hearts, which will bring more people to our city.

We must take pride in who we are and what we have to offer.

The City will continue to look to beautify our community whether it's local volunteers doing spring clean-up programs or continued infrastructure repair through our cast iron replacement project and road rehabilitation.

Exciting things do happen here in the City of Moose Jaw!

This spring will see the introduction of a city-wide pass that will allow residents in more than one City-owned facility.

New programs will be introduced to continue to improve customer service at City Hall.

Modernization continues to improve efficiencies which ensure better reliability and helps prepare the people of Moose Jaw for the future.

Finally, we cannot ignore that the community of Moose Jaw has a heart. There are those who have shown their heart for our community. Recently, Jenna Meili, Madison DeCorby, Aimee Dumlao and Allison Grajczyk-Jelinski showed their hearts for those less fortunate and raised \$8,000 for Riverside Mission by holding a celebrity volleyball tournament.

The business and local partner Mosaic started 2019 off by announcing \$2.5 million that is being donated over three years to four local charities in Moose Jaw, Saskatoon and Regina.

This generous donation includes Riverside Mission, the Moose Jaw and District Food Bank, Wakamow Mosaic Community Gardens and Hunger in Moose Jaw.

2019 will be a year to build on the strong foundations of the previous year's hard work and to continue the forward momentum.

The people of this city must continue to work collaboratively, to persevere together so that we can achieve the goals set before us and never to lose the heart that bonds the community of Moose Jaw together.