



Press Release

CITY OF PORT COQUITLAM

PRESS RELEASE

CITY INVITES PUBLIC INPUT ON 2009 – 2013 FINANCIAL PLAN

Port Coquitlam, BC ... January 6, 2009 ... Port Coquitlam citizens have two ways to get involved in the City's 2009 - 2013 budget process and participate in financial planning sessions scheduled in January 2009. City Council invites all citizens to attend two public input sessions being held on January 12 and 13. The public can also provide comments via an online survey that will be available on the City's website as of January 13.

"City Council understands the current financial and economic times are difficult for many in our community and there is a need to manage city resources in the most cost effective manner possible," said Mayor Greg Moore. "In 2009 City Council introduced a number of cost savings measures balanced with a need to continue delivering the city services valued by our residents and businesses."

Community feedback is an important part of Port Coquitlam's budget process and allows Council to confirm community priorities and understand what Port Coquitlam citizens value most when it comes to allocating their tax dollars. To help achieve this objective, the public is invited to attend and provide their feedback at the following two public sessions:

- Monday, January 12, 2009 from 7 to 7:30 pm during a Regular Meeting of Council – Director of Corporate Services, Mindy Smith, will provide an overview presentation of the staff proposed 2009 - 2013 Financial Plan
- Tuesday, January 13, 2009 from 5:30 to 9 pm – Members of the Corporate Management Team will provide an overview of City Services through Departmental Business Plans

Both sessions will allow for public input into the proposed plans, as well as provide the community an opportunity to hear the City of Port Coquitlam's planned services and projects for the upcoming year. All presentations will be held in the Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, Port Coquitlam City Hall, 2580 Shaughnessy Street.

In addition, for the first time, the City will include an online component to its financial planning input opportunities. As of January 13 citizens can also provide feedback online by completing Port Coquitlam's Financial Plan survey, which can be accessed at www.portcoquitlam.ca/budget or via the City of Port Coquitlam page on Facebook. The online resources will also include copies of the presentations made at the public input sessions and the 2009-2013 Financial Plan documents.

Port Coquitlam Mayor Greg Moore supported the new online component as a convenient and easy way for all members of the community to get involved and provide their input to Council.

“The City’s online Financial Plan survey is yet another example of how we can use online resources to engage our citizens,” said Moore. “As we set next year’s tax rate and make the decisions that affect our community, Council wants to make informed choices for the provision of local government services and facilities. Citizen participation is vital and important to that process.”

To assist participants, copies of the staff proposed 2009 - 2013 Financial Plan will be available as of January 9, 2009 on the City’s website (www.portcoquitlam.ca/budget) or by contacting the City’s Budget Officer, Theresa Flynn, at 604-927-5486 or budget@portcoquitlam.ca, or in person at City Hall during regular business hours.

All comments received by January 16, 2009 will be considered by Council in the finalization of the 2009 – 2013 Financial Plan. Comments may be forwarded to the City in the following manner:

Website survey: www.portcoquitlam.ca/budget
E-mail: budget@portcoquitlam.ca
Fax: 604-927-5403
Mail: Budget Officer
2580 Shaughnessy Street
Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 2A8

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Mindy Smith
Director of Corporate Services
City of Port Coquitlam
Tel 604.927.5211
Email smithm@portcoquitlam.ca