

Request to Appear as a Delegation

Preferred Council Meeting Date: Apr 7, 2026

Second choice(s): Apr 21, 2026

Subject matter: The Dream Society reopening live music venue on Front Street

Name of person(s) making presentation: Richard Cannings, Kim Lymburner

Address: Phone:

Email: richard@dreamsociety.ca

Please provide details of your presentation or request of Council here: (or provide a detailed attachment)

When the beloved Dream Café closed its doors in 2025, a dedicated group of community members knew that Penticton couldn't afford to lose this cultural cornerstone. Rather than accept its demise, these individuals came together to form The Dream Society—a non-profit organization committed to bringing the venue back to life and restoring it to its rightful place as the heart of our community's arts and culture scene.

We are embarking on an extensive renovation of the venue to improve the experience of both audiences and artists. A \$10,000 startup grant from the Community Foundation of the South Okanagan Similkameen will help begin that renovation and we have already raised more than \$45,000 from individual supporters. We are confident that we will receive another major grant to help cover the capital costs of the renovation.

We will run the venue on a completely new business plan. It will be staffed almost entirely by volunteers and will have a much more flexible design so that we can make it available seven days a week for community groups and artists. Food and beverages will be available but we will not be a full-service restaurant, necessitating a change in the liquor licence. We believe this business model will be much more sustainable and broadly beneficial to the entire community.

To meet our goal to re-open the doors by October 1, the Dream Society needs the support of the City of Penticton to:

- Support letter for charitable status application to CRA
- Expedite any permits needed for the renovation
- Support our application for a new liquor licence
- Provide property tax relief as we will be paying all taxes as part of the lease agreement

Please note:

- Meetings may be held electronically. Participation details will be confirmed with you prior to the meeting.
- This form and submissions will become part of the public record.
- The Mayor has the authority to determine if the subject matter warrants the delegation to appear before Council and may determine at which meeting.