

CITIZEN BUDGET RESULTS

City of Port Alberni



OpenNorth

Online Budget Consultation Report

For the period October 25 to November 08, 2016

Prepared by Open North for: City of Port Alberni

808

Visitors

275

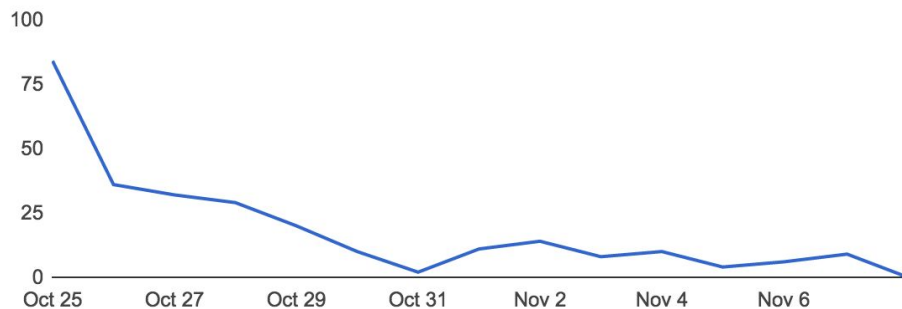
Responses

34% participation

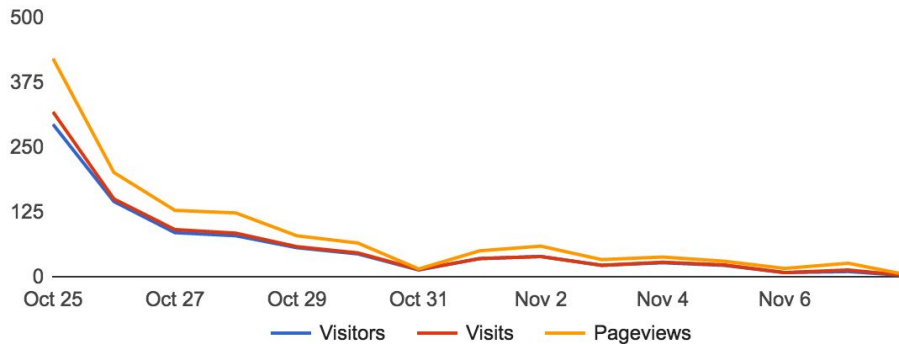
6 minutes

Median time to complete

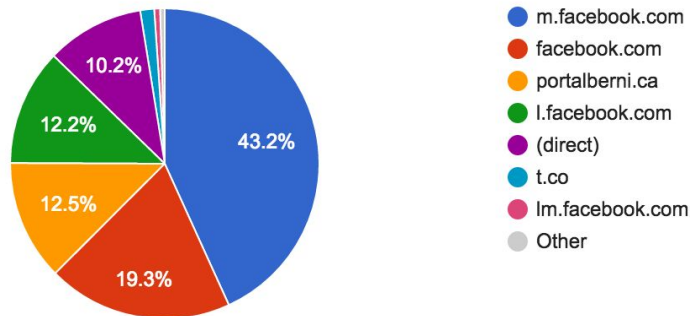
Responses per day



Web visits per day

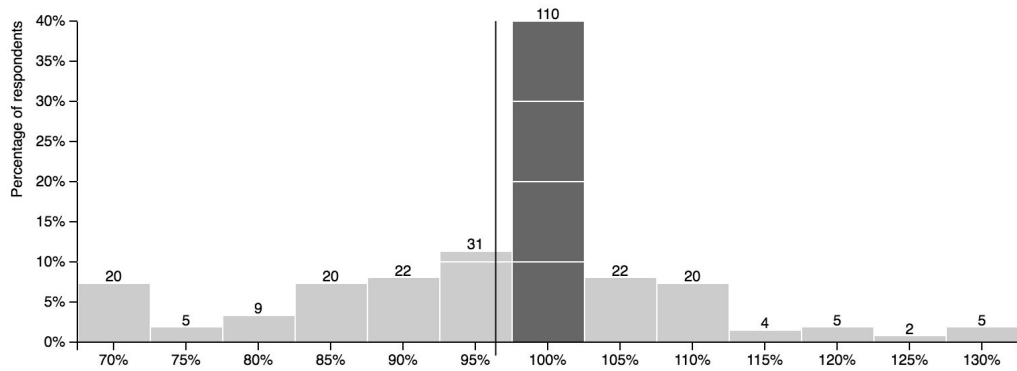


Web traffic sources



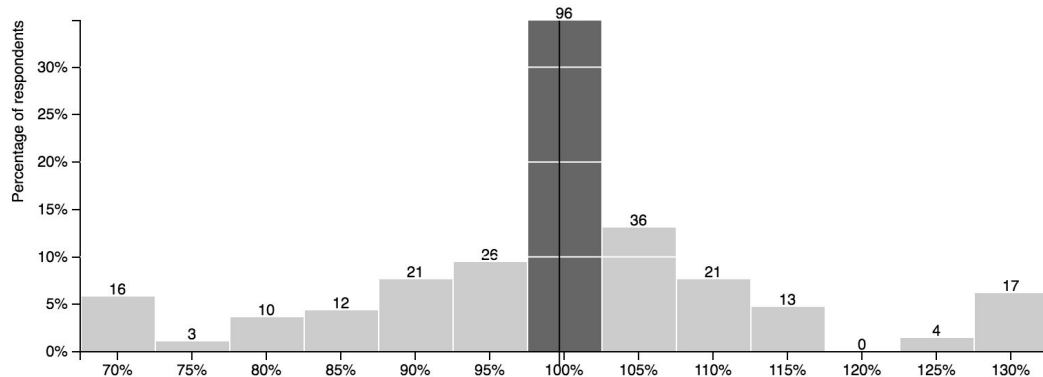
Police (RCMP)

How would you adjust your property tax funding to Police services?

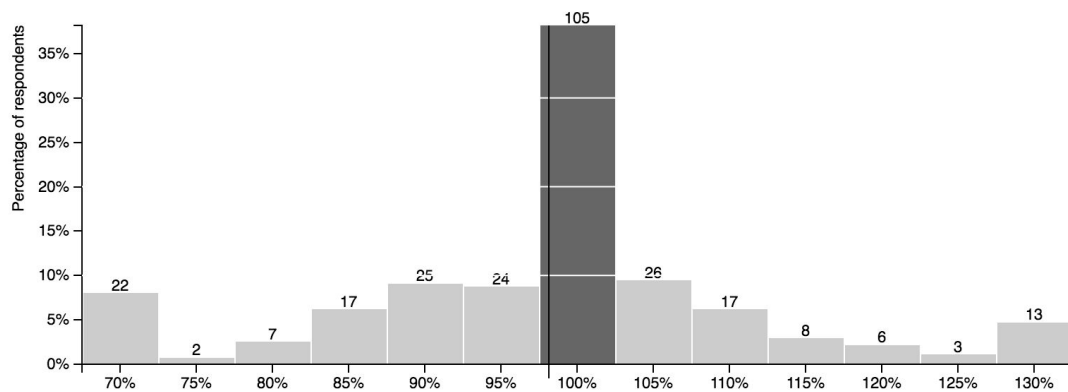


Parks & Recreation

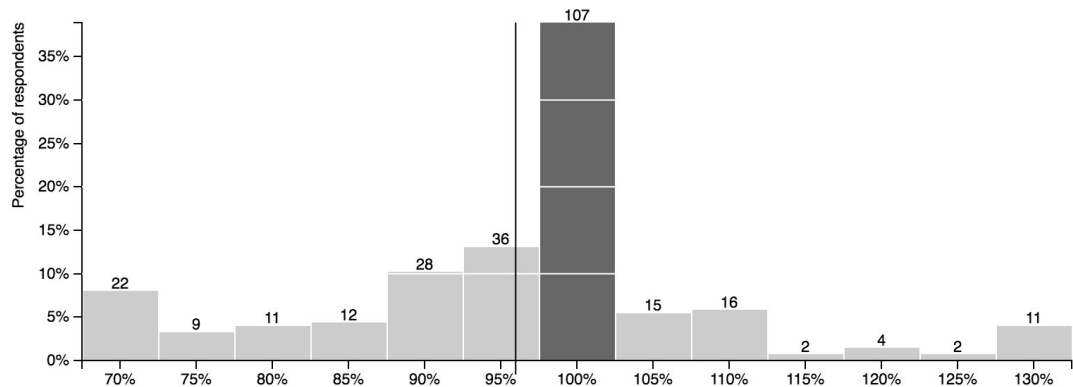
How would you adjust your property tax funding to parks, trails and playgrounds?



How would you adjust your property tax funding to community centers and other civic facilities?

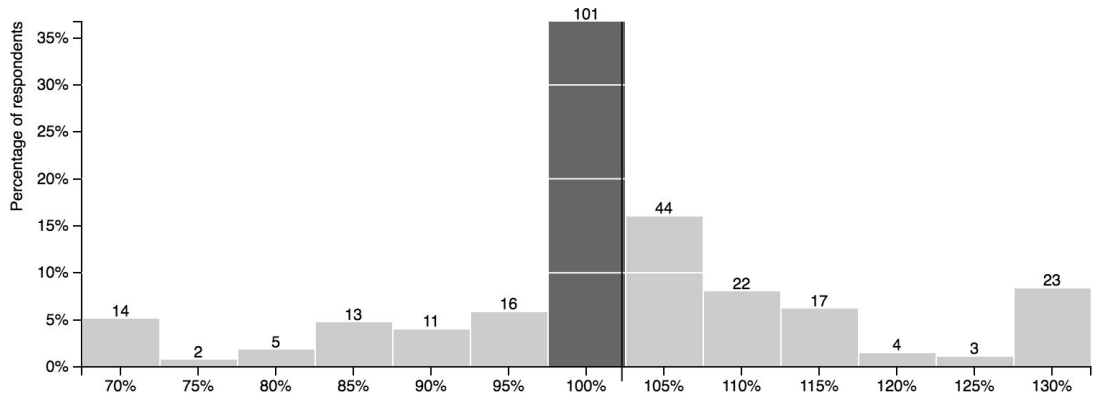


How would you adjust your property tax funding to sports and leisure programs?



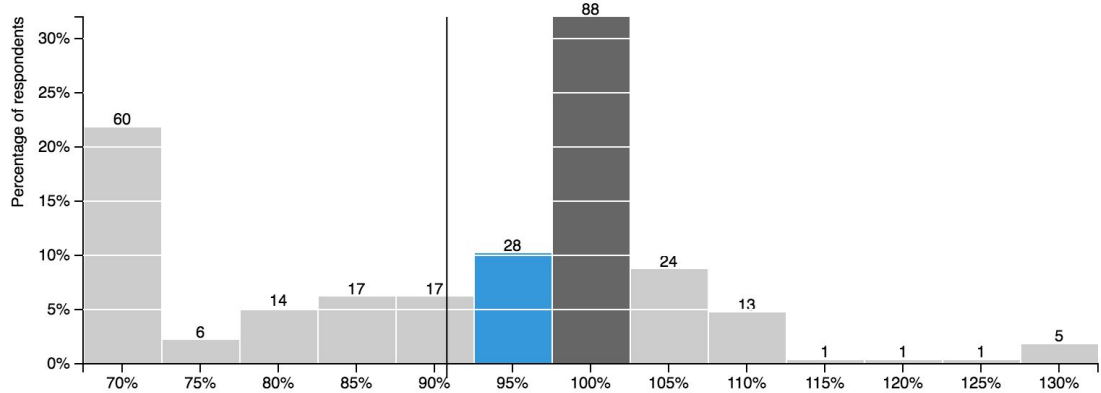
Engineering & Public Works

How would you adjust your property tax funding to Engineering & Public Works?



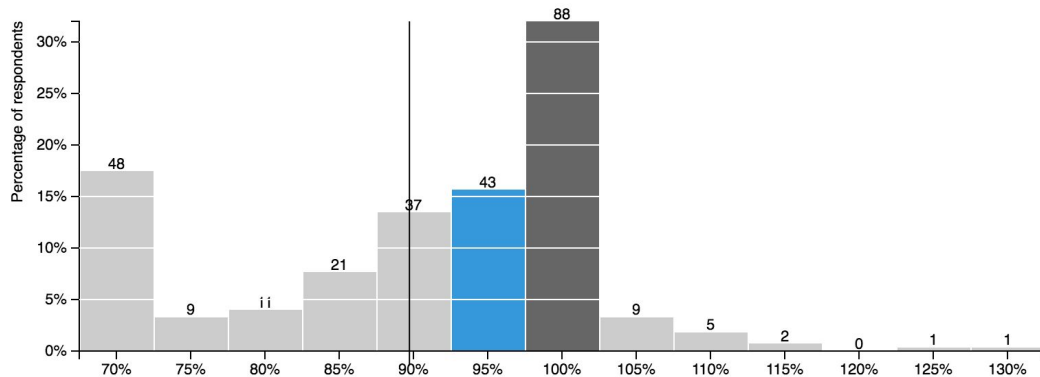
Fire Department

How would you adjust your property tax funding to Fire services?



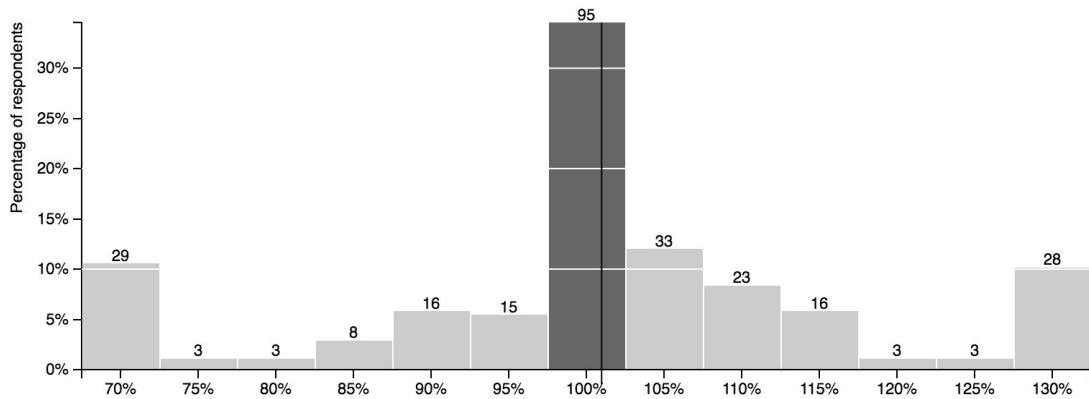
General Government

How would you adjust your property tax funding to General Government?



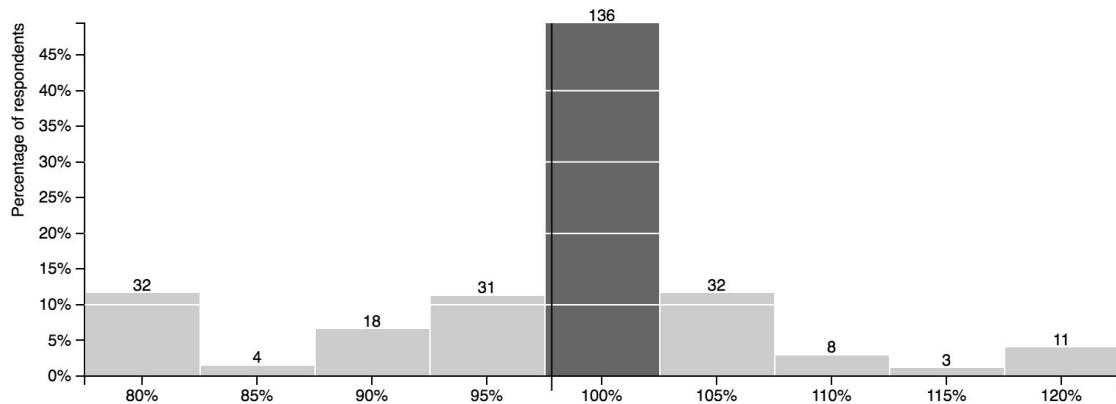
Economic Development

How would you adjust your property tax funding to Economic Development services?

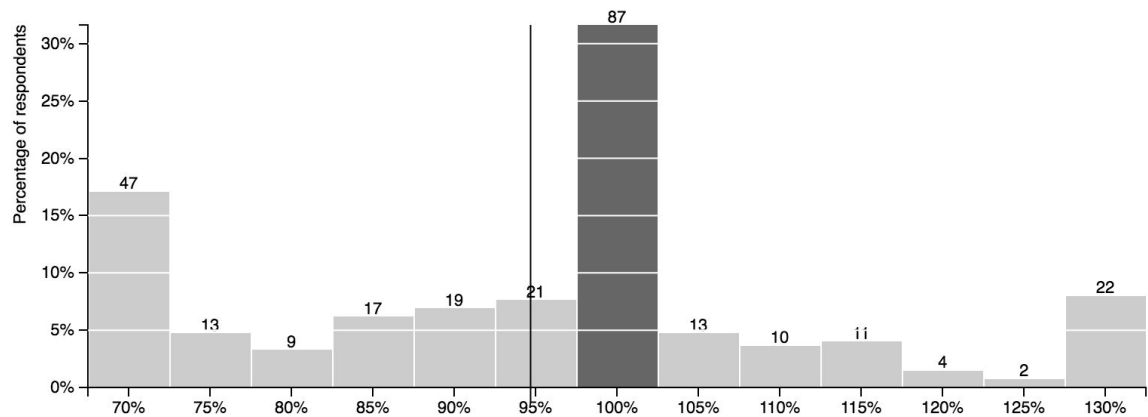


Planning & Development

How would you adjust your property tax funding to Planning & Development services?

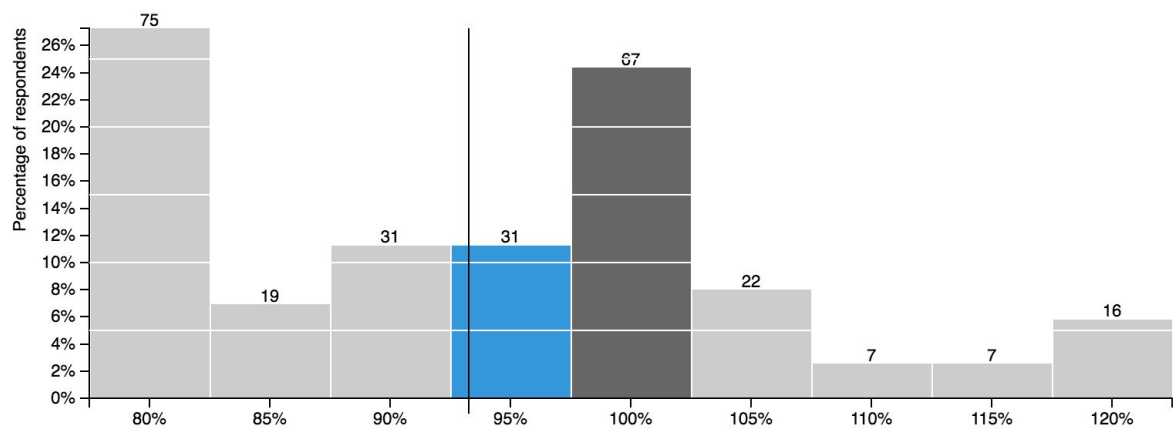


How would you adjust your property tax funding to Bylaw Enforcement services?

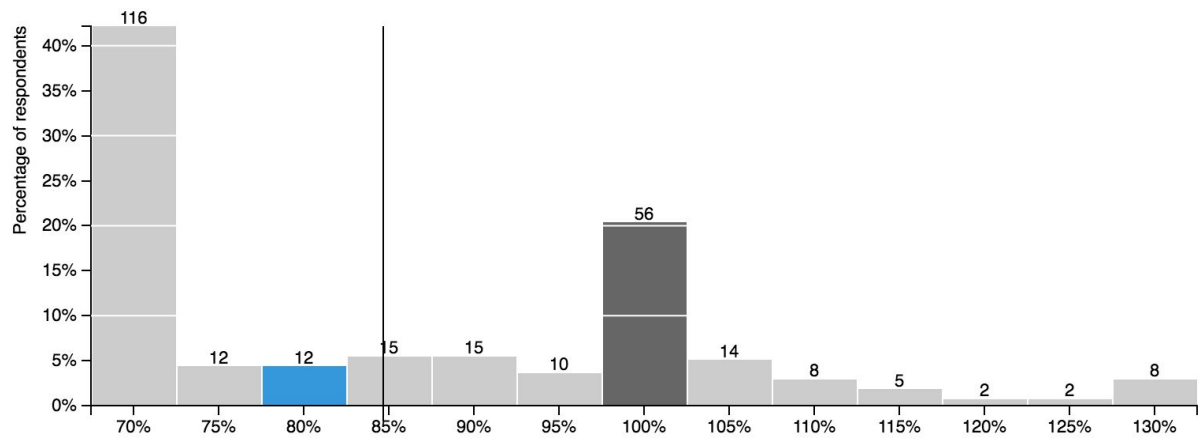


Heritage & Culture

How would you adjust your property tax funding to Museum services?

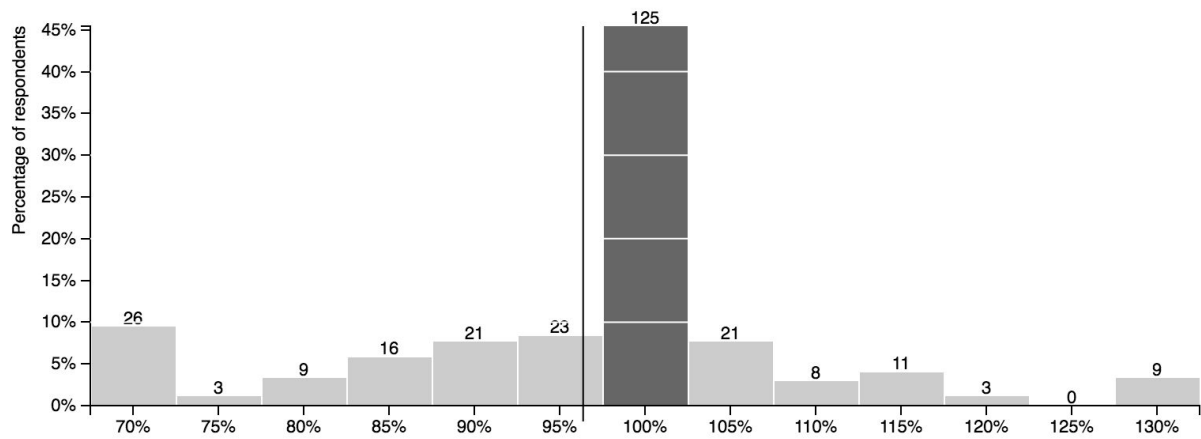


How would you adjust your property tax funding to McLean Mill and other heritage assets?



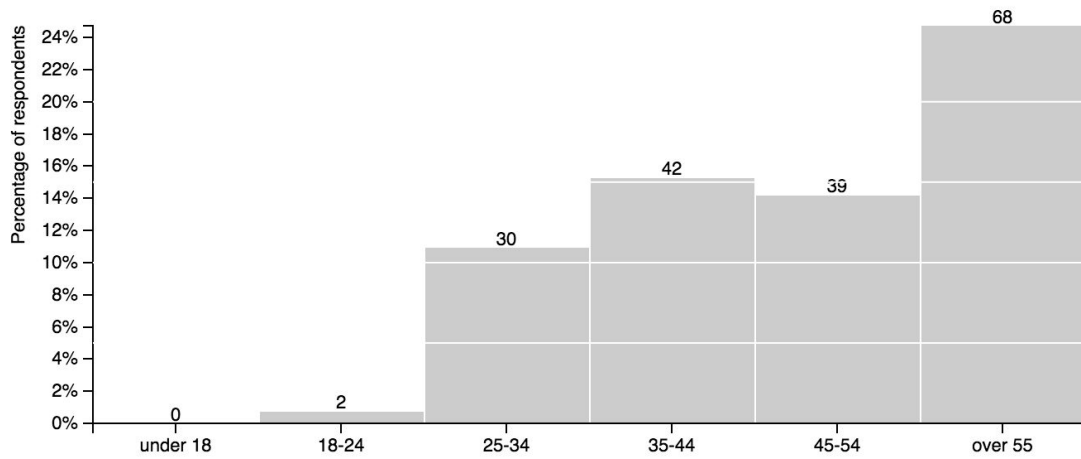
External Services

How would you adjust your property tax funding to external services?



Tell us about yourself

Age



What else would you like to share with us about the City's budget?

1) Port Alberni needs programs for YOUTHS ...or a place for them to hang out together and visitI hear Burde Beans has games there and other things for youth to do , they find that place interesting....maybe something similar but in the area of 3rd and Argyle

2) ambulance (how do I make that plural) more..Ambulances ?

3) clean up south port - seniors and students are moving into town ...

4) senior homes, my mom has been on a waitlist for years and years -...use one of the schools that shut down ??? or work together to build more senior homes, resources, placement .

Thank you

33% of our children live in poverty and are therefore food insecure. This is up from 30% in 2012. If we do not change our priorities, that figure will be over 40% and the police budget will double in five years, and that is not acceptable. Social problems should not be addressed by increasing the police budget. Otherwise, we have failed as a community. The police have moved away from a community policing model. They need to hire more women and First Nations to replace the old boys, and this will result in more appropriate service. Same goes for firefighters.

I was not impressed by the service provided by by-law enforcement; I felt he was complaining to me about his lack of a new vehicle, so could not do his job efficiently. Also, I do not believe by-law enforcement does anything about derelict buildings, and that needs to be addressed. Ex-cop enforcement officers seem to bring that old culture to the job; I would like to see more efficiencies in this department.

The library is a community centre that is well utilized, but could be even better with more outreach and creativity. Sunday openings would be nice.

Weekly garbage pick up is unnecessary and is a luxury that we don't need. I have lived in communities for the last twenty years that pick up garbage every two weeks, and it works just fine. Also, I would like to see a composting service on the alternate weeks instead.

As a general comment, I hear anecdotally that there is nepotism in hiring within the city staff. It's up to the CAO to implement a policy to put that to an end, and to ensure that all new hirings are gender balanced. I do not see this in Port Alberni.

a better evening route for the bus, new pool, internet infrastructure

<p>Actually send bylaw person to enforce existing bylaws and hold property owners accountable for keeping there properties in good condition.</p>
<p>Aging infrastructure. Sewer and water. New pool</p>
<p>art work on the crosswalks a total waste of money. Keep the recognized zebra stripes and white lines. Use the money to repair roads.</p>
<p>As a newcomer to Port Alberni I'm generally satisfied with how the budget is spent. I support modest increases across the board if required. I support new spending to make Port Alberni a better place to live. Especially changes to us more immune to climate change, less dependent on fossil fuels. I support any initiatives to make us less dependent on cars, (like expanded bus services, sidewalk improvements, bike lanes and cycling promotion). Economic development initiatives by the city should focus on the new economy, community based development, not resource hungry industry, or attracting big outside corporations.</p>
<p>As long-term residents we want to see the City maintain services and in a few cases, enhance them to look boost the 'liveability' aspects and to attract new comers/investors. SMALL tax increases are bearable as we see the results right at home.</p>
<p>At the community meeting this past weekend, the idea of taking away parking and creating more park space at Victoria Quay was put forward. This would be difficult because many people were there to support improved parking in the area. There is already free space nearby (yes, what is there could be better).</p> <p>We want to beautify and keep it functional for people trying to make a living on tourists being able to make a quick stop</p>
<p>Basically you need to hold the budget to no increase or at worst an increase at cost of living index, which is less than your 3% proposal. A hiring freeze will go a long way to balancing budget and city needed manning.</p> <p>Also you need to show water sewer and garbage collection fees as part of the tax package so your 5-6% overall yearly tax increases are made visible.</p>
<p>beautification of the town would make it much more pleasant to live here. And I'm so tired of seeing all of the trees just being lopped off at the top, that is not how you prune a tree and pretty much every city tree in this town looks terrible! Also the new planters on Johnson could be filled with plants that are somewhat more local. Tropical plants do not fit with our location. Also, what is going on with the window displays in the old Zellers building?!</p>
<p>Citizens cannot continue these increses in taxes. The job market here does not support the ability for people to continue having large increases. Seniors and people on fixed incomes cannot afford it. Cuts HAVE to be made even if its hard. The city also needs to ensure when</p>

contracting out jobs that the job is quoted accurately and is prepared ahead of time for cost overruns (Kitsuksis Bridge). Our Fire Department could be volunteer or a model with less paid firefighters. They do not need to respond to every single 911 call made!
City bus service runs empty a lot of the time. Smaller buses and more efficiency needed. Need to spend more on infrastructure improvement and maintenance. Preserve and support our heritage. Start working now on replacement of Echo Centre and Pool. We are lagging behind all other communities and will need a state of the art facility to draw in families and retirees.
City leadership needs to go and look at successful cities and follow their lead. We are considered the " Industrial hell hole" on the Island for a reason. I'm not happy with economic development, they are stuck in the old paradigm and their "successes" damage the towns recovery.
City needs to stick to basics, supplying clean drinkable water, sewage treatment, stable infrastructures, and nominal police and fire protection. Long term planning is required for financial budgeting to take into account the potential loss of major industrial tax contributors. At the rate of current timber harvesting, economical wood supply will be depleted in ten years. The city must be prepared for this. Other cities in b c have not. With the mountain pine beetle accelerated harvest in the interior, more towns and cities will need Prov. Gov't aid. Port alberni should not be one of them. Stick to the basics, no more fluff like bike lane. Take care of our aging infrastructure. Learn to say NO to non essential items, especially if not in the budget.
City needs to take steps to reduce admin costs, thus making room to be expansive in terms of services to citizens and opportunities. Rumours of lack of oversight and care in awarding city contracts resulting in poor work and delays (Gertrude Bridge is one glaring example.) Cutting tourism and services doesn't solve bloated and poor admin issues, it only encourages them. Also, why was reducing our property taxes not an option in this survey?
Combination fire department with professionals and volunteers, overtime paid for emergencies only, not for staff attending council meetings, have all council meetings during the day, less staff to attend council meetings, they can send written reports and respond to questions by email.
Control costs
Could lower city budget by cutting back on staff. If you can" lower their wages then eliminate positions.
Create a combined professional and volunteer Alberni Valley Fire Department.
Somehow get the adjacent rural areas and the province to pay much more for policing. This

an Alberni Valley issue, not solely a City issue.
Create a reasonable 5 year plan and follow it. Mr Pley is absolutely right.
CUT WAGES and BENEFITS ! across the spectrum Reduce Fire substantially make better use of temporary labour , increase Police presence .
Desperately need a second Bylaw Enforcement Officer and a truck route.
Developers a city campground. There is no where in the city to camp. You want to attract tourist. Give them somewhere to stay.
Do more with less, my parents taught me to live within my means. I in turn am teaching my children the same. Our town does not need services that serve the few/minority. Since moving here in 2008 I'm continually blown away by the waste I see of my tax dollars.
Fire dept is too expensive for our needs. Use savings to better infrastructure and healthy living
Focus on maintaining fire, police, community leisure activities as it values citizens. Include future planning for a good pool. Sorry, was not impressed with the bike lane expenditure...met a small minority "flavour of the month" (fluff).
Garbage pick up and recycling ... I'd like to have that improved and composting! ... I'm just not sure where that fits in with all these categories
get on the roads!!! Stop with all the annual flower planting. and STOP funding McLean's mill. it's supposed to be self sufficient! Mayors and elected officials don't need any more raises, it's not your main job.
Global warming means higher tides, How is Port Alberni going to cope with the rising water? Are king tides going to be a threat to those near sea level ? Could the city vote on a bylaw to make plastic grocery bags and plastic cutlery from fast food chains illegal in the city? How about making it mandatory to donate all "throw away " food stuffs to the impoverished ?
Hopefully our tax base will grow (population) if not lets tighten our belts.
I am in favor of shifting spending to be more proactive putting money to city services, environmental education, bike lanes, bike education, increased public transit, and the development of affordable housing as well as trail signage and improved sidewalks.
I believe that the outlying area's need to pay more for services in port alberni. Why are our taxes so different.
I believe fire does not need to respond to pure medical calls..... believe having ambulance

and first responders not necessarily needed for this.

I don't want any of my tax dollars going to industrial heritage society, especially mclean's mill

I don't we should be giving McLean any more money, for years we have been subsidising the Mill; and it's enough.

I encourage promotion of technology based services promoting new business start up. Beautifying the City streets to enhance the visual identification of our city. Travellers young and old need to be encouraged by low housing, recreational activities and abilities for both young and older families to settle here. Perhaps more funding and innovative people need to be allocated to economic development. Population growth is required for a stable tax base in order to be able to offer improvements in infrastructure, security services or recreational services. It's not easy to be in council's position and I appreciate the opportunity to share my ideas.

I feel less tax dollars should go towards general government administration. A way to effectively achieve this is to rollback senior administrator wages. It is my belief that given the size of our city, the wages exceed that of much larger cities. Wages need to be commensurate in order to retain high quality personnel, but no more. The taxpayers are paying too much in this regard. In summary, there is no need to reduce services or hours of operation etc., but its time to bring back into line the wages of our senior city officials.

I feel that our infrastructure,, roads, water, sewer,are important to maintain.. also our garbage is very important to maintain

I like the idea of sticking to the Budget and not being sidetracked by new unexpected projects (eg. 1/4 mile strip on Stamp Avenue) and using grants when received (if grant to be used over 3 years, use when first received, as costs may increase during the delay in using funding). Save for future projects (eg. pool) to reduce borrowing costs. In 2016, I think I noticed a project for Johnston Street for tourists (approx. \$300,000+). I don't know where this idea came from. Instead of adding more items to maintain, perhaps focus on what the City currently has and maintain that (eg. Clocktower and saving for new pool with added features that tourists & folks from outside the community might want to come to Port Alberni to enjoy).

Bottom line, stay focused on what the City currently has (reuse, recycle, repurpose) and let's learn to live within our means.

I realize that costs keep rising, but I really think that city needs to realize that we are no longer a "rich" town. We haven't been for a number of years. A number of home owners are the "working poor". Many of the rental units (houses) around town have land lords who don't care about the state of disrepair of their property as long as they are receiving their rent. Lots of empty and abandoned houses around town.

I think our money is well spent and for the services we get we get more bang for our buck compared to larger municipalities

I think that this City Council, has been much like other City Councils of the past 3 decades. They spend too much and never look for cost reductions. In a City that has lost more than \$10 M in Industrial tax base, we still maintain a fully paid Fire Department, one of only 2 such jurisdictions on Vancouver Island with similar population base.

We have more than 2000 less children, has Parks and Rec really been downsized proportionately over the years.

We have maintained an over manned Police force, or 4 or 5 more than other similar sized cities, because we have and I, quote, we have a "higher crime rate." Time to look at those numbers and see if they still make sense.

I would go on about potential savings, including refurbishing Echo Pool, and not building a new one, unless grants can cover most of the cost. Bottom line, there is much opportunity to reduce costs, without greatly impacting services, but no one seems interested. They would rather paint bike lanes that are hardly used.

I was devastated about the Museum which I think is as good as Ottawa's. This is our history, our past without a past we have no future. I found out about the problem by chance, never mentioned City Hall agrees, save the Museum, train and Mill.

I would on a positive note, compliment the City Engineering department, works and parks. They do awesome work with resources available. I will be putting this in the Alberni News Paper shortly. These people need a pat on the back. I thank you.

I would like to say that I am offended by the comment below. Being fiscally responsible with money is something we all have to do. On fixed incomes we have to be frugal. We do not have the available or borrowed ability to buy all the extras. As a council I voted for you to do just that, be responsible and be aware that Parks and Rec, McLeans mill, fancy harbours and all the fluff that seems to be happening are NOT being responsible. At some point we need as a city to look at the reality and not to the past. It is not 1980 and it is not your money to waste. Thank you for the opportunity to give my opinion.

I would like to see the City use their own employees more rather than contracting out work that should be done with their own employees.

I would like to see us long-term saving and working towards a new pool facility and updating/improving the echo centre in general. Maintaining the library and improving on parks and recreation funding and infrastructure are other areas I think are of most importance for attracting young families to Port Alberni.

I would not be looking for a tax decrease. Rather, all of the money saved by reduced spending on the areas identified above should be transferred to engineering & public works. Since industrial tax rates are unable to be altered in 2017, and any increase in the business class will only have the city realise a small increase in revenue, the residential class tax rate will have to increase by approximately 3% so that the city can cover normal inflationary increases for utilities, insurance, supplies, etc., and to cover the embedded rate increases for CUPE and IAFF, without cutting spending on infrastructure any further, but unfortunately also not increasing spending on infrastructure either. That can only happen if taxes on the residential class are increased more than 3%, or sales of service fees are increased enough to make a measurable difference to the city's revenue stream.

If possible as members of the fire department retire start to replace them with a mixed crew volunteers and full time employees. Also work with catalyst to have their own first responders on site to properly assist with calls.

If the goal is to attract new business and people then the first thing is to get us off "the worst place to live in Canada" . You have 4000 by laws more or less that are not enforced, the streets are a mess, garbage not picked up etc. Clean up our town, enforce the bylaws we have, and that will be a good start.

Increase tax support of public transit.

Allocate funds to purchase Alberni's drinking watershed.

Reduce the amount of per capita infrastructure, roads, water, sewage, by promoting higher density and allocate more funds to maintain it.

Increased wages and the # of city staff plus hiring consultants.. its making it tough. This city is not thriving or growing and hasn't in years... only the spending and wages continue to grow. Economic planning is needed addressing, long term planning for how to grow the city. municipal staff costs needs addressing.

Institute a city run bi-weekly composting pickup.

It's time the City got in tune with the times. This is not 1970. To many employees at City Works & Parks and Rec. Start cutting jobs. The people of Port Alberni can not afford keeping all the these people. Start cutting taxes.

Keep the steam train running but cut back on Maclean Mill funding and staff wages. I think the museum could be run just as well with one less staff member. I haven't found any of the staff there very personable at all. Thank you.

more money needs to be allocated to attracting business and development to Port Alberni. I believe a sufficient amount currently goes to schools, parks & rec, way too much money is

spent on heritage/McLean's Mill. We need to attract decent employers for families to move here in order to enjoy and access schools, parks etc....no jobs, no families to enjoy these facilities
More money spent on advertisements for the events that go on in this town!
more street sweeping - removing grass/weeds from along sidewalks/roads
My knowledge of financial interests is very limited. My knowledge of a town falling victim to its lack of policing due to an overabundance of crime is first hand. I feel that the potential for Port Alberni is oh so close but not quite there, the main reason our family has chosen to live on the outskirts and remove ourselves from the core crime areas. Good luck guys!
No more expensive flowers all over the place
No more increase cut the fire department
No more supporting McLean Mill! More policing, crime and vandalism are out of control.
No need for a full-time HR manager position if your staff is less than 200. User pay for sports / recreation services. No more breaks for Bulldogs
no net tax increase please. retired on fixed income.
Normally I would advocate for an increase in Economic Development but I feel that the current council, taking direction from the current Mayor, is far too focused on recruiting big industry and attempting to relive Port Alberni's so-called glory days of high paying, low skill jobs. I truly don't believe that these jobs exist anymore and we as a community need to look at diversifying our economic background.
Nothing, we have gone thru an exercise such as this a few years back and did anything change for the better. Perhaps the Mayor et al should take less trips at tax payers expense. And perhaps user fees should be initiated for those who use city funded activities. There are many of us who don't use trails, or the Echo centre etc . Our infrastructure is falling apart and should be a priority. Police services have more man power but the crime rate is still going up. How much more money should the public have to pay. We are on limited incomes with increases yearly based on consumer price index, which as we all know is a joke. Many of us have lost money when we turned 65 on the superannuation pensions and in our case lost over \$1500 a month in pensions. Where one thinks we can pay more is beyond me. And in all honesty if pushed, I would personally claim bankruptcy and then let everyone else worry about where the money is coming from. Believe me, there are a lot of seniors who can't afford drugs or food and are in dire straights. When do they get help. And yes I have gone off topic.

Lower the proposed increase in taxes where it will hurt the least.

Our high taxes make living in a nice neighbour almost unaffordable. Our city needs to take more due diligence in where and how are taxes are being spent so they don't keep going up but maybe one year go down.

Our taxes are approx. \$5000 a year. We do not have a bus stop nearby, and the snow plow only comes within 50' of my driveway(cul de sac) in winter...an maybe only once a year on average. The taxes are ridiculous, considering that we are not on the river, or lake and are not downtown in city centre. Everyone is going to get driven out of town with the taxes going up. It needs to change.

-The City wages are way too high for what they do. Firefighters and RCMP put themselves at risk, where as the City does not. They do not deserve what they get. That needs to change for a town this size.

-We should have more than 1 bylaw officer. Too many burnt up and dialect properties, and slum landlords. Our town deserves more respect than what we have now.

-The outlying areas of Cherry and Beaver Creek need to pay more into our taxes. Everyone that lives there uses most of our city services and therefore the taxes should be more equal between all of us. The city boundaries need to change and expand out and the outlying areas need to pay more for the city's services.

Overall I think the city does a good job with the budget. It is a great city to live in.

Parks and rec is doing a wonderful job beautifying Johnston road.

Please improve the lower Johnson corridor visually. Replace the pathetic sign that welcomes visitors . It's a terrible first impression (the sign on the way up the hump)

Rather than taxing the people here more, I would focus on drawing more people to live here to collect more taxes. Unfortunately our already high taxes likely influence people's decision to move here.

Also, with people living in the district being so close and using so much of the city's services, perhaps it's time to look at amalgamation the area to have a larger base to draw taxes from.

Thay said, from an outside perspective I am extremely unhappy with how my tax dollars are currently being spent.

Reduce city works spending. Eliminate costly engineering "oversites" which cost unnecessary money. Eliminate fire hall. Pursue system much like Parksville.

Say what you mean mean what you say

Schools need work, most of them need a exterior work like painting etc need to be beautified alot more then they are now.

Serious consideration should be given to moving forward with the New Pool Capital Project. Overuse of outside consultants should be curtailed, or at the very least, scaled back.

spend less on flowers and baskets -saving on water and upkeep and buying expense -plant trees and more greenery that doesn't use a lot of water.get rid of the bylaw officer- he only responds if someone complains- but he has a city vehicle and office and people could and would complain directly to the appropriate department or organization and save time and expense with the middleman. extend city bus out to the lake and at least out to mcleans mill especially in summer.this is not a budget idea but could you please move those ugly metal eyesores that are in front of city hall - put over by the other heritage object by Victoria quay. city hall has a classy look to her now - but they gotta go also, please get rid of those logging trucks off 3rd ave- or ARE you waiting for something to happen before you do not to mention the wear and tear on our downtown street.its not attractive as a tourist sight either. I woldlike to see some kind of gameplan for uptown too. Its beginning to look worse than prince Rupert main drag or prt hardy

get rid of the flowers and baskets on streets- save water ,expense of products, upkeep- plant trees instead. get rid of by-law officer- he doesn't act on anything unless someone complains(I know that's how bylaws work, but what a joke)he has a car and office and doesn't do a lot of anything w3hen you do finally track him down.Have it that people phone directly to the applicable department or orginizations with their concerns.extend the city bus out to the lake and out at least to mcleans mill and maybe the ratepayers out there would chip in. off the subject in a way, get those ugly eyesores off the lawn at city hall. City hall is looking very smart these days but they aren't helping- stick them over by the other heritage thing by Victoria quay.also, please get those horrible logging trucks off third ave. or ARE you waiting for something to happen. Probably the streets will be needing replacement sooner than later.

Start to stand up to the unions like Qualicum did and do some locking out if needed because these union wages are driving up taxes when in reality our property value is on a decrease. As for service reduction, what a joke as we don't see any except garbage pickup but that's it. Living in this city is a joke.

Stop funding Mclean mill

Stop wasting money building new parks and infrastructure while our old parks and infrastructure fall apart. Stop letting a few loud mouths push anti industry agendas that are killing every new project in town.

Tax cures to working people and give a tax break to whom keeps their property clean. "All

breathing humans pay taxes no rights due. To Colour rase or beleifs

The City needs to stop awarding out of town tenders even if the local tenders cost more. At least the money will stay in town. Sending our local tax dollars out of town is VERY short sighted. The recent Street light replacement tender is a perfect example. The City of PA should be ashamed!

The city needs to stop spending money on stupid things like bike lanes. How dare you threaten to raise taxes and continue with this irresponsible spending behavior. We need to attract more industry and stop being against it. A few Councillors on social media are so green oriented that they have opposed everything. We need the tax dollars from new businesses.

The city really needs to consider moving to a volunteer basis fire department.

The costs for police and fire should be even lower than your slider goes to the left, volunteer fire departments are what is needed in Alberni not the waste of tax dollars that is spent there now. Same for Policing this is the biggest waste of tax dollars, money better spent on a locally elected sherriff and a local deputy force, RCMP is overpaid.

The economic development budget is a joke. Increase the budget significantly and attract some real talent to this vital position.

The information is at too high a level to be really meaningful. I would fund some recreational and sports services but not the Hockey Team or the arena, I would fund buses, and public library but the animal control should be user pay from animal licensing and visitor services by the chamber of commerce. Need to be able to pick and choose within these broad categories.

The infrastructure throughout PA needs immediate attention. The condition of roads, and walkways, are really below average. My particular road sees negligible attention from the sweeper, probably less than yearly. It appears on a regular basis down the upper part of South Crescent and that is the terminal point. It turns around and disappears. Potholes abound throughout town. The walkway outside my place has a chunk missing. It appears to be adjacent to a water supply to the house. Once that fills with water, and we have a bad winter who knows what will happen. The gutters are a disgrace, or is it expected that the residents maintain those areas as well. How about during the low use Park season that Park employees could address the issue. The cycle lanes. In the weeks that I have regularly traversed 10th, and Reford I have notice 2 cyclists, and 3 mobility scooters using them. however, numerous cyclists still using the walkway. A waste of taxpayers cash pandering to a minority. Like others I have met ,Skateboarders that have no respect for "paid" road users are becoming a liability. I personally have been "buzzed" by skate boarders, the ones that I have encountered have no road sense, nor respect for road signs. One day there will be a serious accident, and the chances are the motorist will receive the wrath of the affected parents.. I

have no problem should they wish to take out insurance, but is too much to ask. Prior to retirement, (I had property on the mainland), I contacted the City to ascertain futures plans for the town. i was regaled with wonders of the future. That was in 2001.....obviously those plans are "long term". Resources appear to be concentrated on the main drag through Port Alberni, i.e. the transient route to the west coast in an apparent attempt to woo the visitors, until they are directed to the Harbour Quay, then they encounter Argyle.....that was certainly the opinion of some of my visitors. Port Alberni could be the town delight that I was "regaled" within 2001, however it appears priorities may be influenced by the minority. In conclusion I do enjoy Port, it just needs some serious TLC. Thanks for viewing my rant. No offence intended.

The Mayor and councillors shouldn't be afraid to make tough decisions, keep our taxes inline with cost of living.

The only comment I have to make is that I believe you guys are doing the best job possible for this city. The only thing I wish the city had was a 10th ave connector. I do a lot of running around for our business and it's a huge headache having to go all the way up to maebelle or down to stamp. I've seen some great suggestions on cost cutting for such a project (local bidders, just a dip like the other side of 10th near qf) and I'm sure it would benefit the city greatly by reducing the congestion down at stamp and johnston, as well as stamp and roger. Oh....and a crosswalk light at johnston and Elizabeth by bare bones would be awesome. Such a dangerous crosswalk!

The police department's budget should be increased to help deter crime and drugs within our community; I recommend an increase of 10%. Although beautiful, Parks & Rec could cut down a bit on the plants/beautification of Alberni Valley. I believe we need to reduce full-time staff from the fire department or go to a volunteer basis. House development continues to be on the rise in the Valley, so we should have the ability for faster rezoning, etc. The heritage centre specifically to ride the train is so expensive for locals and every town (almost) in BC has a mill - I cannot see this drawing people here; it is more for something to do. I would like to add that it is very hard to own a business here with such high taxes. As well as doing business because of limited zoning opportunities - Is there an opportunity to rezone ALR land?

There is no need for a paid fire department in a town of this size. Lawn mowing and landscaping of city property needs to be contracted out.

This city is long overdue for a road connection midway up Johnston. Maebelle is a dangerous turn around point especially when the majority of the cars are making a left hand turn onto the highway. It surprises me there haven't been serious accidents. Secondly the additional gas it takes to get across town. Thirdly the extra car pollution - we already have a big problem with that. Fourthly the time - which may in turn cause an accident if someone speeds to make up the time difference. Work on a better air quality mandate.

Time to get your wages and spending under control. As far as I'm concerned there should be no tax breaks for the pulp mill . In 5 years that we have lived in the city our taxes have far outpaced the value of our house. Being a senior with little income it is a consideration moving out of this city for what services we do use and receive. We need a more responsible mayor and councillors who actually know what they are doing . Gertrude street bridge, bike lanes, airport all very expensive and really not thought out well projects. What has been done in trying to bring in business for this airport. Don't count on Coulsons! They have done nothing to help support the airport or was it put on the taxpayers backs to help support Coulsons needs. Not good business deal.

We are a 2 person family and could easily go with once a month garbage pick up. I would suggest twice a month should be manageable for most households. I realize that the garbage pick-up may be a revenue neutral service however households that do require extra service should be able to put out an extra can on those days. The household billing should be reduced by the amount of the net savings. The driver is then freed up to work elsewhere. I am thinking there should be some labour and equipment operating cost savings here somewhere.

We are in desperate need of a new swimming pool. One that allows families of all ages access to utilize the facility and have fun! While not breaking their piggy bank. Families can go to the wave pool in Nanaimo and play all day for \$10

We desperately need to get serious about breaking ground for our new Aquatic Centre...

We have cheap real estate that could be incredibly valuable to the tech sector IF we partner with telecoms and cloud service providers to develop data center friendly gigabit plus fibre connectivity. We should also consider eco friendly tidal power generation. We need to make Port Alberni tech business friendly to significantly boost the economic situation here.

We need to change our fire department to volunteer, or the fire fighters need to take a huge pay cut. As well, we need to change the schedule for our city employees. We need to adapt the schedules to eliminate all the required overtime for the city works employees.

We need to find creative ways to live within our means and have clear and concise plans to move forward and rebuild our community. Continue trimming the fat and non essential services. Perhaps the RCMP will have to work a little bit harder if they are a couple members short, but it not a good reflection that we have the crime rates that we do in such a small community with as many officers as we employ... I believe the fire deparent numbers could be reduced by implementing a paid on call department especially that now all the volunteer departments have a mutual aid agreement in place with the city. Just my 2 bits on a couple of scenarios.

We need to make a new aquatic centre a priority!!

We need to quit wasting money on things like the airport and put the money into a swimming pool and tangible things that will bring young families and more employment here. Spending 8million on an airport with little chance of use besides for coulson is a waste of money.

where it says I have decreased tax dollar spending by \$85.36 or 4.73%. I would increase my tax dollars by 2% for increased infrastructure.

Why was a Fire Chief hired from outside Port Alberni? Was there not some one in the Fire Department that could do the job? Myself and a 'lot of people' do not like the consulting people that the City always brings in. They are a waste of money. City workers should be used to do work, NOT contractors.

With regards to Policing: I would like to see MUCH more traffic violation enforcement, on main corridors, school zones, both day time and evening until 10 pm. So many drivers are in a hurry, and do NOT take the time to check both ways, stop at corners, or signal their intentions, as some examples. If traffic enforcement is not better controlled now, I believe more accidents, possibly deaths will soon be part of the statistics.

Without expanding diversity through Economic Development we will not have the tax based resources to turn this town from extraction to attraction. We are behind many communities that figured this out over a decade ago...we also have to recognize what economists from the left to the right have said: millennials will NOT have the disposable income of the last generation.

Would like to see students hired in the Spring & Summer months to help clear grass & weed-infested sidewalks at a reduced rate (not popular with union employees) but at a decent rate, \$15.00 per hr.?

your scale doesn't go low enough for mcleans mill or the fire department and I don't see a city employees wage scale ... I would like to see public hearings about all land sales prior to selling them for a joke price