

Mount Pearl Presents Budget 2023

City focused on maintaining service delivery and planning for growth

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 13, 2022 (Mount Pearl, NL) – Today, the City of Mount Pearl presented its balanced 2023 budget of \$56,122,055.

The city engaged citizens throughout the decision-making process, both digitally and traditionally, and that feedback is reflected in Budget 2023, which protects the high level of service that Mount Pearl is reputationally known for, while investing in critical infrastructure projects. The important prioritization of these investments, combined with unavoidable economic realities, necessitate a mil rate increase for both residential and commercial property owners.

“The theme of this year’s budget is *Investing in Tomorrow, Today*,” said Mayor Dave Aker. “Council recognizes how we have all been impacted by the current economy, ongoing post-pandemic recovery and factors like inflation. The city is not impervious to these either, however, despite the economic climate, we must continue to invest in critical infrastructure upgrades that position us for growth.”

Budget 2023 includes a \$1.0 million dollar continued investment in fleet renewal, a program which has reduced the city’s fleet maintenance budget by over \$300,000 since inception. City contributions of \$4.6 million to projects partially supported by federal and provincial programs will leverage up to 70% in funding dollars, delivering almost \$14 million in value, making every taxpayer dollar work harder. This budget also includes over \$500,000 to invest in the introduction of contracted snow clearing services, not to replace, but to complement the city’s internal efforts and reduce reliance on overtime for essential service delivery. Community safety and support for non-profit and volunteer groups remain a top priority in Budget 2023, with \$277,000 in grant funding being allocated for community organizations. The city’s Municipal Enforcement team will also see an expansion in 2023 and has already begun conducting safety sessions and community outreach to daycares and grade schools.

“Budget 2023 takes a balanced approach to protecting today, and planning for the long term” said Deputy Mayor Nicole Kieley, Co-Chair of the Corporate Services and Public Works Committee. “With significant investments in growth, service delivery, community, safety, people, and critical infrastructure, we will meet the needs of current residents and businesses while implementing our new Municipal and Economic Development plans to welcome new families and businesses to our city.”

By the numbers:

- The total 2023 budget is \$56,122,055.
- The 2023 budget includes a residential mil rate increase from 7.1 to 7.7 mils.
- The 2023 budget includes a commercial property mil rate increase from 11.5 to 12.4 mils.
- The 2023 budget makes no increases to water, sewer, or waste disposal fees. Most other rates and fees will also remain steady. All rate/fees are available at www.mountpearl.ca/budget.
- The total capital budget for 2023 is \$12.2 million.

Full details on the budget can be found at www.mountpearl.ca/budget.

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Investing in Growth

- In 2023, the city will release a series of new strategic documents including a 2023-27 Strategic Plan, a long-term Economic Development Plan, and a 10-year Municipal Plan.
- A \$6.9 million upgrade project for Farrell Drive, funded through Invest Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), supporting critical and long-term sustainability development goals on Kenmount Hill.

Investing in Service Delivery

- Addition of a weekend snow clearing shift, reducing the city's reliance on overtime as a mechanism to deliver essential services.
- An allocation of over \$500,000 to introduce up to 1,700 hours of contracted snow clearing services to compliment our own internal efforts.
- An investment in additional trail grooming equipment to enhance winter season trail accessibility.

Investing in Our Community

- Upgrades to the Team Gushue Sportsplex Baseball Field, in advance of the 2025 Canada Games, improving the field, team dugouts, pitchers bullpen, batting cages, and more (\$445,000).
- Continued investment in accessible playground structure upgrades (\$35,000).
- Important equipment upgrades at the Summit Centre's Fitness Gym, including upright bikes, arc trainers, steppers, and an accessible sci fit bike (\$75,000).
- Continued investment in trail enhancements including the possible addition of eco-friendly lighting to make our more than 66 kilometers of trails a destination of choice for evening outdoor recreation (\$200,000).
- The city will continue to support community groups through grants (\$277,000).

Investing in Safety

- Planned expansion of the Municipal Enforcement team.
- Municipal Enforcement Officer led safety sessions and community outreach in daycares, grade schools, and more.

Investing in Our People

- \$304,750 allocated to professional development, staff training, and employee engagement.

Investing in Our Infrastructure

- \$1 million in fleet renewal to ensure standards for public safety and services are maintained.
- \$4.6 million in city-contributions to federal and provincial funding programs. Future planning for infrastructure programs allows the city to leverage up to 70% in funding dollars, making

taxpayer dollars work harder. These programs mean \$4.6 million delivers almost \$14 million in work.

- A \$900,000 investment in an infrastructure contingency fund to sustain unexpected expenditures as they arise.