

Good evening, everyone. Welcome to the presentation of The Town of Wabush 2025 Municipal Budget.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of Mayor Barron, Mr. Charlie Perry, Ms. Tiffanee Rideout, our dedicated staff, and councilors. Your unwavering commitment to serving the residents of the Town of Wabush is commendable, and your hard work does not go unnoticed.

With the current economy, we recognize the challenges faced by our residents. Just as homeowners are experiencing increased costs for their daily living, the Town is also incurring higher expenses to provide essential services and programs.

With that reality before us, for Budget 2025 we focused on our needs, those expenditures which are required to operate the Town of Wabush in the manner which our residents deserve and expect.

I am pleased to present a balanced budget for the 2025 fiscal year, totaling \$15,037,453. This budget encompasses both operating and capital expenditures, featuring a reduction in the residential mill rate to 6.8, while maintaining the commercial rate at 21.0.

For the 2025 tax year, property assessments have risen. Despite the reduced mil rate, residents may notice a slight increase in their tax obligations. We understand that any increase can impact our residents; however, we believe that the adjusted mil rate will still provide the necessary revenue to sustain our Town's operations.

We are also aware that some residents may face challenges in meeting their tax obligations. Therefore, the Town of Wabush will continue to offer an 80% tax reduction for families with an income not exceeding \$32,500, and a 50% tax reduction for families with an income not exceeding \$45,000. Further details regarding this initiative will be included in the 2025 Tax Structure.

Before we finalize the 2025 budget, I would like to take a moment to reflect on some of the significant activities that have taken place in our Town over the past year.



### WABUSH

#### \*\*Recreation\*\*

The year 2024 marked a significant milestone for recreation, with the signing of the MOU for regional recreation. The Labrador West recreation community stands to benefit greatly from this new regional committee, and we are eager to see the positive developments it will bring. In 2025, we will commence the installation of stairs, a canopy, a wheelchair-accessible ramp, and new doors for the Mike Adam Recreation Complex, addressing long-standing accessibility concerns. In collaboration with ACOA & DIET, we have removed the boardwalk on the Jean Lake Trail, aligning with our regional strategy to enhance the trail experience for our residents. Additionally, in partnership with the Rotary, we have installed new lighting along the town side of the trail for nighttime use. For 2025, we will continue to enhance the Jean Lake Trail by replacing the bridges at the south end, completing the final phase of its comprehensive upgrade. We will also be installing steps from the overflow parking area to the arena, facilitating safer access for users. Significant upgrades to the bowling alley are planned for 2025, including the replacement of pinsetters and the installation of an electronic scoreboard.

# \*\*Public Works\*\*

In 2024, the Town acquired a new 2025 Tandem Dump truck to enhance our fleet, allowing for efficient material movement while reducing rental costs. Additionally, we installed three new fire hydrants as part of our annual maintenance program. In 2025, we will continue to repair and replace fire hydrants as needed and undertake a full resurfacing of Scully Drive.

# \*\*Capital Programs\*\*

In 2024, extensive patchwork was completed throughout the Town. For 2025, alongside our annual patching program, we will be tendering for street reconstruction on portions of 1st and 2nd Avenue, which will include the installation of new storm infrastructure.



### WABUSH

\*\*Water Treatment\*\*

In 2024, the Town received two new pumps for the Fresh Water Pump House. Once installed, these pumps will enhance reliability and extend the lifespan of the pump house until we secure funding for a complete replacement.

# \*\*Conclusion\*\*

The 2025 Budget outlines our strategic plans and priorities for the upcoming year, enabling us to operate within our financial means and budgetary framework. On behalf of the Council, I extend my gratitude to our staff for their considerable efforts in supporting the budget process. I look forward to our collaborative work in the year ahead.

Residents are encouraged to access a copy of the official budget submission on the Town's website at www.labradorwest.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Burke, Chairperson

Finance & Admin Committee