

April 1, 2010

City Council Finalizes Campbell River's 2010 Budget

At the March 30 Council meeting, the City's \$45 million 2010 Financial Plan was finalized with a total tax levy reduction of \$1.25 million.

This year's budget results in a slight decrease (averaging \$15.03 per year or 0.21 per cent) for business taxpayers and an increase of \$84.98 per year or \$7.08 per month (five per cent per year) for the average residential property taxpayer.

"Council and staff have worked hard to ensure this budget accounts for the loss of approximately \$900,000 in taxation revenue related to the closure of the pulp operations at Catalyst's Elk Falls Mill. We are pleased to have successfully kept the City's costs as low as possible to minimize the amount that all tax classes will pay," says Mayor Charlie Cornfield.

At the same meeting, Council directed Acting City Manager George Paul to review the City's organizational structure and suggest improvements in a report to Council within the next two months.

Projects included in the budget for 2010 that optimize outside funding opportunities are:

- Hosting the 2010 B.C. Seniors Games, anticipated to boost the local economy through sports tourism
- Continuing with the construction of the Greenways Loop in partnership with the Greenways Land Trust, which employs local resource workers, with no impact on local taxation thanks to senior government funding through the Job Opportunities Program
- Undertaking the Highway 19A upgrade project from Hilchey Road to just south of Rockland Road, with two-thirds funding from federal and provincial governments plus existing dedicated City reserve funds
- Undertaking the Campbell River Airport runway extension project with two-thirds funding from federal and provincial governments and grant funding worth almost one-third from the Island Coastal Economic Trust
- Improving communications internally and externally by engaging our community
- Rejuvenating our community vision through a sustainable Official Community Plan and First Nation partnerships
- Exploring environmental sustainability initiatives and alternative energy production
- Enhancing parks throughout the city, plus assisting local sport groups building a new lacrosse box and upgrading tennis courts
- Supporting downtown revitalization with improved street lighting, public amenities, marketing, arts and culture activities and Spirit Square event coordination
- Expanding the City's National Communities in Bloom participation

"The budget support's Council's strategic goals that address financial, environmental and social concerns, and balances the need for all services with the amount of revenue we can collect through taxation," Mayor Cornfield concludes.

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