

**Town of Labrador City
2025 Operating and Capital Budget**

**Presented by:
Councillor Jonathan Riviere, Chair
Finance and Administration Committee**

December 3, 2024

Mayor Adams, Council, Staff and Special Guests, on behalf of the Finance and Administration Committee, it is an honor to present our 2025 Operating and Capital Budget for the Town of Labrador City.

As required under the Municipalities Act, this is a balanced budget of \$39,462,827 comprised of \$25.2 million in operations and \$14.3 million in capital expenditures.

The 2025 budget, as always, will target the core responsibilities that enhance the quality of life for our residents such as: snow clearing, fire protection, safe drinking water, sewer, waste management, street paving, and recreational facilities.

Mayor Adams, we believe our budget reflects that we have listened to our residents and are providing for their needs.

Revenue

The Commercial and Business tax will remain at the same rates as 2024; however, the Residential Property Tax will increase from 5.12 mils to 6.62 mils. While there is an increase of 1.5 mils for 2025, our residential mil rate remains one of the lowest mil rates in the province.

The low-income threshold eligibility for property tax rebates will be increased based on the CPI index as follows:

- 90% rebate \$37,122 and dependent at \$7,381 for a limit of \$44,503 per household
- 50% rebate \$43,102 and dependent at \$7,381 for a limit of \$50,483 per household

The Council of Labrador City would like to thank the Iron Ore Company of Canada for their continued support with their grant in lieu of tax agreement which represents \$11,057,056.

For 2025, the majority of municipal fees remain the same except for equipment rentals, two permit fees, and recreation rentals. Further details are provided on Schedules A to F which can be viewed on our website.

Expenditures

In 2025, Council is committed to continuing our windrow snow clearing program for seniors and those with disabilities, along with our grant program for barrier-free/accessible infrastructure upgrades to commercial properties.

Mayor Adams, we would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the dedication and hard work of our Volunteer Fire Brigade; which currently has 40 members. The annual honorarium to our volunteers will remain at \$2,600 per year. Their operating grant has increased from \$8,500 to \$10,000.

Council is pleased to continue to contribute to the operation of the Accessible Van with an operating grant of \$100,000.

We are thrilled that we will be offering IronFest again this year. Stay tuned for Save the Date in the near future!

Wellness

Your Worship, Council has always strived to maintain financial support to community volunteer groups, leisure groups, and sports organizations. We recognize that our volunteers are at the very heart of our community. The Committee recommends continuing the support to service clubs, sports and leisure groups, and charitable organizations at the same budgeted level as 2024 with the exception of an increase of \$25,000 for the larger groups.

In partnership with the Town of Wabush and IOC, the Town of Labrador City will continue the community black fly and mosquito control programs. This quality-of-life program for the region allows residents to enjoy the summer months outdoors.

Capital Programs

Capital projects for 2025 will include some of the following items:

- An investment of \$180,000 into the continuation of our walking trail;
- \$ 1.2 million for an expansion of the Skateboard Park;
- \$ 189,000 for 3 new vehicles to replace our aging fleet;
- \$ 60,000 for 3 new gravelly tractors; and
- \$ 90,000 for a French Fry vending Machine for the Arena;

There are also several borrowing projects that will be started in 2025, including:

- Minor Softball Clubhouse
- Storm Sewer Upgrades (Duley / Walsh River / Harrie Lake)
- 2024 Street Reconstruction
- Gymnastics Building

In response to the housing crisis in our area, Council recently applied for funding to install storm, water and sewer infrastructure on Waxwing (behind Raven Avenue) with potential for service of 52 dwellings if approved. We are also currently working with stakeholders to apply for funding for a senior's complex in the same area that will have a capacity of 30 apartments.

We are also continuing our reserve accounts for the Al Thoms Recreation Area, Wabush Narrows Crossing, Infrastructure Upgrades and Booth Master Plan.

Council will also be looking for Ministerial approval to finance through long term loans the following projects:

- Fire Hall Emergency Generator
- Arena Storage Building
- Willow Drive Phase I
- Baseball Diamond

Council is very pleased with this year's budget which allows for the continuation of the exemplary services that our residents have become accustomed to.

Respectfully Submitted:

Councillor Jonathan Riviere, Chair
Finance and Administration Committee