

City of Port Alberni City Clerk's Department



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Context for the Financial Plan and input received. What is a Municipality?
According to the Community Charter.....

Municipalities and their councils are an order of government that is democratically elected, autonomous, responsible and accountable, established and continued by the will of the residents, providing for the municipal purposes of their communities. Council determines the levels of municipal expenditures and taxation that are appropriate for their purposes.

The purposes of a municipality include:

- *providing for good government of its community,*
- *providing for services, laws and other matters for community benefit,*
- *providing for stewardship of the public assets of its community, and*
- *fostering the economic, social and environmental well-being of its community.*

While the Community Charter provides the principle legal framework for the powers, duties and functions of a municipality, it is not a complete "owners manual".

Other legislation and authorities of influence include:

Common Law, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, various provincial statutes and regulations, the Inspector of Municipalities, the Ombudsman, the Auditor

It is within this framework that council operates, including the adoption of their Financial Plan.

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A sample of relevant sections of the Community Charter.....

Public process for development of financial plan

- The 2010 process is adopted by Council
- Objectives for the plan set by Council
- Public input before bylaw considered
- Previous years plans defended in the BC Supreme Court.

Authority for fees and taxes

A municipality may not impose fees or taxes except as expressly authorized under the community Charter or another Act.

- Limits revenues to the direct service costs
- Still depend on property tax

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What do we do?

1. **Legislative Services;**
2. **Information Management;**
3. **Bylaw Enforcement / Business Licensing;**
4. **Elections and Referendum.**

City Clerk, 2 Receptionists, 1 Bylaw Enforcement Officer/ Business License Inspector, Casual s for relief only = 4 FT staff vs. 8 FT for other Catalyst Communities

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Departments Response to Financial Plan:

- 1. Coordinate reception and cashier duties;**
- 2. 2 week Christmas closure;**
- 3. Eliminate Nuisance property expense;**
- 4. Reduce casual coverage;**
- 5. Halve parking enforcement and grants in aid;**
- 6. Future reductions to permissive tax exemptions;**
- 7. Reductions to SPCA and other service costs;**
- 8. Fee and fine increases.**

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Our ability to implement the change depends on.....

- 1. Reducing City Service levels;**
- 2. Lowering expectations;**
- 3. Council Saying no to what are not core City Services.**

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Other options, not within City's direct control :

- **Regionalize services**
- **Boundary expansions**

Options considered but part of the plan:

- **Telephone answering system – now delayed until 2012;**
- **Fewer meetings and/or fewer Councillors;**

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Other 2010 challenges

- 1. Record keeping and storage issues;**
- 2. New council procedures;**
- 3. Support the financial plan and changes across the City;**
- 4. Support the key initiatives and reactions city is facing;**
- 5. Pending changes to Election rules.**