

**For Immediate Release**

October 1, 2019



### **IT'S TIME TO TALK BUDGET WELLAND**

**Welland, ON** – The City of Welland launched its *Your 2020 Budget Talks* campaign today, which includes a full agenda for the Budget Review Committee (BRC). This year's campaign is devised to welcome ample public opinion through a variety of public engagement strategies.

One of the leading challenges for municipalities in preparing a citizen-focused budget is gathering a sufficient amount of public feedback; therefore, city staff are embarking on a public engagement campaign that offers a variety of opportunities for citizens to speak up and be heard.

The BRC—comprised of the Mayor and Council—is committed to following a detailed schedule that includes budget deliberations, public engagement meetings, and public presentations. City staff and the BRC are optimistic that all municipal budgets will pass approval and be ready for implementation by Dec. 3, 2019. Welland City Council and the City's Corporate Leadership Team strive to create sustainable and business-ready municipal budgets before the year end to ensure that Council's strategic goals continue seamlessly, and the public receives essential programs and services.

The Budget Review Committee looks forward to hearing public feedback. The following *Your 2020 Budget Talks* communication channels are open to the public:

- YourChannel – The City's Public Engagement Platform is a communication tool where the public can post ideas, ask questions, gather more information or offer opinions in a quick poll
- October 28, 2019, Public Input Meeting and Presentations - 2020 Operating Budget and Ten Year Capital Budget
- November 18, 2019, Public Input Meeting and Presentations – Water/Wastewater Budget

"Preparing a responsible Budget is always a challenge for the Budget Review Committee," said Steve Zorbas, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer. "Canadian municipalities are experiencing ageing infrastructure with fewer grant resources. Allocating dollars for the year ahead is an easier task with sufficient public feedback. The city provides a user-friendly public engagement platform for everyone to connect with and use at their convenience."

*Your 2020 Budget Talks* is located at [yourchannel.welland.ca](http://yourchannel.welland.ca). The public engagement platform is easy to navigate and welcomes citizen feedback and public opinion through a variety of online tools. To learn more about the 2020 Budget and join the conversation, visit [yourchannel.welland.ca](http://yourchannel.welland.ca) and have a say on *Your 2020 Budget Talks*.

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