

Welcome to the City of Yellowknife's Budget 2018.

Located on Chief Drygeese traditional territory of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Yellowknife is a lively, welcoming, bright and inclusive Northern city centre that serves its residents and welcomes the world. The City commemorated its 50th anniversary as capital of the Northwest Territories in 2017, and our brand that "We are your Capital" reflects our strong connections to all Northwest Territories residents. The City of Yellowknife works hard to represent the best interests of our 21,000 residents and the most tangible way we do this is through the development of the City's annual budget.

A Balancing Act...

Budgeting is a balancing act between what the City and our residents would like to do and what we can afford to do. Since the two are often not the same, budgeting also requires us to set priorities: it takes into account immediate needs, mid-range objectives, and long-term goals; changing economic conditions; and affordability for our residents. The City budget is our Financial Plan - not only for the year ahead, but for the longer term and beyond. The decisions made as part of Budget 2018 determine the size and scope of the programs and services Yellowknife residents depend on for their quality of life, now and in the future.

Budget 2018 is the culmination of a great deal of work done by Administration, under Council's broad direction, to develop a realistic plan that ensures services are provided, infrastructure is maintained, and citizen expectations are met. All of this is done within the context of a fiscally responsible framework that makes

the best possible use of tax dollars, government transfers, and all available funding, and which incorporates citizen input and feedback.

In developing Budget 2018, City Administration considered program and infrastructure needs, looked for new and creative ways to accomplish service delivery, and made some difficult decisions to defer expenditures. It seeks to reconcile short term needs with long term interests, as well as available funding with program, service and infrastructure demand. Yellowknife is an amazing community to live in, but everyone recognizes that it can be an expensive place too. So budget decisions have taken this into consideration to ensure that taxes and fees remain as low as possible, while still enabling the City to provide services and maintain essential infrastructure.

Budget Pressures...

This year's challenges included upwards pressures on expenditures from inflation, coupled with the serious need to continue addressing aging infrastructure. As well, we recognise, from our 2017 Citizen Survey and other feedback, that the City faces growing citizen expectations to address social issues in our community. All of these pressures for additional investment coexist with concerns about Yellowknife's cost of living.

The City is Underfunded by \$11Million...

A key issue impacting the City's budget development is the fact that NWT community governments are underfunded by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) to the tune of \$40 million annually. Of this \$40 million shortfall, which the GNWT identified and acknowledges, the City of Yellowknife is underfunded \$11

BUDGET MESSAGE

million each year. This has a huge impact on our ability to deliver services and infrastructure. The City continues to pressure the GNWT to consider its fiscal allocations to better support strong communities and a diversified economy, as well as develop a plan in writing to close the funding gap.

Working to Enhance Quality of Life...

This draft Budget document lays out how the City proposes to collect and spend money to provide the best possible services we can for our residents. Some of the highlights of this proposed plan include:

- Investing in the Homelessness Employment Program
- Developing a Yellowknife Anti-Poverty Strategy
- Undertaking a Food Security/Agricultural Strategy
- Funding Yellowknife Street Outreach Services
- Hiring a Revenue Specialist to proactively search out funding
- Undertaking a Post-Secondary/University Feasibility Study
- Increasing Roads and Sidewalks Maintenance
- Finalizing the Destination Marketing Organization
- Developing a Strategy for Retail Revitalization
- Building a Playground in Lakeview Heights
- Developing a Bike Park
- Enhancing City Trails
- Conducting an RV Park Feasibility Study
- Continuing Development of the Tommy Forrest Park
- Beginning consultations for a new Aquatic Centre
- Developing the School Draw Parking Lot
- Beginning the General Plan Review

- Updating the Fire Hall
- Upgrading Intersections and Traffic Lights
- Advancing the Paving Program
- Installing a Weigh-Out Station at the Solid Waste Facility
- Continuing our proactive replacement of Water and Sewer Infrastructure
- Upgrading the SCADA Infrastructure

Thank you to all the residents, organizations and partners who have contributed ideas and made recommendations for Budget 2018.

