



CITY CONNECT

a newsletter highlighting services, projects and other information from the City of Port Alberni

2016 City Budget: Your Priorities. Your City

In April, City Council approved the 2016-2020 Financial Plan. The City's financial plan is a budget that describes how much money the City will raise and spend within each of the next five years. The plan provides for the many services that keep the community safe and livable, encourage business growth and investments, and make Port Alberni an attractive destination for visitors.

The financial plan aligns with City Council's Strategic Plan and was developed with considerable public input received through letters and emails, an online survey, and a public budget meeting in February. The Financial Plan includes \$28 million in operating budget and \$2.3 million in capital for 2016. The operating budget covers day-to-day spending on services such as recreation programs, parks maintenance, public transit, fire protection and police. The capital budget funds the construction and repair of City assets that support municipal services such as public roads and bridges, buildings and community centres, and other major equipment.

The Financial Plan for 2016 reflects an overall budget increase of \$549,010 or 2%. Most residents will see a modest increase of about 2.7% over last year, which, for the average household, works out to about \$47.

Highlights of the 2016 Financial Plan include:

- New recreation management software that will include online registration and improved access to program and event information
- Development of a comprehensive design and plan for the Johnston Road streetscape
- Further improvements to Canal Beach & other City facilities
- Increased external marketing efforts to promote Port Alberni and our interests
- Additional support for youth recreation programs
- Installation of bike lanes along major corridors
- Replacement and renewal of critical infrastructure

2016 Allocation: Where the money goes

2% Community & Economic Development	
24% Police	2% Library
11% Fire	1% Animal Control
20% Parks & Recreation	
11% Administration	6%
18% Streets & Infrastructure	Debt & Reserves
3% Heritage & Culture	2% Planning & Bylaw

Things to Know

- **Stay Connected** - Are you following us on Twitter (@cityportalberni) or on Facebook (/City of Port Alberni Local Government ?) If not, hopefully you will! We use social media to share all kinds of information. In addition, residents are taking to Twitter and Facebook to ask questions, discuss ideas and share community events.
- **Save Time. Receive Online.** - You can get your tax and utility bills straight to your inbox using MyCity Port Alberni. See the back page for details.

#SunsOutFunsOut

with Port Alberni Parks, Recreation & Heritage

Summer's coming, and we invite the whole family to spend it with Parks, Recreation & Heritage! We have a wide variety of summer programs and events to help you and the kids enjoy the Alberni Valley and try new activities. Whether you love splashing in the water, uncovering hidden secrets of our history, or exploring the great outdoors, there's a camp for you! We'll also be bringing playtime to your neighbourhood, so keep an eye out for our Pop-Up Playground program. And of course, don't forget to join us at the Our Town event series for free family fun and to celebrate our community!

Find out more in the Summer Leisure Guide, available for pick-up on May 9 at Echo Centre, the AV Multiplex and City Hall, or online at: www.portalberni.ca/programs



Help Us Read Your Water Meter Quickly and Safely

Did you know that before utility bills are sent out, our staff goes to each property throughout the community to collect water consumption readings. That's over 6,500 properties visited over the course of a few weeks!

In order to collect these readings quickly and safely it's important that we have easy access to your water meter. If we can't take an initial reading, we have to come back for an additional inspection which takes extra time and resources.

Please ensure that the area around your meter is clear. Don't place obstructions such as cars, trailers, sheds, shrubs, boxes etc around or over the meter. This allows for a timely and efficient collection and ultimately helps keep system costs down for everyone.

Your water meter will either be a wall mounted "puck" style or an in-ground meter located on your property. Find yours and consider ways to make it more accessible.



Wall Mounted Water Meter



In-Ground Water Meter



Don't Let Your Utility Bill Get "Misplaced"

Get your next utility bill delivered straight to your inbox with MyCity Port Alberni. Signing up for a MyCity account is free and provides you with 24/7 secure online access to information regarding your City of Port Alberni accounts such as taxes, utilities, dog, and business licences.

www.portalberni.ca/mycity