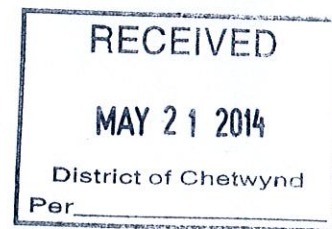




May 12, 2014

District of Chetwynd  
Box 357  
Chetwynd, BC  
Canada, V0C 1J0



Dear Mayor Nichols:

On behalf of Leanne Beaupre, Reeve of the County of Grande Prairie, No. 1; Bill Given, Mayor of the City of Grande Prairie; and Chris Turnmire, Mayor of the Town of Wembley, I would like to extend an invitation for you and your Councilors to attend a Key to the Peace Region Ceremony for the Aykroyd Family at the City of Grande Prairie Office Building at 4:30 pm on Thursday, August 7, 2014.

The symbolic key presentation is normally one of the highest awards presented by a community – granted in exceptional cases to individuals who have gained national and international acclaim in the Arts, Business and Philanthropy. In this case, a group of local municipal leaders have agreed to acknowledge the efforts of Dan and Donna Dixon Aykroyd and their family for their outstanding support of and advocacy for international recognition of the paleontological resources of the Peace Region.

The Aykroyds are an iconic Canadian family whose love of paleontology initially connected them to Grande Prairie and Dr. Philip J. Currie in 2010. Their overall dedication, kindness and commitment to this area make them the perfect recipients of this award - the inaugural Key to the Peace Region. The Aykroyds have had a special relationship with Grande Prairie and area for four years now and holding a public ceremony to honour them is a fitting tribute to their contributions to the area as well as a way to further strengthen that connection.

A decade ago, the Peace Region was not well-known nationally and internationally for its paleontological resources despite the richness of the prehistoric specimens, the rate of discovery and the specimens' relative importance to science. Today, the region has been placed firmly on the map of scientific importance and as a future major destination for dinosaur tourism when the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum opens in December. This is thanks to many factors, but the contribution of the Aykroyd family has been significant and deserves recognition.

Key Points in the relationship between the Aykroyd Family and the Grande Prairie area:

- In 2010 the Aykroyd family accepted the responsibility of becoming the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum's International Ambassadors.

*A proposed resolution on Page 3*



- The family have travelled to Grande Prairie in 2010, 2011 and will again in August 2014 – each time to learn more about the paleontological resources of the area and to promote them internationally.
- In 2011, they hosted the Aykroyd Family and Friends Dinosaur Ball, which raised over \$450,000 for the museum capital project.
- The international media attention that accompanied the Aykroyd's visit in 2011 reached a daily audience of over 20 million.
- The Aykroyds have contributed to the International notoriety of the museum's namesake Dr. Philip J. Currie by successfully promoting him as a suitable recipient for 2012 Explorers Medal, the highest award presented by the international Explorers Club and the 2012 Canadian Geographic Society's Gold Medal.
- The family has advocated on behalf of the museum project by writing letters to various levels of government, including the Prime Minister's Office.
- They promoted the rich paleontological resources of the local region to their friends and associates in an effort to promote and gain international interest in the museum project.
- They brought many of their friends to the Peace Region in 2011, including philanthropist Bobby Kennedy Jr., star of his TV show "Criminal Minds", Matthew Gray Gubler and America's top-selling crime writer Patricia Cornwell, who subsequently wrote a book entitled "The Bonebed", which included mentions of Grande Prairie itself.
- They have recruited another outstanding group of influential friends to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony and the Amber Ball fundraising event in August, 2014.

### The Family:

**Daniel Edward Aykroyd**, CM is an actor, comedian, producer, philanthropist, writer and entrepreneur. Born in Ottawa, Ontario, he immigrated to the United States in 1974 and married Donna Dixon in 1983. They have three daughters - - Danielle, Belle and Stella and godchild Augusta. On October 13, 1994 Dan was presented with the Keys to the City of Ottawa. In 1999 he was inducted into the Order of Canada, based on his on-screen work (which now includes 73 movies, a television career that dates back to 1974 and 12 appearances on Saturday Night Live) and also for his contribution to fundraising for Ottawa's Carleton University, his alma mater,



and to many arts, health and youth programs in his home town of Kingston. He was inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame in 2002.

**Donna Dixon Aykroyd** is a model; actress, and philanthropist born in Alexandria, Virginia. She began her career as a model and was named Miss Virginia USA in 1976 and Miss Washington DC World in 1977. She has appeared in 10 films and numerous television shows and is a member of the international Explorers Club.

**Danielle Alexandra Aykroyd** is an actress, a graduate of Harvard University, a member of the Explorers Club, with interests that include horseback riding, the guitar, epidemiology and scuba diving.

**Belle Kingston Aykroyd** is a student, adventurer and member of the Explorers Club, a licensed falconer, skilled practitioner of American Sign Language and a traveler whose journeys include South America where she visited orphanages in Bogota and travelled down the Amazon.

**Stella Irene August Aykroyd** is an adventurer who has travelled the world including India, Africa, and Antarctica. She enjoys sports, painting and acting.

**Augusta Tigrett**, a.k.a. "the Diviner," accompanied Dr. Currie and others on a paleontological dig excavating Pachyrhinosaurus fossils in the Pipestone Creek Bone Bed in 2010. While others carefully chose sites, digging for hours unsuccessfully, Augusta not only struck dinosaur gold at each spot she chose, but was able to steer others towards the bones that had eluded them. Her Godmother, Donna Dixon Aykroyd, crowned her "the Diviner."

It would be appreciated if you would confirm your intentions by phoning or emailing Dawn Christiansen @ 780-532-2362 or [dchristiansen@countygp.ab.ca](mailto:dchristiansen@countygp.ab.ca).

Respectively,

Brian Brake  
Executive Director  
Pipestone Creek Dinosaur Initiative

OPTIONS
1. Receive for information; or
2. THAT Council authorize the Mayor or alternate to attend a Key to the Peace Region Ceremony for the Aykroyd Family in Grande Prairie, AB on August 7, 2014.