

## **2021 Government of Alberta Budget Submission**

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### **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That the Priorities and Finance Committee requests the Mayor submit a letter based on Attachment 1 to the Minister of Treasury Board and Finance as The City of Calgary's recommendations for the Government of Alberta Budget 2021.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Advocating to the Government of Alberta for The City's priorities may result in greater success in obtaining funding for essential programs and services.
- What does this mean to Calgarians? A budget letter is a way for The City of Calgary to formally ask the Government of Alberta to consider The City's priorities when it develops the next provincial budget.
- Why does it matter? The City relies on Government of Alberta funding for many essential programs and projects.
- The City's budget priorities are all items that have previously been advocated to the Government of Alberta: Affordable Housing; Downtown Strategy; Assessment Reform / Fiscal Reform.
- On 2020 November 12, the Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) Committee directed "Administration to reframe this report as per today's discussion and present it to the Priorities and Finance Committee as soon as possible" regarding IGA2020-1232.
- Strategic Alignment to Council's Citizen Priorities: A prosperous city

### **DISCUSSION**

The Government of Alberta will table a budget in February 2021. Public consultation was launched on 2020 October 14. Input will be gathered through an online survey, three telephone town halls in November, a "build a budget" tool, and open submissions by email. Consultation will close on 2020 December 4.

The Mayor customarily submits a letter on behalf of The City so that its views can be considered as part of the budget development process.

Proposed content for the budget letter was presented to Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) Committee on 2020 November 12. IGA's discussion centred around the letter's need to highlight the current health and economic crisis, as well as to ensure that current funding commitments, particularly for critical capital projects, are maintained in a climate where cuts are likely. IGA Committee then directed "Administration to reframe this report as per today's discussion and present it to the Priorities and Finance Committee as soon as possible."

As per IGA's discussion, proposed content for the budget letter has been revised (Attachment 1). Given the ongoing COVID-19 crisis and a significantly difficult economic situation in Calgary, and Alberta, items in The City's budget letter focus on areas of urgent need and items where previous requests or commitments have been made:

- 1) Continued investment in capital projects, including flood mitigation and Green Line
- 2) Capital dollars for new affordable housing
- 3) Continued investment in critical social programs
- 4) Support for the downtown strategy
- 5) Assessment reform / fiscal reform

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Once finalized, the letter will be sent to the Minister of Treasure Board and Finance.

### **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION (EXTERNAL)**

- Public Engagement was undertaken
- Public Communication or Engagement was not required
- Public/Stakeholders were informed
- Stakeholder or customer dialogue/relations were undertaken

Content for the budget letter was compiled in consultation with subject matter experts across The City.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Social, Environmental and Economic Implications**

The identified advocacy priorities include items that promote social wellbeing (affordable housing); and the economy (downtown strategy and assessment / fiscal reform).

#### **Service and Financial Implications**

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

### **RISK**

There is no identified risk in making a budget submission to the Government of Alberta.

### **ATTACHMENT**

1. Revised Proposed Content for the Government of Alberta Budget Submission

Department Circulation

General Manager	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Katie Black	Community Services	Inform
Michael Thompson	Green Line	Inform
Doug Morgan	Transportation	Inform
Stuart Dalgleish	Planning and Development	Inform