

2020 Budget Public Input – Engagement Overview

Public engagement was available from November 6 to 29, with feedback opportunities available via overtoyou.greatersudbury.ca. Residents were invited to complete the budget allocator, fill out a short survey, and share ideas about spending priorities and finding efficiencies.

These engagement opportunities were promoted through Public Service Announcements and reminders, the City's social media accounts (Facebook and Twitter), print and digital advertising, email blasts, communication with Community Action Networks and an info booth at the New Sudbury Centre.

The following information was compiled from Over to You, the City's online engagement platform. The findings from the information collected reflect a sample of opinions taken from those who have registered for the service and willingly participated in the survey.

The below is a summary of the information collected. The attached shows a detailed report of the findings.

[Overtoyou.greatersudbury.ca](http://overtoyou.greatersudbury.ca)

From November 6 to 29, the following feedback was collected:

- 1,100 visits to the Over to You 2020 Budget project page
- 164 surveys completed (results from the survey are attached)
- 22 ideas for savings and efficiencies from 13 contributors. The ideas received are included in the attached report.

Some key findings from the survey are as follows:

- 45% of respondents said they are somewhat familiar with how property taxes work. 37% said they were very familiar. 12% said they were kind of familiar. 6% said they were not very familiar.
- The services respondents said were very important, in order, are:
 - o Road Maintenance and Construction (87%) and Winter Maintenance (87%)
 - o Emergency Services (81%)
 - o Drinking Water, Wastewater and Stormwater (80%)
 - o Garbage and Recycling (75%)
 - o Recreation Programs and Facilities (55%) and Pioneer Manor (55%)
 - o Economic Development (54%)
 - o Social Services (52%)

- Transit (45%)
- Communications and Engagement with Residents (42%)
- Libraries and Museums (34%)
- 51% of respondents said they were not in favour of an additional 1.5% in property taxes to support roads and facility improvements compared to 34% of respondents who said they were in favour.

Demographics:

- 162 respondents identified primarily as home owners or renters
- 2 respondents identified as business owners, both identifying the location of their businesses in Ward 8 (New Sudbury)
- Residents in all wards took part in the survey

Information sharing:

- Respondents said they mostly get their City related information from the City's website and from news media. The City's social media channels (Facebook and Twitter) were also sources of information about City services and programs.

Atoilaparole.grandsudbury.ca:

There were 6 visits to the French engagement site and no surveys completed.

Budget Allocator:

In building their own budget, residents had the opportunity to share the areas they felt tax dollars should be spent in 2020. With this simulation residents were able to see the impact of their decisions on developing and approving the annual budget.

The Budget Simulator was based on \$1,000 in property taxes and explains what portion is spent in each of the service areas. In the spending section, residents were asked to increase or decrease spending in 11 main service areas, with a goal of creating a balanced budget.

Some service areas were not included because rates are fixed and cannot be adjusted or the areas are funded by senior levels of government. Examples of these service areas include Water and Wastewater Services and Children's Services.

- 108 people participated in the budget allocation simulation
 - The top three areas respondents increased spending include:
 - Roads and Transportation (an increase of \$15)

- Transit (an increase of \$2)
- Garbage and Recycling (an increase of \$1)
- The top three areas respondents decreased spending include:
 - Police Services (a decrease of \$13)
 - Corporate Services (a decrease of \$4)
 - Citizen and Leisure Services (a decrease of \$4)

Ongoing Engagement:

Staff was available at an information booth at New Sudbury Centre on November 28 from noon to 9 p.m. Six residents spoke with staff to learn more about the budget and ask questions related to City services.

Additional feedback:

Additional feedback received by community members is attached to this report.