

December 2, 2015

Campbell River gets top marks for spending control – Financial deliberations focus on stability

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business recently recognized Campbell River for a healthy balance of cost for service.

Earlier this fall, the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses released their *BC Municipal Spending Watch 2015* report, which said “*Campbell River is the best performing of BC’s largest municipalities...*”

“The City is very aware of the cost of services we provide, and Council and staff are constantly balancing the demand for service by our citizens, businesses and organizations against scarce funding resources. We work very hard to continue to improve how we serve the community,” says Ron Bowles, the City’s general manager of corporate services.

“The City cannot verify the data or analysis in the report, and we are always aware that reports comparing municipalities are subjective. There are huge differences in services provided by municipalities, and many, many factors affect spending, in particular when the community is asking for local government to provide more services,” Bowles adds.

The City manages service delivery and evaluates performance against local government best practices. Campbell River’s re-alignment of recreation services to meet changing community needs, partnerships with the regional district and First Nations neighbours and the current restructure of local economic development and tourism programs are all examples of putting best practices into action.

“It is always gratifying to be recognized for our efforts to be fiscally responsible, especially considering the past challenges of transitioning from our dependence on major industry, and the need to provide services once handled by senior governments,” says Mayor Andy Adams. *“To be able to maintain and enhance services and complete large projects is a testament to the resilience of our community. This has been accomplished by continuing to seek efficiencies and careful use of limited property tax revenue, user fees, grant and reserve funding, all of which help us minimize taxation.”*

On December 7, 8, 9 and 10, Campbell River Council will deliberate on the 2016 to 2025 financial plan.

Discussions will determine:

- how best to manage a \$63 million operating budget that provides local government services – and whether to expand, enhance or decrease any services
- how to allocate a capital budget (to renew parks, water, sewer, roads and drainage infrastructure), estimated to be \$44 million in 2016 and includes a major water supply construction project funded largely by BC Hydro
- how to manage and maintain the City’s \$225 million in assets
- a longer-term plan with predictable costs and funding for more financial stability

Community members are encouraged to share their feedback and watch the proceedings.

- To present to Council, contact the City Clerk’s office at 250-286-5700 or via email to info@campbellriver.ca
- Meetings will be webcast. Watch live at www.campbellriver.ca (click open the link from the homepage – Council Webcasts & Agendas)
- Find the Council meeting agenda online at the same link.

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