

## **BUDGET SPEECH 2016**

La Ville de Bathurst a reçu de bonnes nouvelles de la part du gouvernement provincial cette année.

The City of Bathurst received good but fair news from the provincial Government this year.

It will be receiving an addition \$464,000 from the Community Funding Grant and an additional \$208,000 from the increase in the tax base of 1.15%. As you must realize wage settlements, electricity costs and equipment costs are all above that 1.15%.

### **OPERATING BUDGET**

As a result of all of the above, we are pleased to inform the citizens of Bathurst that there will be NO tax increase for 2016. The municipal tax rate will not change.

Nous sommes heureux d'informer les citoyens et citoyennes de Bathurst qu'il n'y aura AUCUNE augmentation des taxes pour 2016, et ce, grâce aux éléments susmentionnés.

The other good news is, we will continue to provide the same level of service or possibly even improve our service to our citizens in 2016.

The budget will include an amount of \$50,000 in an effort to bring events to Bathurst. The budget also reflects the Bathurst Strategic Plan which Council will be approving tonight.

Le budget comprendra un montant de 50 000 \$ visant l'organisation d'événements à Bathurst. Il reflète également le Plan stratégique de Bathurst qui sera approuvé par le conseil ce soir.

The recommendations of the Plan include the hiring of a Communications officer which is reflected in the 2016 budget. This will set a path for Council and Staff and have everyone working toward the same unified vision.

An amount of \$15,000 has been included in the budget to allow the City to have a Climate Change Adaptation Plan prepared for the “Inland Flood” within the City of Bathurst. The plan for the coastal areas will be completed in 2016.

An amount of \$107,000 has been added to the snow budget to prevent the recurring deficit we have experienced over the last few years. As we know, we live in the north and the weather is very unpredictable.

The water transfer to utility has been increased by \$100,000 to avoid an increase in the water/sewer rates in 2016.

## UTILITY BUDGET

Il n'y aura aucune augmentation du taux des services d'eau et égouts pour l'année 2016.

La Ville continuera d'apporter des améliorations et des modifications à ses stations d'épuration de l'eau et des eaux usées, comme l'indique son plan de 5 ans.

With the changing environment come more challenges in our future for our utility operations. We are planning now for what may lay ahead due to climate change.

### IN OTHER NEWS

For 2016, the Level of Service and Efficiency Committee will continue to meet and provide recommendations to Council. The economic development committee will continue to search out possibilities for our future as well. With the resignation of Scott Tidd, they are in need of a economic development officer that can take their ideas and move them forward. We hope to get that position filled soon and at the same time we thank Scott and wish him well in his new career in the private sector.

As well, we the City will continue to work with the Chamber of Commerce who represents more than 300 businesses. We will do this by setting up office space with them at the Keystone Building for the new economic development officer when they take over the top floor. As well there will be the Downtown Bathurst Revitalization Corporation and an office for our new Member of Parliament, Serge Cormier at the same location.

## CONCLUSION

Those are some the highlights for the 2016 budget. At this time, I want to thank and congratulate our management team for all of their efforts in presenting to Council a very responsible and all-inclusive budget.