

CITIZEN BUDGET RESULTS

**City of Powell River, British Columbia
February 13th, 2018**



OpenNorth

Online Budget Consultation Report

For the period November 3 to February 10, 2018

Prepared by Open North for: City of Powell River

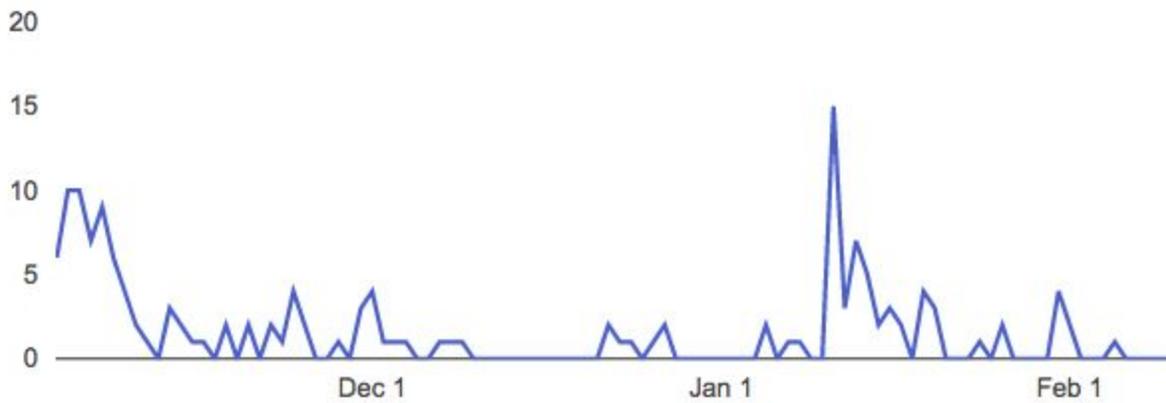
154

Responses

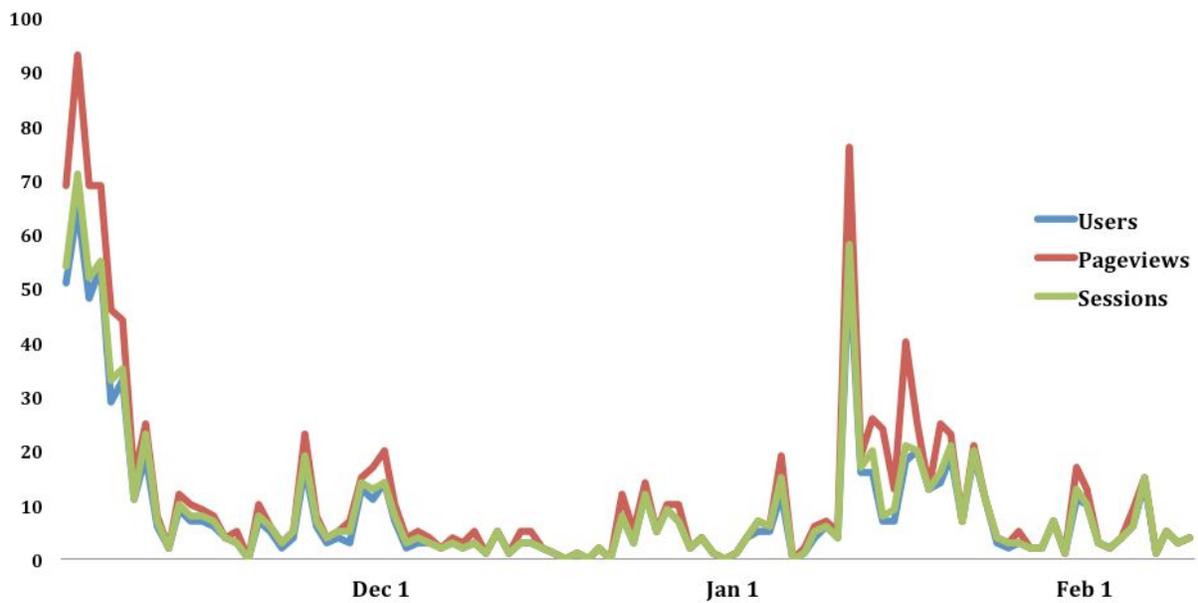
6 minutes

Median time to complete

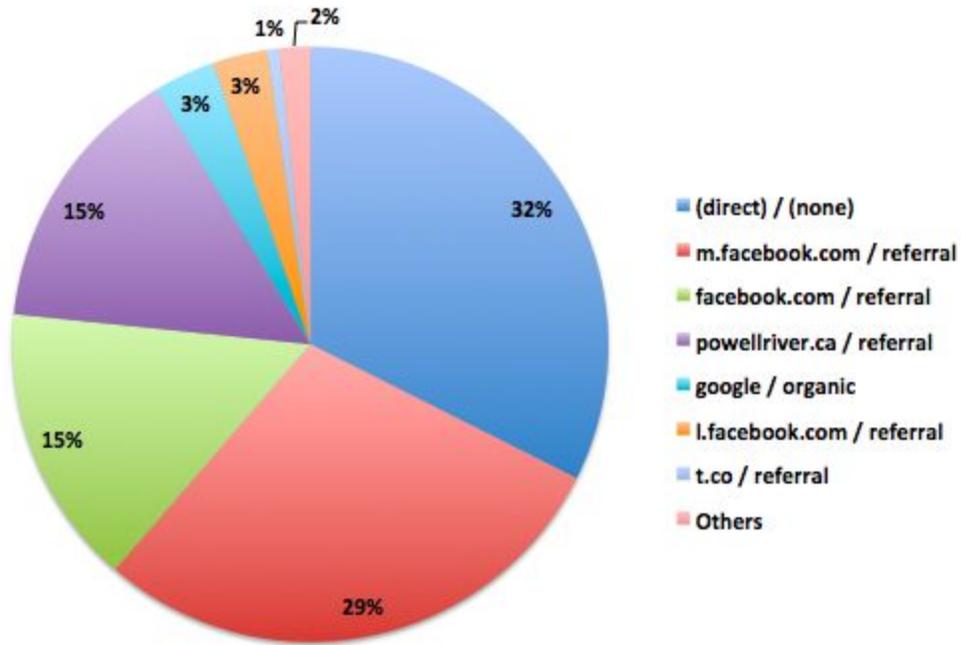
Responses per Day



Total Web visits: 958



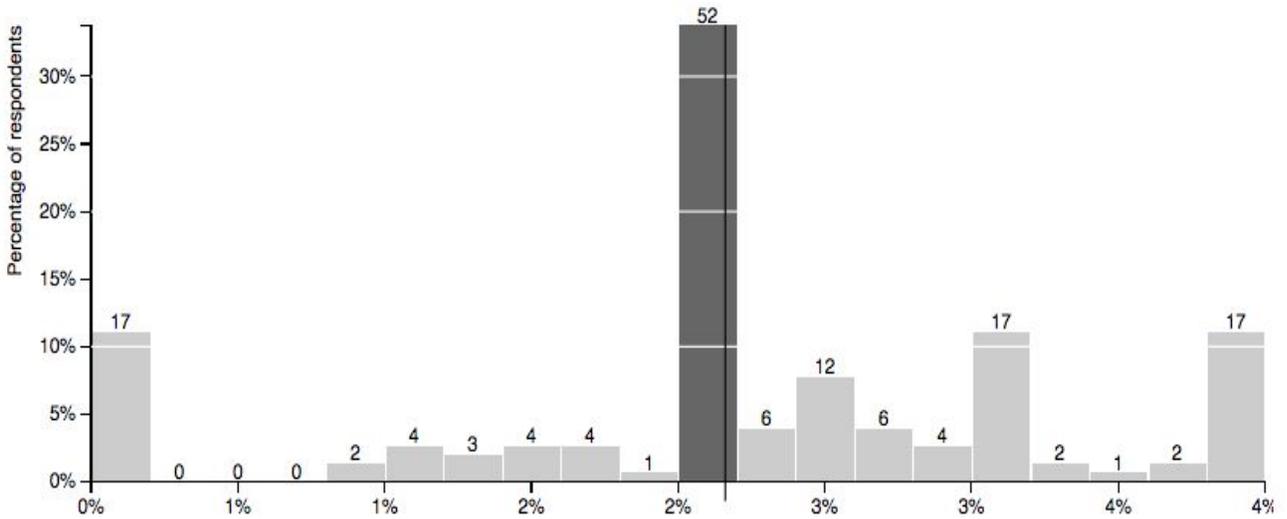
Web Traffic Sources



Questions

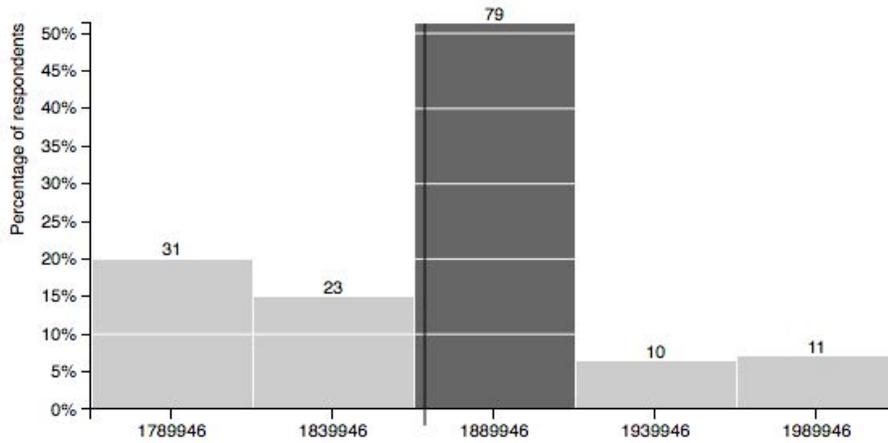
General Tax Slider to Balance the Budget

Would you increase, decrease or maintain the general tax rate?



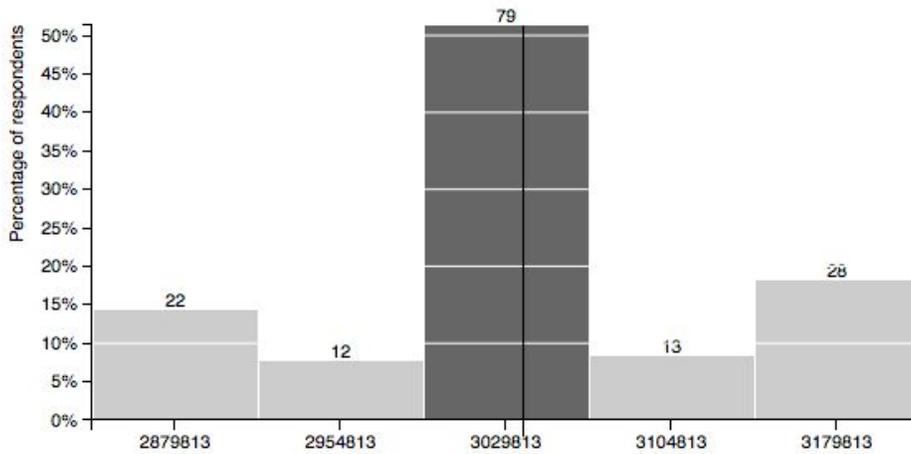
Transit Services

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain the budget for Transit Services?



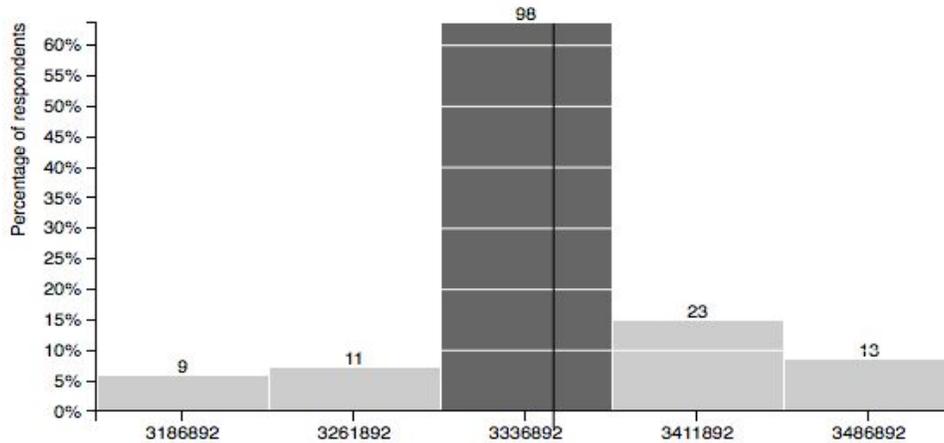
Fire Services

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain the budget for Fire Services?



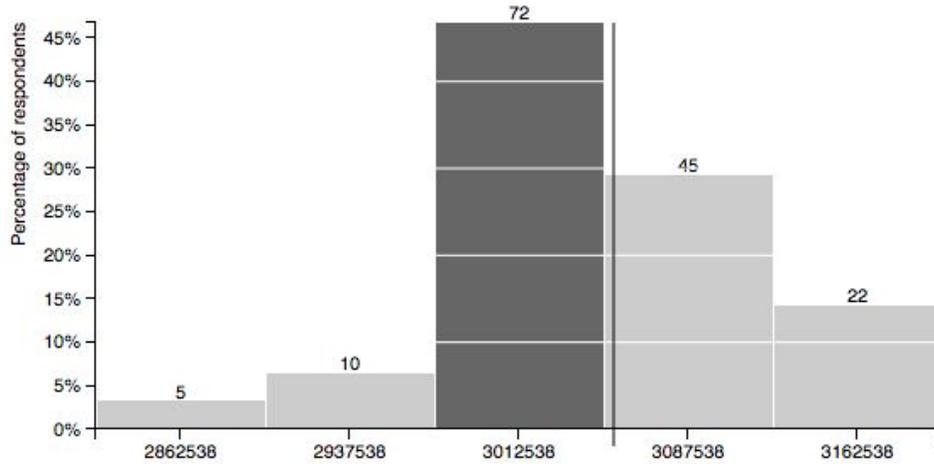
Police Services

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain the budget for Police Services?



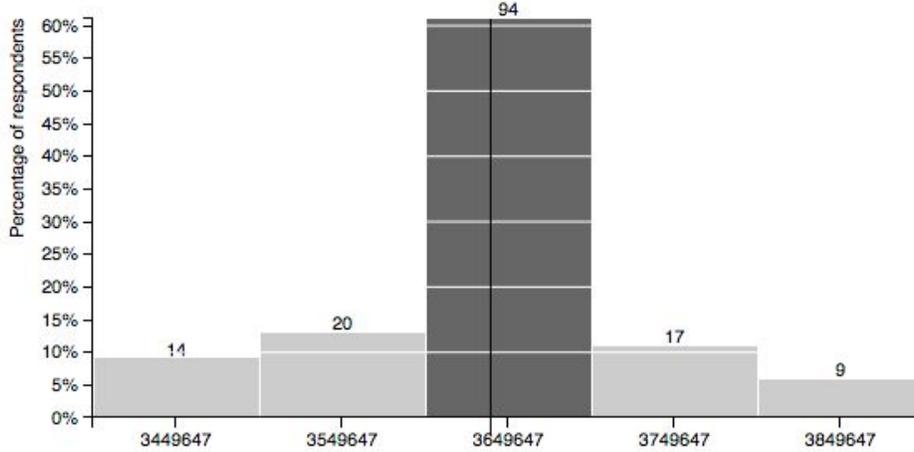
Roads and Transportation Services

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain the budget for Roads and Transportation Services?



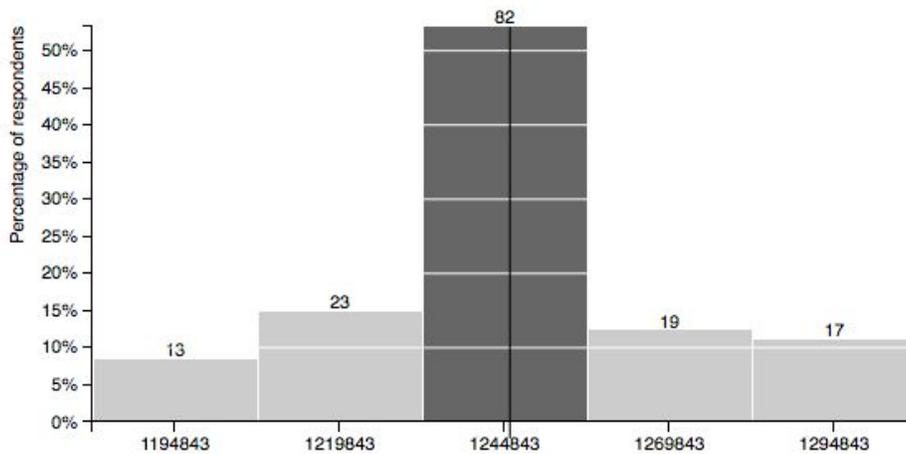
Recreation Services

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain the budget for Recreation Services?



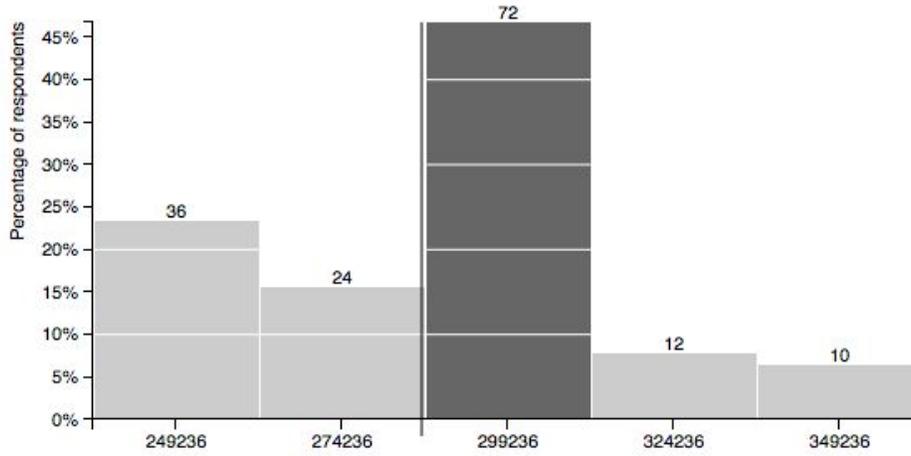
Parks Services

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain the budget for Parks Services?



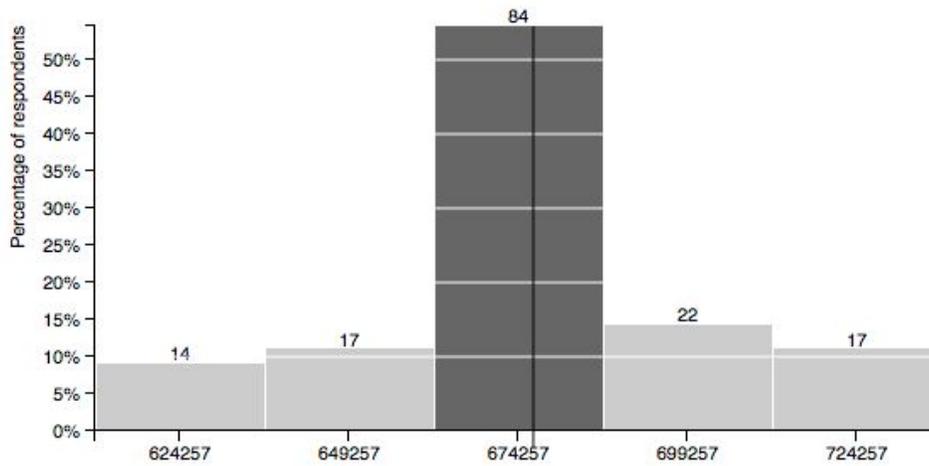
Bylaw Services

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain the budget for Bylaw Services?



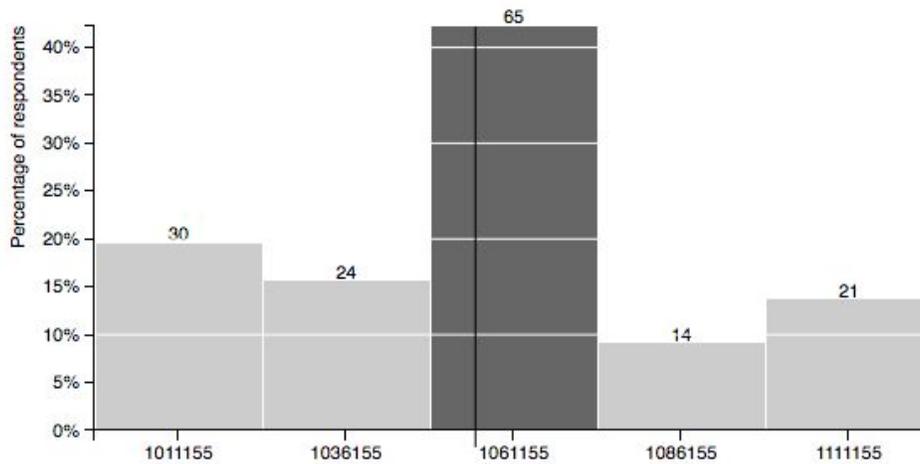
Planning Services

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain the budget for Planning Services?



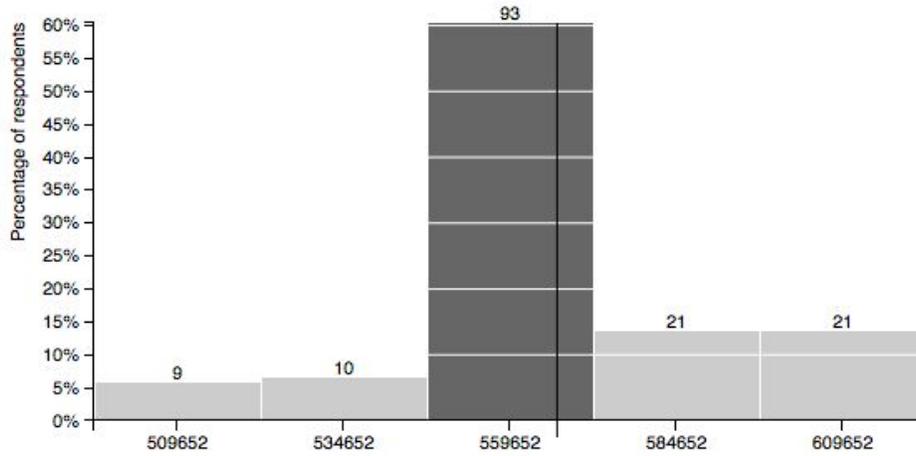
Cultural Services

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain the budget for Cultural Services?



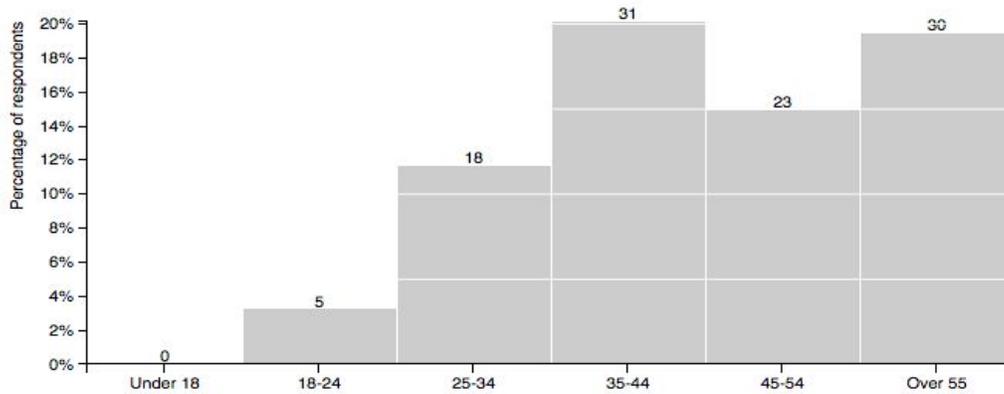
Solid Waste Services

Would you increase, decrease, or maintain the budget for Solid Waste Services?

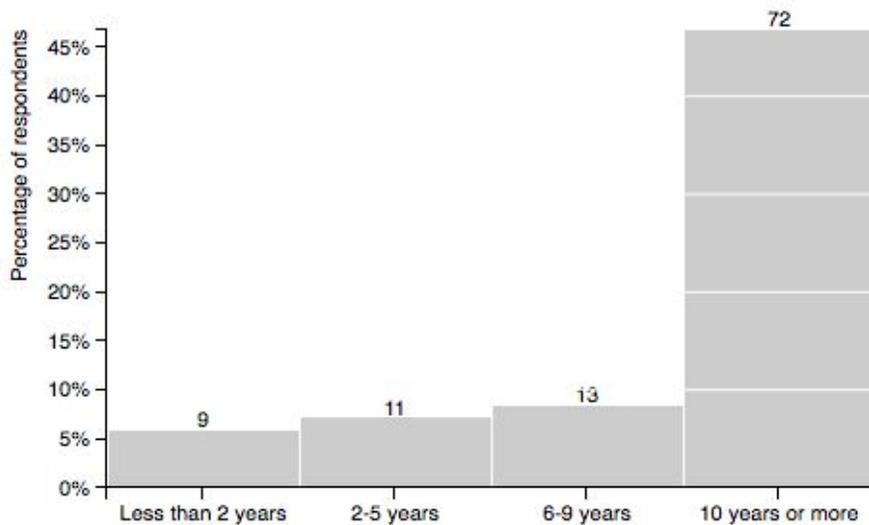


Tell us about yourself

Age



Residency



Comments

Do you have any comments on these specific programs or services (Transit Services)?

Better transit is an absolute necessity for this community, especially to rural areas. A huge amount of parking issues and policing costs would vanish if there were better transit - fewer cars, less drunk driving, more access to community programs for vulnerable populations. This online program doesn't allow me to do it, but I would increase this by a lot more than \$100k if I could.
better transit means better access to services and recreation (especially for youth and seniors). Lessening travel frustration for youths could reduce minor crime by allowing them to attend other activities rather than feel stuck/repressed.
bus not shared
Decrease the tax rate. For far too long ridership number have been manipulated. This gives a distorted view of actual ridership. Also no accounting has very been given to the number of taxpaying people who take advantage of the transit service as apposed the number of rider who pay no taxes. A great number of people ride the system every day and pay nothing at all. No accountability due to poor management.
Don't run em on Sundays
Empty buses driving through town on a regular basis.
great service with friendly staff.
I do not currently use our local bus system, but enjoying using other city transit when I travel. I have found the current system does not work for my daughter who works shift work at Starbucks when she is home and the early morning shift begins at least 2 hours before transit starts.
I think service to North & South of town, expansion of services at night, and the fact that Handydart is a necessary service for folks with disabilities and the increasingly aging population requires more money put into these services.
I'm impressed with the bus service for such a small town. Keep up the great work!
Increase ridership before spending resources on late evening schedule. I live on a bus route, it doesn't seem to have many ppl on board at many times, if any!
Look at a different type of service that goes more frequent with smaller busses
Need a way to increase ridership
no one rides on the buses - they are constantly empty all day long and have been for years. its embarassing. the city could send a cab for every rider for free instead. i would decrease this more
offer more services and spend money to educate people that they are available and why it's good to use transit.
Service everyday with no exceptions.
Service to Recreation Center. More buses on main routes.
Services need to expanded South and North of town, if need be reduce services in the city by looking at off peak runs and eliminating those in favour of adding a run to 2 outside city limits.
Smaller buses (18-24 seat cap) could be in operation thereby cutting operation costs. On viewing these full sizes vehicles they are never full with standing room only and sometimes running empty. A survey should be undertaken re usage; peak times, slow periods etc.
Smaller buses with more frequent routes. Alternatively, consider rideshare/hitchhiking stops at safe/accessible/convenient locations as is done on surrounding islands and smaller

communities.
Sunday service is horrible. Also buses are almost always not on time.
The bus runs past my house empty multiple times a day, take a hint from that.
The majority of stores, restaurants and other amenities in powell river aren't open late. Taking a few hours off the end of the day shouldn't make a huge difference to many people. There are other alternatives such as calling a friend/ relative or taking a taxi service. Is the bus service even doing well for the last 2 hours of the day? should there be a study for the better part of one month to see how many people each day use the bus between the last two hours of operation. How many people pay cash and how many people use a monthly card. That will determine if it is feasible to have the bus running that late.
The routes need to change to be more efficient. You need later runs and perhaps less during parts of the day. Think about getting electric and smaller vehicles.
Transit is a great service for students
Unfortunately I don't take transit but it is important part of moving people around the city in order for trade and commerce to be maximized. that being said, I see a lot of empty busses driving around.
Very well run!
Young people cannot get back and forth in the late evenings...many choosing unwisely to drive when they possibly should not. Bus could run until at 11pm on weeknights, and least 1200 (midnight), especially on weekends

Do you have any comments on these specific programs or services (Fire Services)?

600 per month is not adequate
a
Better/increased use of auxiliary
Cuts to be directed at fire, not paramedics. Somethings gotta give, so unless we have stats to show major repercussions with budget reductions I'd suggest cutting the fire budget. I'd also like to see fire inspectors traveling in cars/pick-ups, not pumpers.
Do not need fire department to respond to Ambulance Service calls, unless Ambulance Services are being utilized already. If anything, increase the BC Ambulance Service. Do not need a fire protection officer for building inspections.
Expenses need to be balanced. Trucks do not need to go out with every ambulance call.
Firefighters are taking it upon themselves to act as first responders to medical (BC Ambulance) calls. This leaves them short in thsir ability to be available for actual fire calls. Reign in this practice - work with the Ambulance service to get proper coverage so back filling is not even considered necessary. Until that happens, I can't support an increase to the firefighters budget.
First response should be left to the ambulance service as this is a provincial responsibility that we are supplementing a provincial system that doesn't require supplementing with our local tax dollars while not seeing the return on investment for our provincial tax dollars.
I live on Marine Avenue in the Townsite and am aware of the number of calls that seem to be heading north.
I think when it comes to fire services the general public does not realize the absolutely fantastic job the men and woman in the fire dept do and what they provide. They have saved friends and family members of mine and for that reason alone I feel they deserve the full support of this community. We simply require the services they provide us. We do not have the population to support a volunteer only service, most volunteer groups in this town have vanished or are vanishing, why is it some people believe fire fighters should work for free? That's just not a reality in this very isolated community. what we have now is not quite enough as it is. People get all upset over the wages, the thing they don't realize is that these people get called out of their

<p>beds and away from family at all hours anytime and have to turn our worst days into something better. The fact that they respond to all kinds of emergencies including medical issues is the reason many of my family and friends are alive. Thank you for saving the life of my nephew. I have lived all over Canada and I have never before seen such a small fire department do so much.</p>
<p>I was amazed at how high this was in comparison to other areas, is that typical? I decreased it.</p>
<p>I'm baffled at the cost for fire services in such a small town and the duplication of provincial emergency response services. It feels like there must be some savings in Fire Services.</p>
<p>I'm very glad Powell River has a fire engine that is staffed and available 24/7. I'm positive that the quick response is making a big difference, unlike what you hear about for areas such as Comox and Courtenay who response is delayed. Good Work! Also considering there are only small volunteer departments that can lend a hand for large events, its best to be able to jump on emergencies early to maximize the odds of it turning into a large event.</p>
<p>If firemen regard themselves as 'first responders' - due to lack of fires - consolidate Ambulance & Fire services and buildings.</p>
<p>It appears that we may be paying the Fire Department management excessively for the size of our town.</p>
<p>Questionable as to costing factor. At one time there were 3 Volunteer Fire Depts. with approx. 30 volunteers in each Hall. A new Firehall was built to house the newly expanded 'Full Time' Fire Dept. this is now being used as a Bus Garage!!! While appreciating the response of the Fire Dept. to the services described, why do they need to be first responders to Emergency Medical Care when we have 2 Ambulances in service. Are the Firemen trained in Medical Emergencies to the full extent required. They should be called for Fires, serious motor vehicle incidents, hazardous material spills etc. if requested by onsite RCMP or Ambulance Drivers. Ambulance should be First Responders..</p>
<p>spend a bit more money promoting fire prevention activities and fire extinguishers in the home.</p>
<p>The fire department needs to increase it's public education program. Most people don't know or don't bother to get a permit to burn during the season, many residents still burn garbage and (pretty much everyone in Wildwood) burns wet debris that creates smoke and hazardous air quality/ breathing conditions.</p>
<p>There seems to be a lot of overlap in response between ambulance and fire. Both showing up for a lot of small calls. If this was addressed perhaps a small decrease could take place at the fire dept.</p>
<p>This "first responder" policy has to go. If an ambulance is needed then the fire trucks should stay at the station. What a HUGE waste of money. And we do not need a new fire hall.</p>
<p>this should be primarily a volunteer service just like every other fire department in bc outside of vancouver and victoria. we do NOT need 100 people on fire department payroll where they volunteer to respond to every emergency call with a huge expensive truck. the fire department has been building this pyramid for years. good luck in dismantling it - you need another Coke report to guide the cuts.</p>
<p>We don't give them enough credit for what they do. I have been on the receiving end of there response and we as a community just don't know how luck we are to have the service we do when we need it most. True professionals.</p>
<p>We need a new fire department building. I can't believe the firefighters would spend one minute in that old death trap</p>
<p>We need to run our fire department in a similar way to Courtenay by using more volunteers as opposed to full-time fire fighters. We should also be depending on and funding the ambulance services instead of relying on the fire department to respond to medical emergencies.</p>

Do you have any comments on these specific programs or services (Police Services)?

Absolutely sure that spending in other areas will reduce crime. More recreational opportunities means less youth crime. More social spending to assist low income residents (affordable housing, job hunting, CRC, etc.) to keep people from getting desperate enough to commit crime.
Good folks
I don't see any issues with the policing in town. Perhaps once court days get sorted out there will be some savings for not needing so many guard hours.
I would decrease these services and put more funds into Social Planning, recreation, and parks. I think the RCMP could benefit from some current training in providing support around sexual harrassment and sexual assault incidents, mental health, harm reduction in the area of substance use, and developing collaborative relationships with community members, including Tla'amin Nation. I also believe they should focus on diversifying their team in every say.
Just like the Fire Department, the police service is crucial to keeping Powell River the community as safe as should be. With the rise in drug use and overdoses, we need to pay it forward to our children and do what we can to minimize this problem. Expand programs and Good Work!
noone can believe the service problem
the last increase was to accommodate RCMP's officer replacement interval.
The police staff should be increased by 2 officers. They are understaffed.
The recent increase in policing budget is inexcusable. We have one of the lowest violent crime rates in the province in this community, we have zero need for more policing. Spend that money on community programs and get rid of the root causes of the behaviour police respond to!
these folks are doing a great job
We have a great police force that is busy around the clock, these brave men and woman are under staffed and over worked, it's obvious to anyone that actually takes a moment to speak with them. Thank you RCMP
you can't pay police officers or firefighters enough for what they do.

Do you have any comments on these specific programs or services (Roads and Transportation services)?

A core purpose of municipal government.
As far as I can see in my neighbourhood, repairs are always done in a timely manner. I can't think of anywhere in Powell River that is in desperate need of repairs. I would be curious as to the amount set aside for snow removal and what we pay provincially and federally for that service.
better roads/harbours/signage etc. means better tourism (repeat visits) and better quality of life
Better trails for pedestrians
compared to other city's, I believe that the city is doing a great job with their road maintenance. There is definitely less pot hole filled roads around now compared to a few years ago.
Costs for new roads should fall (at least partially) to developers. Stop taking road costs from CARIP funds.
Cranberry especially needs work done on the roads. Powell river should also compare the work to other cities. From travelling around BC I have found that the PR new pavemenet is beyond subpar.
For the cost of living in our wonderful town, you would think the roads would be so horrible. Willingdon, Harvie(behind QF) to name a couple...the shoulders of rock or dirt that end up being huge holes at the ends of the driveways...

I have seen a lot of road improvement, which is good, maybe a year or two with a little less might help other areas, and then increase it back up later.
I personally believe that street cleaners and leaf blowers are a waste of environmental and service energy and money. Coming from Vancouver I am astounded at how often I see these two tasks being done.
Increase pedestrian and cycling infrastructure already!!!
Lose the street cleaning machine, it's pretty useless really as well as noisy, and doesn't do every street in town anyway.
Not sure if there is a extended plan for road improvements? But there are many roads in need of repaving. Willing don ave, bowness between queens and Alberni,
Our roads are significantly insufficient! The staffing levels of the roads department needs to be increased!! The staff should be utilized more effectively and large projects should be undertaken by local municipal workers instead of paying outrageous amounts to external contractors to do substandard work that our own staff is completely capable of handling and would take pride in their work. I would have actually raised this amount more than the allowable amount but the website won't let me increase it anymore.
Our roads need work!
Please make sure to maintain the budget for the south harbour - in particular, keep the transient boater facilities up. The harbour is gaining reputation - can't drop our guard now
Roads are horrible & what is with the piles of salt on every street corner when there spreading it? someone needs to train the staff better on there equipment.
Roads are sub standard.
Roads could be increase if the priority was placed on roads. Number of taxed cars on the road as apposed the number of untaxed bicycles on the road. Bike lanes \$\$\$ does not make a great deal of common sense.
There seems to be an issue with poor management for the roads department this issue should be addressed as it is costing dollars.
Roads in adequate condition
The local road infrastructure and airport need attention. They are what people see when they come to visit and we may be surprised as to the comments regarding them
The majority of roads in Powell River are horrible, your last ride To your resting spot up (crown ave) is brutal being such a important place the road should be nice along with Willinton ave to name a few, alligatored asphalt pit holes dips and bumps everywhere and it's not getting any better!!!! Needs to be addressed in a big way!!
the roads have simply not been maintained - to wit: riding on a bike on highway 101 south of Pacific Point is like being in a rodeo - Willingdon by car is crazy! The ditches are bizarre - we need some culverts and landscaping - man, its mental!
The roads in Powell River are hazardous. They are patched, (holes filled) 2 weeks later broken up. These hazards are caused by the Town Buses. The roads are not built to accommodate constant Heavy Transportation. Evident by the wear and tear of the route the bus takes. Cariboo St. has been finally renewed after continually having been 'patched' for years. Inadequate patching of roads must be more costly than renewing. Is it 40+ Years since the Rec. Complex was built! Don't you agree, It is time the top parking lot at the Rec. Complex should be paved. It is a disgrace! Winter; Lighting is terrible (walking in the dark) holes and puddles everywhere. Dust Storms!! in the summer. It is also very humiliating when visitors, sometimes dressed for special occasions(grad, concerts etc), are forced to park there and have to walk through this mess, whether summer or winter.
We don't need anymore money put toward paving! But I support maintaining these other services.

We need better roads, it's like a distopian wasteland out there
With better transit, more people would go car-free and the pressure on our transportation infrastructure would decrease dramatically. We need better transit, not more roads.

Do you have any comments on these specific programs or services (Recreation Services)?

Better accessibility for all who have mobility issues. Wllington Park and Beach, lower entrance to the Recreation Center(remove curb) for easier access. Wheel chair parking stalls on streets should have curbs removed.
Complex is a very busy place when I go there. Must be doing something right. Definitely don't cut here, it's keeping my fellow citizens healthy and happy.
Considering we pay more for recreational services than for our roads...I believe we could balance that cost better. Maybe 3.3M for each, to at least pretend we care what our roads look like , and how deep our potholes get before we fix them.
Has the Regional Districts agreed to help fund the rec department.
Higher user fees,
I am also a regional district tax payer and welcome an increase as long as it goes to this service
I am deeply concerned that our pool facility is operated in an unsafe manner. The pool seems to be so short staffed that lifeguards, who are suppose to be constantly scanning for dangers and mishaps are unable. Distracted by other tasks they are required to do, such as taking pictures of swimming lessons, inhibited by a poor pool layout, and limited to staffing shortages I believe there could be a very serious, and preventable, consequence. Lifeguards should be able to scan the entire pool every 30sec. With the layout of our current pool this is impossible with one lifeguard on deck, which is often the scenario. To scan everywhere, lifeguards must be able to see the bottom of the pool and that is not possible when they are positioned in the default guarding areas for our Complex pool. From the location our lifeguards stand, the surface of our deep end is all that is visible due to the glare from outside light flooding in and reflecting off the top of the water. This deep end is used by vulnerable groups, including seniors in aquasize classes, or alone and children (often weak swimmers) who are following friends or 'testing the waters'. This inability to view vital areas because of staffing numbers and pool layout is only made worse when staff are burdened with other tasks. Lifeguarding can become a dull job for those who are left on the warm deck for longer periods. Guards can begin to feel tired and can lose interest in the constant scanning and attention that is required for this very important job. I believe that tasks to mix up their day is a great way to encourage moral and keep the brain activated. However, when these tasks are allowed to trump the job of lifeguarding, it becomes very dangerous. I have seen a lifeguard (at our local pool) completely disregard the job of lifeguarding to speak with parents and take pictures while the pool was full of children in lessons. On a separate occasion I nearly jumped into the main pool to rescue a child who was drowning in the deep end who the lifeguard did not notice. He was in a class and his teacher did not notice either. It took me a while to get to the edge as I was sitting with my own children who I had to put aside to get over the viewing divider. This child, upon being rescued by his teacher had a nose bleed, perhaps due to the strain he experienced while struggling to stay above the water. You also have childcare facilities being permitted to take preschool children to the lake to swim with no lifeguard at all. This is because our city does not have 'open water' trained lifeguards so the regulating body for the preschools has given permission to the caretakers to take these young, inexperienced swimmers, with no trained lifeguard supervision to play for hours in our local open waters. I am extremely concerned that the poor pool staffing at our complex and decisions made to

allow non-trained staff to take young children to open water areas is going to lead to a preventable death.
I believe any increases to maintain the current level of services would be warranted. Ongoing modifications to the complex (i.e. more solar technology) should be explored to reduce costs and carbon.
I would have decreased this significantly more than the website allows! There are way too many programmers and managers at the Recreation Complex. We are a small community and we are lucky to even have a Rec Center as nice as the one we have and in order to keep it running and possibly update some of the facilities (namely the pool area) we cannot afford to be spending so much money on programs that not many people use. My suggestion is cutback on smaller under-utilized programs and programming staff; and why do we have 2 recreation managers when 1 can do the job?
Maintain. I love that we have such an excellent facility for the Powell River area. A community needs a community centre. The Complex houses sports and culture alike.
More recreational opportunities means less youth crime.
Need new seats in the upper theatre! And an update to the upper foyer and theatre. Also let's draw on some revenue opportunities from out of town like booking in concerts and other productions and keeping ticket revenue.
New website needed with links to kings schedule, recreation schedule as well as online booking for venue resources like the poplar room and other programs offered by the complex. I bet it would save hassles for staff as well and increase revenue, not to mention provide easy links on social media. I know this has been looked at before by Parks staff, but that's where I would put additional funding.
Regional District can start bucking up! What's the holdup?
Solar project to reduce energy bill.
The recreation complex needs a upgrade. The complex's pool needs a serious upgrade of its facilities, size and water play features. The lower parking lot can no longer accommodate the growing population of people forcing people to park at the skate park or the upper lot. Since the complex does not have a elevator, proper sidewalks and crosswalks need to be installed for those forced to walk on the road, with often multiple children, baby strollers and hockey gear! It would also be nice to see an outdoor playground area close to the complex where younger children can play while older children are using the complex facilities.
these folks are doing a good job, but i have to say using the complex is free for alot of people and city employees - it kinda isnt great to be the only person paying to get in
Walking is free, charge the regional district more to use our facilities, it's crazy how many people get a free pass to our Rec center.
When people have new fiscal constraints, one of the first things to go is "recreation" items. The recreation department is way over subsidized.
the complex could use more upgrading and program reboots. Keeping people active is the goal and with more services I think more people would use the facilities more often instead of resorting to private facilities
The recreation services are a gem, but the regional district residents benefit from them as well. They should contribute to the costs of operation so this area of the budget may be decreased.
It would be nice to see more free programs at the Recreation Complex.

Do you have any comments on these specific programs or services (Parks Services)?

<p>Cut back the fertilizing and grass cutting schedules. Some parks like Sunset Park are hardly used other than a few times a year. How much money is being wasted maintaining all that grass! Switch over to cover crops like clover instead which require less cutting and improve soil.</p>
<p>Higher user fees</p>
<p>I love our parks! Thank you for the disc golf courses.</p>
<p>I would leave the budget the same for Parks, however I don't think that the management of the budget for Parks is spent efficiently. Our Parks are very spread out in Powell River and it is a lot to manage on a small Powell River budget. Ideally there would be less individual parks and an ingenious plan to sell off a few of the parks so that we could invest that money into a central park that provided turf, baseball, soccer, tennis, etc. This would allow the parks department to focus their energy, time, and money on one facility as opposed to many. The same can be said for the many small garden areas around town that while somewhat appreciated maybe are unnecessary.</p>
<p>More effective management of employees. Other municipalities are more efficiently ran with regards to manpower and scheduling for maintenance of parks etc.</p>
<p>more recreational opportunities means less youth crime</p>
<p>Parks have needed quit a bit of work for some time. New director is doing a better job than the fly-in fly-out guy. Core part of municipal government.</p>
<p>Request corporate assistance in the operating costs of parks etc..</p>
<p>The city bike park needs to be maintained on a regular basis. This has not been done since its inception.</p>
<p>The majority of playground equipment in our parks (specifically Willington Beach) needs a upgrade as the equipment is dated and often in need of repair.</p> <p>Constructing a park near the complex would be ideal so younger children can play while older children are using the complex, or Energy can be burned off before or after rec lessons, or lunch can be held at the park before or after rec lessons. The complex is in major need of a dedicated open green space for use.</p>
<p>Things seem to be looking better but how much is the Regional District paying?</p>
<p>This is important to upkeep as best we can, to enhance and to protect. We're not a cement city...we're a bush, hiking, water-based community, who lives here in significant part beCAUSE of these areas . I would increase if I thought it was possible, but would,at the very least, maintain efficiently.</p>
<p>We have plenty of parks, likely too many, it's free to walk around, the ocean costs nothing, stare at it for a while it's pleasant. Last I checked sitting on a log at the beach was still free, it's pleasant and affordable.</p>
<p>What maintenance? The costs associated with the Skate Board and Pathway were a bit extreme, especially when the upper parking lots requires paving. Parks Services are not great. There are less parks in P.R. to maintain than 40 years ago and these were up to a high standard . e.g. There is always a reason in not using 'Timberlane' soccer Field. Island Visiting teams playing in under regulation size field (Brooks) . Soccer/Baseball Parks were constantly in use in the summer months - not so at present so why the high standard then and not now!! No need to increase user fees - this should be included in the tax base as in the past.</p>
<p>Why does the city have a war on the sport of soccer? The fields are always being closed down. When I was a child, it was very rarely closed down, now it happens quite often, especially last year. Let the kids play!!</p>
<p>With much more focus in this area, visitation and attraction of new residents will pay for it in short order</p>

Do you have any comments on these specific programs or services (Bylaw Services)?

<p>A 50k adjustment means 'little to no animal control within the city'? Maybe it could mean less paid parking patrols instead. I understand creating an awareness about how adjustments impact service but it seems pointless to ask for feedback on this without also asking which piece under the budget line is most or least important to respondents who would reduce the budget line in order to increase elsewhere</p>
<p>Considering I've heard about five or six cases of by-law complaint within Powell River, and noted only the barest sign of change, I'd have no problem reducing cost to maintain . You give the least, you get the least</p>
<p>Higher penalties, more of department costs should be recovered through fees and penalties.</p>
<p>How much revenue do bylaw fines generate? How do they 'address' graffiti? Might be cheaper to give the SPCA a grant to become the animal control people.</p>
<p>I don't have a sense that bylaw services are lacking. Complaint-driven enforcement works well (rather than pay someone to patrol)</p>
<p>I like having free parking. Please keep it that way.</p>
<p>I'm conflicted on my position for bylaw enforcement. Ideally I would like to see socialization as the path towards good neighbor practices, instead of bylaw enforcement. That being said, some neighbors....</p>
<p>I'm not sure why this department is so expensive? I would cut it back a bit. We have police for real situations and not many pay parking areas in town.</p>
<p>If this service is called to address 'unsightly properties' a better job could be done. Walk along Joyce Avenue and view. Also 'The Inn " a disgrace to our community. No Need to outsource anything to RCMP. Better management within Municipal Hall obviously required.</p>
<p>It really doesn't seem that Bylaw officers do much of anything. I'm hard pressed to think of when I've even seen one. Seems like if this is the budget either reduce it, or start expecting more from your officers.</p>
<p>Little accountability for dangerous animals.</p>
<p>More enforcement, give them teeth to actually do their job. Powell River looks beat up and most of that is because people know they will never have to pay a fine of any kind. Some areas like cranberry look like they have been set up for the next mad max film, bylaw enforcement could help change this and perhaps then outsiders might actually invest in this place.</p>
<p>Most of the animal control in town is done by the SPCA so avoid fees having to be paid by animal owners if their pet escapes their property. If anything I think the city of Powell River should budget for more paid employees at the SPCA to deal with these issues because they are more caring and understanding with pet owners. With the technology of the internet people are reunited with their pets faster with fewer information than before. We are a community, not a large city, we handle a lot of the animal services our self which is how it should be.</p> <p>Paid parking is a joke in Powell River. I understand if someone is parked for a certain amount of time then it can cause issues, but all in all there is no reason to be charging people to park anywhere in powell river. We are not limited to parking space like the bigger cities.</p>
<p>Often support neighbours who do not like someone for no good reason. Ask the mayor we have talked.</p>
<p>Seems the people of PR are doing a good job of FB policing each other...and some of these bylaw officers/enforcers take their 'power' too far</p>
<p>The current budget seems quite high for a small town</p>
<p>They don't do anything anyway so decrease this</p>
<p>This is completely under utilized and can be cost generating. Is it true you don't have to pay your parking tickets because they don't follow up? Money down the drain if that's true and it makes this whole process a waste of time if that's happening.</p>

this should be axed comletely. these officers are out on sundays giving parking tickets at marinas or at the rec complex to out of town visitors - they are so misguided - no one wants this level of bylaw enforcement

Do you have any comments on these specific programs or services (Planning Services)?

A budget of \$676K seems rather high for staff consultations, issuing permits etc. Perhaps a review of staffing levels is required.
Be as efficient as we can for businesses and for growth. It not about cutting red tape, it about making sure things are done properly and efficiently.
Building permits take too long to get
Clearly our planning services aren't great - see public library fiasco
Hire a Social Planner to implement the Social Planning program.
Hire adequate staff.
I just changed this line to balance, it seems deficit or surplus are the only options (at least on a mobile device) balanced appears impossible.
I see this as a very important service but one that perhaps is not run efficiently. Staff should have output expectations.
Let's get the staff and tools to be THE most efficient planning office in the Province - let's make responsible development easy in this city so we can invite more!!
Not having the right people causes delay. Delays cause investment to pass.
Powell River is growing. It's a given that we need to put some funds into planning. The growth that happens now that will shape the payout of the community into the future. Let's plan it well.
Pretty important department when the City is growing and can generate it's own funds.
Provide incentives for local businesses to upgrade curb appeal... possibly implement a plan or theme for businesses that will help promote the town For tourism. Theme would be decided upon from input of local business owners... ie west coast, Salish, post and beam, eco wise
Reduce red tape, encourage more development , and lower developement fees. More units developed at a lower cost will generate more revenue not just on development but future property taxes on improved lots.
Since council seems to keep ignoring everything that's in the Sustainable OCP anyway, there's not much point in having it, is there?
The current city inspector makes it impossible to get anything accomplished. Ridiculous is the only word I have for the hoops small businesses and others need to jump through to get anything done. Fire him!
this tool will not let me cut it enough. the plannning department is the home of the "red tape" that people infamously talk about but never identify. the people in this department are focused on keeping thier jobs and high incomes rather than service delivery - ergo red tape
We need growth, keep planning, think big and take some risks for a change, for the love of all that is good make some changes to this town.
We really don't seem to be planning anything. I understand about building permits and zoning bylaws, and those are important. As far as long range planning I don't hear much about that.
Would love to see our urban city areas 'beautified', made more accessible for strollers and wheelchairs and have a focus on revitalizing Marine Ave as our local strip that we can be proud of.
Would maintain this, and might just add that any significant by-law complaints are usua;lly wrapped up in this area anyway. Combine the two for that cost.

Do you have any comments on these specific programs or services (Cultural Services)?

A luxury that really needs to be funded by users.
Absolutely zero tax dollars should be spent on arts and culture, if it matters to people they will make it happen, I don't want one cent of my tax money spent on art, it's insulting. For thousands of years artists have done fine on their own, it's art it's not supposed to be a living, if one provides something people want then they will pay for it and the artist will have made money, that is how it is supposed to work. Why in the world would my tax dollars be spent on a painting or a log turned into a boat? No thanks
Arts programs are the fabric of our community. They bring people out of their homes to meet in a common interest. Powell River is very fortunate to have a vibrant art community with knowledgeable leadership. Our children and youth benefit greatly through these experiences. As with Parks services goal for our community to become the healthiest and most active, we should strive for your community members to value and participate in the arts.
Decrease funding to things like the academy and cultural events. The city should not be fronting a lot of money towards things like Kathaumixw
Get rid of the library. Way too many people employed there
I know few details of the arts and cultural services. I do know that they should not be lessened or scrapped. The intangible and indirect benefits enrich people's lives and are worth far more than the monetary value that is spent on them. Don't cut those programs, please!
If you want people to come, to spend money, to feel we really ARE a culturally, artistically and tourist-worthy City, you must give money to those folks who dream for us, work for us and tirelessly volunteer at world class events that draw the outside in , even if only for a couple of weeks. The benefit to our entire community far outweighs any expenditure untaken in this respect, in my humble (though slightly knowledgable) opinion.
Increase to cost of living to maintain all programs.
Join the Vancouver Island Regional Library system. All of the small towns on the island have way better libraries than ours.
Keep it up. The world know about Powell River because of our Cultural Services
Kudos on the new library and supporting the arts!
Maintain funding
No need to change these services. Cultural diversity is important to this community. Kathaumix Choral Festival is a great asset to P.R. in Culture and visitors from the 'World'. This also adds to strengthen the economy even if only for 7-10 days. Same goes for Prisma. The new Library is an asset to P.R.
please add extra increase to arts and culture. this service is underfunded. The survey does not give an option to put more than 50,000 into arts and culture but I would increase it to the full percentage.
The costs should be split more evenly with the Regional District
The museum needs to be free and more accessible with programs supporting education in local history and research. Likewise, programs at the Library need to continue to be free. The library should be open late (11PMish) to make up for the lack of services provided in our region by the satellite of Vancouver Island University.
This library was excessive and hardly necessary.
Too few are spending too much on what should go to water, sewer, roads you know the important stuff of life.
When I speak with newcomers to Powell River, often it is programs such as PRISMA and Kathaumixw, the Film festival, and the new Townsite Jazz festival that bring them here. Quite a few families that I have met have cited that it came down to a choice between Nelson, BC and

PR. Both are culturally diverse cities. Powell River has the advantage of the ocean! As Powell River transitions from a mill-town to a destination for families, retirees, and tourists, we need to continue to build on our gifts, and a rich culture is definitely one of Powell River's gifts.

Do you have any comments on these specific programs or services (Solid Waste Services)?

add pick up for glass, styrofoam, and soft plastic recycling
Adopt the composting/green materials curb side pick-up program currently on trial as permanent and offer throughout the city. This will also decrease the need to burn garden waste and improve air quality.
Bear resistant containers and automated tipping trucks.
centralized collection points - ie. central collection points - would eliminate alot of the cost
Eliminate curbside pickup,
Garden waste and household compost should be collected separately. Garden waste should be collected monthly in winter but weekly in spring, summer and fall as gardening is in full swing then. Household compost needs to be a much smaller container (approximately 2feet cubed) and collected weekly to avoid bear and racoon.
I find the curb side and recycling program to completely suit my household needs. We practice conservation in our purchases and recycle and compost as much as possible. Our actual garbage is limited to approximately 5 cans per year.
I like the direction we are going, minimizing waste and reusing what we can. I understand the city is moving ahead with the old incinerated site - good.
I support the curbside organics program and any improvement or investment into a recycling and waste recovery program that may create local jobs in Powell River.
incineration!!
increase cost of garbage tags by \$1, will help reduce garbage and encourage more recycling
Increase enough to maintain current levels of service. We need pick up for people who don't drive (like seniors). We need a pick up organics programs. We need WAY more education in this area to residents.
Increase roadside recycling pick up to every week. Offset cost by increasing tag cost. Also stop moving the pick up days following a holiday. Pick up on holidays. Or set flat rate for all residents paid annually. It would include all waste ... garbage, recycling, compost, yard trimmings. In reality, Recycling pick up appears to be 'free' but expenses must be absorbed somewhere?
Judging by the number of garbage bags left out curbside pickup days, garbage pickup could be reduced by introducing a two week pickup schedule in 2019
Like the changes that are in the works.
Need more enviro-friendly/sustainable solutions for waste and paying 2\$ a bag is the most ridiculous thing I have seen
Pretty black and white operation. Don't see a need to increase or decrease unless I'm missing some info as to where it is lacking.
Spend some money encouraging people to use less packaging, especially plastic bags, wrap and blister packs. Save the planet, one piece of plastic at a time.
The crews do an outstanding job. I understand that management is a hinderance rather than a help. With the upcoming changes in the system flexibility, knowledge and openness to listen and learn from others is going to be needed. It will have to be an increased budget at some point.
The new bins that were given out should be given out to everyone...not just a few. Everyone should have a bin for garbage, recycling, and compost (ideally) because it will be better for the environment.

We all use the toilet, keep this thing running no matter what
We have a waste problem in Powell River and I would like to see new social enterprises and programs, including the proposed Recovery Centre, being developed around initiatives to decrease our collective environmental footprint.

Please provide any additional comments in the box below:

A review of how much we pay top municipal officials, including the fire department could identify areas where we could reduce costs.
Always look for savings while at the same time doing what you are doing now. No cuts. Spend a little more on Arts & Culture' it's good for people and the benefits keeps coming back and back.
Community participation in this survey is quite low. Perhaps a public presentation or an article in The Peak explaining the finer budget details and any contemplated cuts or increases would increase participation? Or, attach the survey to the property tax invoices. Thanks for making this survey available!
Each time I see an empty bus go by late at night it angers me, seeing people sweeping leaves up during a wind storm is equally moronic. Should I even bother mentioning the ridiculous library costs.
Focus on expenditures that will realize a return on investment in the near term to allow expansion of the items with a lesser return later
From all accounts the biggest problem facing the budget is poor management. There seems to be little or no accountability
I am sure all of these categories have many subcategories of expenses, it would be interesting to see all of these and where the spending happens because it is hard to just cut a number with a broad sword not really knowing what goes into it. Also, the \$4M that goes to General Government Services, what is that made up of? I don't mean to be rude because I am talking about people's jobs and city workers that I know, but some of the city staff have salaries that are very high for the same type of work in the public sector (especially the admin jobs- a lot are upwards of \$70K or more, where in Powell River can any administrator find a job with a salary like that?). I always find this a bit unfair and thought it was interesting those numbers were not brought up here. If I wanted to prevent tax hikes and treated the government like a business that was responsible for its overhead, staff cuts and salary freezes is where I would look first. Sorry!
Thanks for getting everyone's feedback, it's great that you are even asking :-)
I believe our council makes fair and informed decisions on my behalf and can only say that having moved to Powell River in 1999 with my son in grade 2 and daughter in kindergarten, my children would not be the people they are today without the influence of the Powell River Academy of Music. They traveled with choirs, (Spain, France, Cuba, Slovenia, the Netherlands, Mexico) had international guests stay in our family home from Sweden, the Philippines, France, Slovenia, Russia, and Germany and is the most important part of their upbringing as it has shaped their acceptance and curiosity of humanity, given them confidence to step out in the world and understand the role of culture. As young adults they are making their paths in a responsible way in life. My children are not the only ones whose life paths have been influenced due to arts activities they were exposed to as young children.
I did not find that the "FUN FACT SHEETS" were helpful. I would have preferred to see budget numbers and projections to maintain services.
I didn't make any changes. I'm fairly new to town and don't feel I have enough experience or information to advise. I thank you for welcoming public input and I feel confident in our local

government to make these difficult decisions about balancing the budget.
I like how this budget survey is set up! It's a fun game.
I pay high taxes. The street I am on is filled with nasty potholes. I can't walk or ride a bike with my toddler because the street is busy and there are no side walks. There needs to be some money allocated to beautifying our streets and neighbourhoods. People always say Powell River is so beautiful; they are talking about the natural beauty, not the city.
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I would eliminate all grants to organizations. Give no property reductions to churches and organizations.
I would have raised the taxes to 2.5 percent, and divided the extra \$62,500 to culture and parks, but couldn't manage the sliders to balance the budget, so decided to go with the proposed 2 percent increase.
Interesting that the general government services has the highest budget but isn't listed for adjustment. The cost for administration has steadily increased way out of proportion to the rest of the budget over the years. The administration, accounting and bueracracy needs to be streamlined and reduced to a realistic level. The end game is providing basic services while keeping the administrative costs to a minimum. The number of management and administrative positions compared to boots on the ground has reversed over the years into a top heavy costly system. The public works over the years has gone from one management position and a halftime secretary to 2 management and a full time secretary while the workers positions have been reduced by 40 to 50 percent. There is a definite need to reassess what is actually required in management and remove redundancy and increase productivity and efficiency.
It is a silly pretext that you cannot finish with a surplus without changing the tax rate.
It would have been much more helpful to have bette slider control (jumping \$75,000 in one notch is a little restrictive when trying to balance). I'd love to see out-of-box thinking like trading services for property tax (
My info might clarify that I am a fan of the arts and cultural aspects of our lovely city. lol However, I am also someone who sees firsthand, and understands the value and the advantages surrounding those programs. The rest is important to me as well, but, for me, it's the reason to stay here, and it makes the difference between just surviving, or reallyenhancing not only our own lives, but the lives of all Powell Riverites, by providing those experiences to our own citizens. Can't put the Capital in Cultural if you don't put the wrok and money into the process.
My surplus that I have earned I would happily give to the roads department to fix our roads because this is the most underfunded department in our city.
Powell River has a huge amount of single vehicle traffic. Between parking spaces to build and maintain, roads to maintain, enforcement of related laws and bylaws the cost to the community for this privilege is huge. The cost to the environment is also huge. Powell River could be pedestrian and cycle friendly, but it is not currently.
Powell River needs an affordable housing strategy, yesterday! Like Vancouver, Powell River needs a tax on vacant residential properties, and an additional tax on luxury homes - especially those owned by people who don't regularly reside in the community and that sit empty most of the year. Housing unaffordability for people who actually live here and contribute to the community is a huge issue, and funding to address that issue could be generated by taxing those whose luxury vacation properties and second homes are driving speculation and increased costs of housing in the community. These problems have solutions, where is the political will to implement them?

<p>Properly pave the roads in this town! Stop putting down the god awful chip top and thinking that's good enough. The city wants to increase property taxes, yet again, and continue throwing hard earned dollars away on it's overpaid employees. How many times do we need to drive by a site, only to see four or more city workers standing around holding a shovel and not doing anything? Why should the quality of our roadways and underground pipes depend on whether or not the head of the department is having a pissing contest with local contractors? Why should a new, completely unneeded, library be built in a building that is co-owned by the city's own mayor, and relatives? The upgrades to said building being paid by the tax payors is such a gross misappropriation of tax payors' money.</p>
<p>should have a question on the amount of increase in SPENDING not just increase in taxes ie \$250k tax increase PLUS \$300k Catalyst. Why can we not decrease General Government?</p>
<p>should not be raising taxes.</p>
<p>Smart survey. More funding for local arts will create a new standard industry in the town. It is already happening. Thanks.</p>
<p>Sustainability is vital. Local food production, wind & solar, transportation. We are vulnerable.</p>
<p>Thanks for this opportunity!</p>
<p>the property taxes in this City are so phenomonally high, compared to all other jurisdictions - key culprit are the huge expenses for the fire department. can you figure out why the City poplution declined, surrounded by gains in the RD and every other coastal town?? people routinely say they are moving out if the City because of the huge taxes.</p>
<p>This exercise does not provide the necessary background information to make informed decisions. Unfortunately, it seems more like 'see what we have to go through as councillors' ploy rather than an authentic inquiry into our needs as a community and how we would like our resources to be effectively utilized.</p>
<p>This is just a test please disregard results. Please note your comment for Police Services seems to be backwards when adjusting the budget.</p>
<p>This is kind of a ridiculous form, eh? I love that you want engagement but what do "we" actually know about balancing a city budget. Why not ask about citizen values related to these pillars instead of asking people with no experience in civic budgets to figure this out. Also, it requires you to play with each item... the form won't let you just leave it if you think it should be left... which was so irritating I actually started and didn't complete the form about 3 times out of there frustration. Oh, and it sucks on a smart phone, you can fill it out multiple times and you don't have to be a resident. Over all, I really worry if you're actually going to use this or give it any weight (and I keep hearing City staff and leadership using the preliminary results as ammunition to fuel their personal preferences...) but do genuinely appreciate the effort for engagement. In closing, now that I've lost a total of an hour of my life to this "engagement". My values and city planning, parks and rec, and culture. The folks I know who add value to our community or are perspective new comers care deeply about these things, too.</p>
<p>Three years ago Councillor Brewer requested that the City Manager prepare a report on the medical marijuana. I'm still waiting to see the results. Typical example of council inefficiency.</p>
<p>We as a community need to be better prepared for natural disasters and emergencies.</p>
<p>Where's the section for infrastructure?? Our aging infrastructure can't hardly keep up as it is and the money wasted in constant repairs and maintenance just keeps adding up!! Why not invest into the future now and start upgrading water mains sewer mains storm mains etc... tired of the harsh chlorine smell when I want to drink from my tap, upgrade Time!!! I see other towns with lower taxes and less people constantly doing upgrades to there systems to be better off in the present and future yet PR just dose some here some there yet we pay more in taxes and have more people! Where dose the money go?? Dose the city really need all the new equipment it uselessly drives around town???</p>

Worry more about improving our tax base and development of cash flowing assets (should have bought the dam) Figure out how to make more money rather than live on a fixed income. More homes means more taxes. The demand is there. Affordability will always drive the market. The city needs to stop hoarding key assets. Dog Park on Willingdon (such a crying shame) Manson extension (the future is here what are you waiting for) Expansion takes care of affordability. Sustainability, of course we need to be good stewards, build what we need to grow responsibly but this is really not a road block is it? If it is it shouldn't be. Increasing taxes is simply a band aid.