



LABRADORCITY

Town of Labrador City 2026 Council Budget Speech

Presented by:
Councillor Jonathan Riviere, Chair Administration & Finance
December 9, 2025

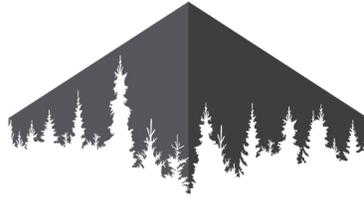
Good evening Mayor Brown, fellow Councillors, Staff, and Residents,

It is my pleasure and privilege to present the 2026 budget for Labrador City—a community built on resilience, innovation, and the spirit of working together. Council is proud to serve you, and this budget reflects our commitment to maintaining high-quality services, investing in our future, and acting as responsible stewards of your tax dollars.

Investing in Our Community

This year's budget totals \$31,211,190. We have worked hard to ensure that essential services—like snow clearing, fire protection, safe drinking water, waste management, street paving, and recreation—remain strong and reliable for every resident.

We continue to support our Fire Department, whose dedication keeps our community safe. Our window snow clearing program for seniors and those with disabilities, and our grant program for barrier-free upgrades to commercial properties, are just a few examples of how we strive to make Labrador City accessible and welcoming for all.



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Fiscal Responsibility and Cost Pressures

While the cost of services—particularly snow clearing and garbage collection—have increased due to new contracts, Council has worked diligently to hold the mil rate steady, resulting in no increase to taxes this year. Achieving this required tough decisions and careful trimming of expenditures. However, we must acknowledge that the rising cost of living is impacting Labrador City, and as costs continue to increase, maintaining the status quo will become more challenging. In the future, we may need to consider either increasing revenues or adjusting service levels, meaning difficult decisions will remain ahead. We are committed to keeping residents informed and involved as we navigate these challenges together.

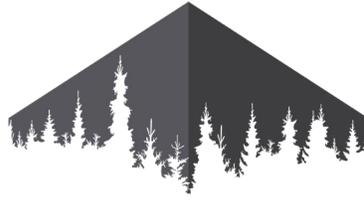
Tourist Accommodation Tax By-Law

Council has adopted a new Tourist Accommodation Tax By-Law, introducing a 4% tax rate on tourist accommodations. This initiative will provide the Town with an additional source of revenue, dedicated exclusively to supporting and enhancing tourist-related purposes and activities in Labrador City.

Building for the Future

Despite necessary cuts, we remain dedicated to investing in our community, from our youth to our seniors. This year, Council is proud to announce the creation of two scholarships, valued at \$5,000, for high school students pursuing post-secondary education.

Our capital projects for 2026 include investments in recreation facilities and infrastructure upgrades. We are also responding to the housing crisis by seeking funding for new storm, water, and sewer infrastructure, and working with stakeholders to develop seniors housing.



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Community Investment: Over \$1 Million Supporting Residents

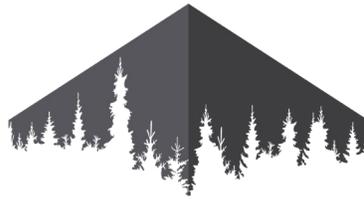
Council is proud to highlight that over \$1 million (\$1,028,900) is being invested directly into our community through a wide range of programs and initiatives, including:

- \$14,000 in donations to local causes
- \$250,000 in service club support and property tax rebates
- \$364,000 in grants for programs such as Whitewolf trail grooming, the Accessible Van, and the Swimming Pool
- \$75,000 in Matrix Grants
- \$186,400 in recreation grants and subsidies
- \$56,000 to support travel for community initiatives
- \$83,500 for Gateway, tourism, business development, and joint community projects

These investments reflect our ongoing commitment to supporting residents, organizations, and the vitality of Labrador City.

Ensuring Public Trust

Council understands the pressures facing families and businesses. We're making changes to our donations policy and developing a Special Initiatives/Grant Policy with a formal application process for 2026. These steps will ensure fairness and transparency, so every dollar spent delivers clear benefits to Labrador City. Details will be forthcoming in the new year.



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Regional Collaboration

We recognize that our strength lies in partnership. Council is taking a new approach to regional services and looks forward to working with our Town of Wabush partners to develop a shared vision for Labrador West. Together, we can build a region that offers opportunity and quality of life for all.

Wellness and Community Spirit

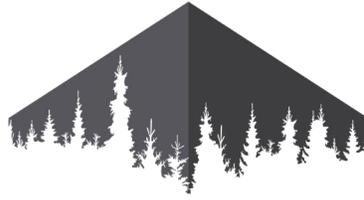
Our volunteers, leisure groups, and sports organizations are the heart of Labrador City. Council is committed to maintaining support for these groups, and to programs that enhance wellness and quality of life—like the black fly and mosquito control program, and the return of IronFest.

We are pleased to announce additional investments into the continuation of our walking trail. This project not only enhances recreation and wellness opportunities for residents of all ages but also strengthens our commitment to making Labrador City an active and connected community.

Looking Ahead

As we move into 2026, Council recognizes the importance of working together with our residents to shape the future of Labrador City. We will begin a process to engage the community in developing a new strategic vision for and with the Town. By inviting input and ideas from all corners of our community, we aim to ensure that our priorities and plans reflect the needs and aspirations of those who call Labrador City home.

Thank you for your trust and support. Council looks forward to working with you in the year ahead, building a Labrador City that is strong, inclusive, and ready for the future.



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Respectfully submitted

Councillor Jonathan Riviere

Chair, Finance and Administration

