

**Deputy City Manager's Office Report to
Intergovernmental Affairs Committee
2020 February 20**

**ISC: UNRESTRICTED
IGA2020-0199**

2020 Federal Budget Submission

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Government of Canada is currently accepting submissions in advance of its spring budget. Building on existing advocacy and Council direction, this report and attachment propose a City of Calgary submission to the Government of Canada's pre-budget consultations.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee recommends that Council request the Mayor to submit a letter to the Federal Minister of Finance based on Attachment 1 as the City of Calgary's recommendations for Budget 2020; and
2. That the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee forward this item to the 2020 February 24 Combined Council Meeting as an item of Urgent Business to be considered for development of a spring budget.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

N/A.

BACKGROUND

Prior to the tabling of their budgets, the federal and provincial governments typically conduct pre-budget consultations with the public and stakeholders. Although the scope and style of that consultation can vary from year to year, this year's federal budget consultation takes the form of an online survey that closes on February 17. The City of Calgary, like other large cities however, customarily makes its submission in the form of a letter from the Mayor to the federal or provincial Minister of Finance, outside of the formal public consultation process. The City would not want to delay beyond the end of February, however, if it wishes for its views to be considered as part the development of a spring budget.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

Attachment 1 provides Administration's recommended priorities for the 2020 federal budget, framed to align with the Government of Canada's own agenda. These include calls for:

- Investments in municipal infrastructure (including the Field House, Arts Commons expansion and Green Line) to create jobs and drive economic growth.
- Improved regulatory clarity and certainty for critical infrastructure projects, including the Springbank Reservoir.
- Investments in affordable housing so Calgarians can have the housing stability they need.
- Support for local economic development that recognizes the contribution The City of Calgary has, and can continue to make to the national economy.

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Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Content for the budget letter was compiled primarily in consultation with subject matter experts across The Corporation and is also shaped by conversations with, and is meant to be supportive of, colleagues in other major cities, and discussions at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and its Big City Mayors' Caucus.

Strategic Alignment

The content within the budget letter aligns with City priorities that have been advanced in other forums, including the recent YYC Matters Federal campaign, resolutions brought forward to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and specific pieces of Council direction (e.g. support for Canada's responsible energy sector). It also aligns with Council Directives to enhance our partnerships with other orders of government (e.g. P4, P5).

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

The identified advocacy priorities include items that promote social wellbeing (affordable housing); environmental benefit (Green Line funding); and the economy (economic development, job creation and infrastructure).

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

Advocating for The City's federal budget priorities may result in greater success in obtaining the operating dollars needed to fund programs that are critical to Calgarians.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

Advocating for The City's federal budget priorities may result in greater success in obtaining the capital dollars required to fund capital programs and projects that are critical to Calgarians.

Risk Assessment

There is no identified risk in making a budget submission.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

The budget submission is The City's opportunity to formally ask for funding for its priority items by the Government of Canada.

ATTACHMENT

1. Proposed Content for Federal Budget Submission