



Your City Budget. Have Your Say.

Date: Monday, December 7, 2020

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — The City of Victoria is seeking the community's feedback on its 2021 Draft Budget.

"Cities across the country will be carefully considering their 2021 budgets in light of the challenges brought on by the pandemic," said Mayor Lisa Helps. "We know how much our residents and businesses depend on our services, which is why Council is proposing to maintain current service levels and try to keep the tax increase to one per cent plus inflation. This investment will allow us to continue to enhance the well-being of our community, invest in infrastructure upgrades and achieve the City's Strategic Plan. Now we want to hear from you to inform Council's budget priorities and investment decisions for 2021."

The proposed budget allocates \$255.9 million to operate the City's more than 200 programs and services and invests \$52.9 million in capital infrastructure projects. Council has provided direction to add an additional \$3 million back into the capital budget. Projects are still to be determined.

The community is invited to read the 2021 Draft Financial Plan, or for a quick read, view the Budget Summary on the City's website at engage.victoria.ca and provide feedback.

Online Survey

How the City invests tax dollars is one of the most important decisions in the community each year. The public is invited to share their priorities for investment in 2021 with Council by completing an online survey by midnight on Sunday, January 10, 2021.

Virtual Budget Town Hall

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Plan to participate in the City's *Virtual Budget Town Hall*, an interactive event that will be webcast live on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Starting Monday, January 4, the community will be able to provide questions and/or comments on the 2021 Draft Budget for Council on Twitter using #victownhall, in an online form or by telephone, then tune in to the live webcast for the answers.

Youth Speak: Budget 2021

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Youth between the ages of 14 and 24 who live, work or attend school in the City of Victoria are invited to pre-register to participate in *Youth Speak: Budget 2021*, a free virtual event hosted by the City in partnership with the City of Victoria Youth Council to give youth an opportunity to learn more about local government and ask questions to Council about the City's Draft 2021 Budget during the *Virtual Budget Town Hall*. An online application form will be available starting Monday, December 14.

Email

The community can also send their input to engage@victoria.ca with "2021 Draft Budget Feedback" in the subject line by midnight on Sunday, January 10, 2021.

All public input will be included in an engagement summary for Council's consideration on January 18 and made available on the City's website.

To learn more and have your say, visit: engage.victoria.ca.

ATTACHMENT: 2021 Draft Budget Summary

—30—

For More Information:

Bill Eisenhauer

Head of Engagement

Cellular: 250.858.1061

beisenhauer@victoria.ca