

**1. Please provide further details regarding children services (Landry-Altmann, J)**

Answer:

In April 2019, municipalities received notification of three changes in funding to the 2019 provincial child care funding envelope:

- 1) a requirement for municipalities to now cost share (20%) child care expansion funding (was previously 100% provincial);
- 2) cost share (50%) all administrative expenditures (was previously approx. 80% provincial); and
- 3) a reduction of the cap on administrative expenditures that would be cost-shared with the province (from 10% down to 5%).

The 2020 budget was completed with these parameters. The 2020 financial impact of these changes were to be offset fully by mitigation funding (reserve) available to Children Services. These funds were provided to offset provincial funding reductions and were calculated based on the best estimates at the time.

In September 2019, municipalities received further direction regarding these funding changes, as a result of significant pressure being exerted by municipalities across the province. The funding changes will now be implemented over a three year period beginning in 2020.

- Effective January 2020, child care expansion funding will be provided to municipalities at 80% and municipalities will be **encouraged** to provide their 20% contribution - although it is not mandatory.
- Effective January 2021, in addition to the expansion funding changes implemented in 2020, municipalities will be required to cost share 50% (mandatory) of administrative expenditures.
- Effective January 2022, in addition to the prior two years funding adjustments, the cap on allowable administrative expenditures eligible for cost-sharing will be reduced from 10% of total funding, to 5% of total funding. Any administrative expenditure in excess of this 5% cap will be funded by the municipality entirely.

The Ministry of Education has recently released the allocations for Municipalities for 2020 and there is a further reduction based on newer Census data, and staff are awaiting a technical report from the province to explain the variances. Regardless, the 2020 financial impact on the municipal Children Services budget will be offset by mitigation and staff will be bringing forward options for Council review in 2020 to deal with the impacts in subsequent years once the full impact is known.

**2. Please provide further details regarding reduction of social services budget by \$175,000 (Landry-Altmann, J)**

Answer:

This reduction specifically addresses allowances for infrequent purchases that would not be reasonably included in regular subsidy calculations. For example, these funds enable the purchase of replacement appliances, or they fund personal expenditures like dentures or funerals.

Greater Sudbury's budget for such items is among the highest in the province. Council increased it in 2017 in response to a surge in demand, instead of revising the policy that identified eligible expenditures. Currently, there is increased demand in the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) program, due to an influx in immigration.

If approved, the reduction in the discretionary budget will prompt the introduction of policy changes that would be presented in the first quarter of 2020. The purpose of these changes would be to align the amount of available funding with the timing and amount of eligible expenditures. Even with this reduction, Greater Sudbury's budget is still one of the highest in the Province.

**3. What is meant by review of crossing guards and will the reduction eliminate the service all together? (Landry-Altmann, J)**

Answer:

Currently there are 31 crossing guard locations. Societal norms have changed and, over the years, these crossing locations have seen a decline in children crossing on foot. This indicates it would be appropriate to review the potential for change based on the Council approved School Crossing Guard Policy (attached). We will provide a further report to Council no later than the second quarter of 2020. This could result in the elimination of the service. Prior to closing crossing locations, Transit and Traffic Staff will review and determine the need to maintain existing service or replace with additional safety mitigation measures for the area such as signage and/or pedestrian crossings signals.

**4. How much does the City have budgeted for the Driveway Culvert Subsidy Program? (McIntosh, D)**

Answer:

The 2020 budget includes approximately \$148,000 for the driveway culvert subsidy program.

**5. Please provide a breakdown of taxes by class. (Kirwan, R)**

Answer:

We have not received the year-end assessment roll to be used for the taxation year 2020. Therefore, the following is a breakdown of 2019 taxes.

Class	Taxation	Percentage
Residential	177,832,000	64.8%
Multi-residential	17,649,000	6.4%
Commercial	54,241,000	19.8%
Industrial	22,989,000	8.4%
Other	1,594,000	0.6%
Total	274,305,000	100%