



NEWS RELEASE

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES 2019 BUDGET

NOVEMBER 27, 2018 (IQALUIT, NUNAVUT) – On behalf of City Council, Mayor Redfern announced this evening that the City has approved the 2019 Operating Budget and Capital Spending Plan.

“City Council is pleased to approve the 2019 Budget, which is a balanced approach to help address the infrastructure deficit and off-set the costs of services to meet needs of our growing population,” said Mayor Redfern.

The City's budget focuses on key strategic priorities including fiscal responsibility by adopting plans to eliminate deficits, creating healthy, balanced funds while ensuring the city can operate safely and effectively with adequate equipment and personnel.

The City will continue its work in upgrading water infrastructure, while planning for a long term, sustainable supplementary water source. It will also make improvements to its IT infrastructure, upgrade, and improve access to public buildings.

As part of the balanced approach, the 2019 Budget takes into account increases in power rates, heating fuel rates and increases to salaries in accordance with the collective agreement.

Budget highlights include:

- An increase to sanitation rates, of approximately \$12 a month for residential users, to bring the fund out of deficit, as required by the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, as well as to invest in equipment and personnel to improve services;
- A gradual decrease in the residential water subsidy rate, a subsidy of **.013 cents** a litre to 0 per cent. The subsidy of \$1.3 million provided by the Government of Nunavut will be re-invested in water infrastructure;
- An increase in property taxes of 5 per cent, to cover rate increases and to provide efficient and effective city services.
- A \$43.4 million capital spending plan, which is funded with Federal Infrastructure funds, Gas Tax, GN Block Funding and City reserves.

- The capital spending plan includes upgrades to the Waste Water Treatment Plant, the new Waste Transfer Station, upgrades to the City's cemetery and drainage and road upgrades. It also includes public safety vehicles including a new ambulance and an ATV for beach patrol; and
- A new community liaison position, to assist in reaching Inuktitut speaking residents.

The new budget goes into effect January 1, 2019.

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For additional information, please contact:

MEDIA RELATIONS

CITY OF IQALUIT

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