

Friday, February 17, 2023 | For Immediate Release

## Your City Budget. Tell Us What Matters Most.

VICTORIA, BC — The City is inviting public feedback on the 2023 Draft Budget and City core services and programs. Council is considering a 6.96 per cent tax increase this year to match inflation, down from an 8.99 per cent increase proposed in January.

Inflation has increased the costs of goods, services and labour, meaning the City's budget must also increase to continue to deliver the same level of programs and services that Victoria residents expect, while considering the best value for tax dollars. As the City enters the fourth year of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is facing different pressures – some are economic, some are environmental – all are global.

On February 6, a Council motion directed staff to develop a new 2023 Draft Budget that caps the property tax increase at inflation – 6.96 per cent – and that the Police Board develop a new draft budget at the same rate.

On February 17, Council approved in principle a budget that includes mitigation strategies proposed by staff to achieve the lower tax rate (see backgrounder), in addition to reprioritizing some operations.

The Police Board will present its 2023 VicPD Provisional Budget to Council at a later date for consideration.

The City's 2023 Draft Budget proposes to invest \$297.95 million in the operating budget and \$64.9 million in capital budget improvements.

The public is invited to provide feedback on the 2023 Draft Budget and the City core services and programs that matter most to them by:

- Participating in a public meeting on **Thursday, February 23 at 6:30 p.m. at Victoria City Hall** in person, by calling in or sending a written or video submission and tuning in to the live webcast.
- Completing a short online survey by **11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 5.**
- Emailing [engage@victoria.ca](mailto:engage@victoria.ca) with "City Budget" in the subject line by **11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 5.**

All feedback collected will be summarized and shared with Council to help inform final budget decisions, as well as made available on the City's website. To learn more and complete the online survey, visit: [engage.victoria.ca](https://engage.victoria.ca).

**Backgrounder:** List of Adjustments to City's 2023 Draft Budget

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### For More Information:

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## Backgrounder

On February 17, Council approved in principle a budget that includes mitigation strategies proposed to achieve a 6.96 per cent tax increase, in addition to reprioritizing some operations, as follows:

That Council direct staff to adjust the draft 2023 Financial Plan as follows:

1. Reduce the expenditure budget for Communications and Engagement by \$82,000
2. Reduce the expenditure budget for Business and Community Relations by \$220,000
3. Reduce the expenditure budget for Solid Waste by \$100,000
4. Increase parking revenues through the following adjustments to parking rates effective May 1, 2023:
  - a. On-street – all zones increase by \$0.50 per hour Monday to Saturday – revenue increase of \$450,000
    - i. 90-minute time limit zone \$3.50 per hour (currently \$3 per hour)
    - ii. 2 hour and 4 hour time limit zones \$3.00 per hour (currently \$2.50 per hour)
    - iii. 3 hour time limit zones \$2.50 per hour (currently \$2 per hour)
    - iv. 24 hour time limit zone \$2.00 per hour (currently \$1.50 per hour)
  - b. Extend paid on-street parking and parkade parking from 6pm to 7pm – revenue increase of at least \$900,000 with any excess amount to be put into the local amenities reserve fund
  - c. Parkades – increase hourly rate by \$0.50 – revenue increase of \$900,000
    - i. Centennial, Johnson and View - \$2.50 per hour, daily maximum of \$15 (currently \$2 per hour, daily maximum of \$14)
    - ii. Broughton - \$2.50 per hour, daily maximum of \$17.50 (currently \$2 per hour, daily maximum \$16)
    - iii. Yates - \$2.50 per hour, daily maximum of \$17.50 (currently \$2 per hour, daily maximum \$16)
5. Direct staff to pause the Dogs in Parks review in the amount of \$400,000
6. Direct staff to allocate \$50,000 to Our Place Society for extending their operating hours and \$50,000 for their storage program from surplus
7. Direct staff to extend the Pandora Caretakers program until December 31, 2023 at the cost of up to \$80,000 from an application to the provincial government, or if unsuccessful, then from surplus and/or contingency
8. Direct staff to temporarily delay work on the Beacon Hill Park - Circulation and Accessibility Study in the amount of \$450,000
9. Direct staff to prepare the necessary financial and legal agreements to provide the Safety Initiative Reimbursement Agreement with an additional \$65,000, to be taken from the contingency budget, that can be utilized any time prior to December 31, 2024