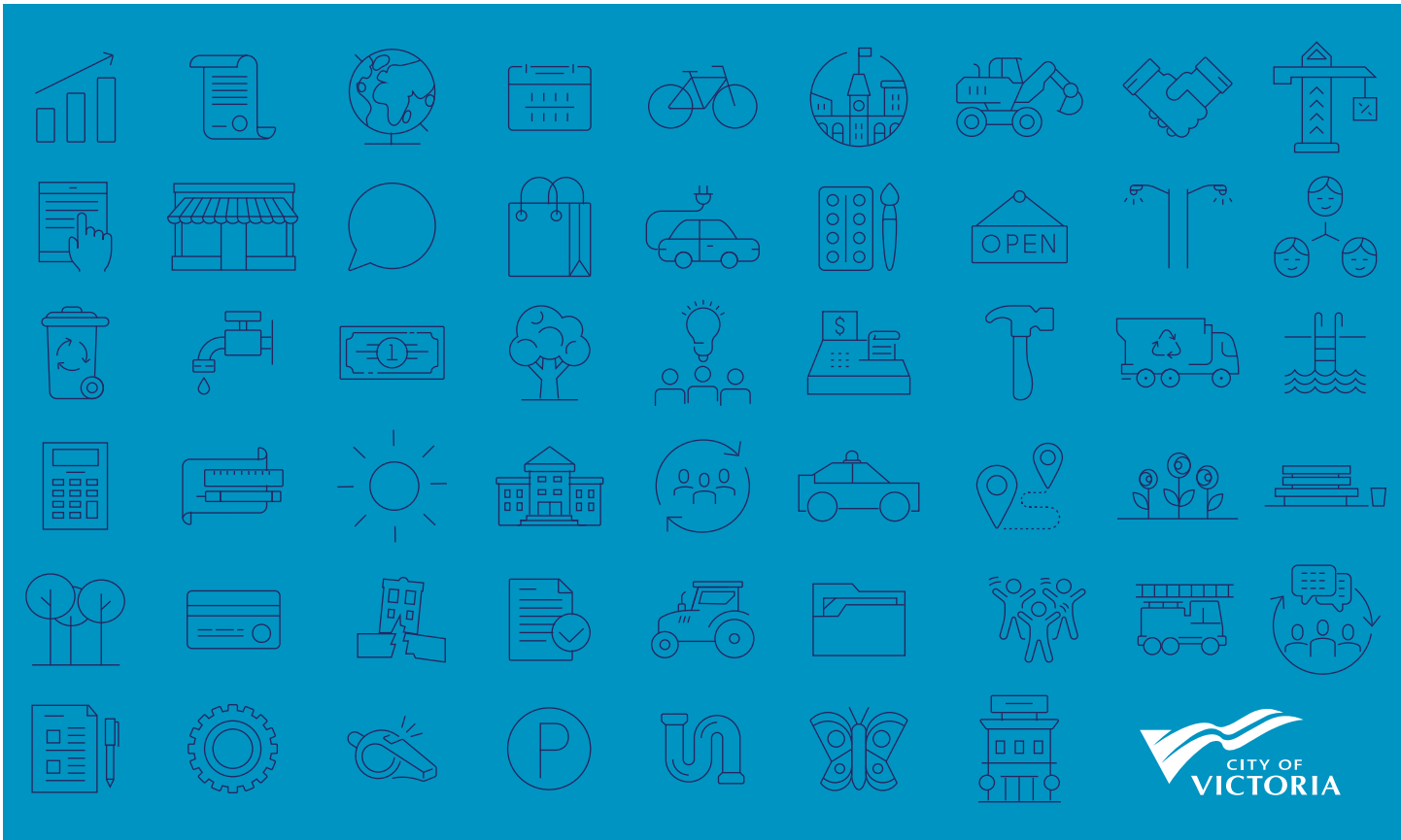


2022

ATTACHMENT C

# Written Budget Feedback



## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 18, 2021 10:24 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** City Tax Changes

Mayor and Council:

Three quick thoughts;

1. Tax the Permissive Tax Exemption back, or a significant portion, if there is a windfall profit on lands sold as in the case of 1201 Fort/Truth Center.
2. Build up the Parks Acquisition fund. As we densify we will need more parks for those living in multi unit residential. Court yards are not enough. (perhaps too much CAC money is being diverted to housing)
3. Support on street mental health and drug interdiction services with a separate budget item. I would suggest taking \$500,000.00 from city "nice to have" projects.(city poets, festivals, parades,) Support the police. They have been given an increasingly tougher task over the years. (both issues because of Provincial/Federal cutbacks)

S. 22

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 18, 2021 10:16 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Competent Municipal Governance ... (or lack thereof)

Victoria Council,

I have completed the survey ... I'm fortunate to own a downtown business, and two residential rental properties in Victoria.

There are some things your Council has done of which I am in favor. Alas ... lots that I am not. I feel that you have taken on lots of issues which ARE very important but fall well outside the purview of municipal government.

The core responsibility must be for public services, facilities ... and above all, public safety. Your council seems to have lost sight of this.

I am blessed that I pay a significant amount of property tax ... this does not annoy me. Where, and how, it's being spent does.

I'm all in favor of bike lanes and many other initiatives ... but not if this means sacrificing public safety. I, as a taxpayer, do not have a bottomless check book, and I value my business & my tenants. I just want my tenants, staff, (and my son), to be able to safely shop downtown, walk to the grocery store after dark, and to enjoy Beacon Hill Park.

Crystal Pool ( and other facility / infrastructure matters) seem to have gotten lost ... as has common sense? Please change course.

Regards,

S. 22

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

---

**From:** Bernard Sauvé <gm@dancevictoria.com>  
**Sent:** November 18, 2021 8:12 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

Mayor and Council,

Re: Cultural infrastructure grant program

Please make the program a permanent grant and increase the amount allocation to \$250,000.

Dance Victoria applied for a grant in the amount of \$15,000 and received \$12,500 from the program to implement some upgrades and buy specialized equipment to upgrade be able to easily adapt one its studio for film making. With the seed grant from the City Infrastructure program we were able to leverage funding from the Canadian Heritage Cultural Space Infrastructure program in the amount of \$53,000. We will apply to the BC Arts Council Infrastructure Program with a deadline of January 14, 2022 and having 2 successful grant allocations is an asset. Dance Victoria will invest money from its accumulated surplus to complete this substantial and costly undertaking. We can't stress enough the importance to the City of Victoria Infrastructure program and to make the program a permanent allocation to the City's budget. These investments are for the city, its citizens, and all of its resident artists.

Thank you.

Bernard Sauvé

Description of the project:

*"DV will upgrade its Vernon Studio at its Quadra Village facility so that it can be easily adapted for film making. Currently the venue is outfitted as a dance studio with mirrors, sound, and live streaming capacity. The Vernon is one of two studios on the upper floor at Dance Victoria that can be joined together when the air-wall separating them is opened. In this configuration, the Vernon acts as the "performance space." Portable seating risers are set up in the other studio so that it becomes the "audience chamber."*

*Because the Vernon is the performance space, there is a grid installed at ceiling level and currently, a number of theatre lighting instruments are affixed to this grid. A number of floor-length black velour drapes are tied off on the grid as well.*

*The upgrade will allow DV to purchase additional black velour drape and install a traveler so that the drapes can be easily swept around the perimeter of the studio to provide a clean, smooth backdrop for filming. The largest expense in the plan is the acquisition of new lighting equipment suitable for filming (which requires brighter light than theatrical lighting can provide). These new LED instruments, mounted on the existing grid in the Vernon, will be more energy efficient. As well they provide a full spectrum of colour that in some cases and be splashed onto DV's white cyclorama hung in front of the back wall of the studio. Finally, a new, updated lighting console will be purchased to control the LED lights.*

*The Society's mandate includes "supporting diverse emerging dance artists and choreographers." The upgrade is in response to a trend that emerged during the pandemic. When independent dance artists were confronted with canceled contracts and lost performance opportunities, many shifted almost overnight to making dance films to be shared online. DV is making this investment to provide its resident artists and the community with a facility that allows them to continue their experimentation with film. Prior to making a*

*decision to proceed with this project, DV canvassed the creative community in Victoria and Vancouver and learned that 87% of these artists are interested in experimenting with film. 77% said they would use the upgraded facility. Emerging online dance festivals and other performance platforms are seeking creative content. DV can provide our region's artists with the facility to participate in this new global marketplace."*

Bernard Sauvé  
General Manager  
Dance Victoria  
250-595-1829

gm@dancevictoria.com

111 - 2750 Quadra Street  
Victoria, BC V8T 4E8

<https://dancevictoria.com/getnews>



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## Dale Vanelli

---

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 18, 2021 12:24 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft budget 2022 feedback

Dear Victoria City Council, Mayor, and City Staff,

I am writing to you with my feedback on the 2022 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria. Below I will discuss six key points that need to be addressed: housing, the Victoria police department, accessibility, bylaw, public engagement, and free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples.

### Housing:

Currently, the city of Victoria is experiencing a housing crisis, and there is a lack of affordable and expedited housing options available that meet the needs of unhoused and insecurely housed people. However, the current plans reflected in the proposed city budget outline an intent to incentivize developers and landlords, rather than prioritize the housing process for renters. There needs to be more concrete and expedited housing solutions. In the budget it is stated that there are \$120 million of funds from all three levels of government that will be used to create affordable low end market housing and housing for “chronically homeless people”, however, it is not stated where and when these temporary supportive housing or “low-income apartments” are being built. For instance, in the budget Pandora housing construction does not begin until 2024. Housing solutions need to be created tangibly, and immediately to address the lack of housing.

I am calling on city council to allocate the budget to concrete and expedited housing solutions that tangibly address the urgent nature of the housing crisis, rather than prioritizing landlords and developers.

### Victoria Police Department:

In the budget an increase is proposed for crowd management and patrolling in response to larger scale organized demonstrations. This money is prioritizing the policing of events, rather than community care supports present at these events. Rather than budgeting for police patrol at events, it would be important to consider how this money can be put into the community to reflect the demands of demonstrators. For example, the proposed budget increase for “crowd management” and patrolling could be used for community created/supported solutions ie. a community crisis response team that is trained in de-escalation, trauma-informed, and anti-oppressive tactics.

I am calling on city council to allocate the money for police “crowd management” to support community created solutions that promote safety, care, harm reduction, and anti-oppression at events and demonstrations.

### Accessibility:

The budget outlines many projects regarding accessibility. However, it is impossible to determine what accessibility needs are needed without consultation with those who experience disabilities and/or have varying needs. Consultation with these voices is not noted in the proposed budget, and without these voices being at the forefront of the conversation, decisions made will further contribute to ableist architecture and program development. Consulting populations with relevant lived experience helps to maintain accessibility of projects.

I am calling on city council to welcome communities with lived experience into decision making regarding accessibility and to make decisions directly informed by their needs.

Bylaw:

Within the proposed budget, a large portion of bylaw services is dedicated to patrolling parks and taking down illegal shelters (ie. taking down shelters of those who are tenting in the park because they do not have housing). Rather than the budget being allocated to bylaw services to patrol parks and to remove “illegal” sheltering, this money should be funneled into long term housing solutions and anti-poverty measures, such as comprehensive healthcare, food justice supports and more. If budgets intended for patrolling and tearing down sheltering were allocated to relevant services, such as food justice and housing, this would decrease the need for shelters in parks.

I am calling on city council to allocate the funding, that would be used to remove shelters, instead towards long-term housing solutions for those who currently have no choice but to shelter in public spaces.

Public Engagement

The Community Wellness and Peer Informed Task Force and Citizen’s Assembly have both been terminated due to completing their assigned tasks. We need these groups, or similar community participatory task forces, with new project focuses to remain funded in 2022 and beyond to allow for increased community engagement/consultation. The winding down of both of these groups means less funding and fewer pathways for equitable community engagement and consultation. It is vital for these initiatives to continue on with new project focuses, to ensure that the community is included in decision making. Alongside this, measures should be taken to make the budget review process more accessible to all folks in the community. The annual city budget is quite a dense, large, and inaccessible project. With its size and jargon, it can be quite difficult to access/understand for many who do not have the time or capacity to thoroughly read and understand the document. There needs to be tangible solutions created that make engaging in this document more accessible. Many people simply do not have the spare time and capacity to engage in municipal affairs. City council needs to ensure that folks from all walks of life are providing their input for the city’s decision-making processes.

Some ways to consider doing this could be to: split the budget into sections and review each section by section, rather than once a year all at once. Or, if there will continue to be an annual budget review process, there should be more than one town hall meeting and these should be held at varying times of the day, to allow for people with varying schedules to attend. These measures should be accompanied by funded citizen task forces that operate year-round, as noted above, to ensure increased public consultation.

I am calling on city council to make engagement in municipal affairs, such as the annual city budget, more accessible for the community- so that all community members have an opportunity to engage in, understand, and have a say in municipal affairs.

## Prior and Informed Consent with Indigenous Nations:

The ɫəkʷəŋən peoples should have informed consent for all projects occurring on their unceded territory. Despite statements made by the Mayor and Council about “decolonizing practices”, city council continues to have final say even after consultation with the nations. This is in direct violation of the rights of ɫəkʷəŋən peoples Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. How will the city mayor and council address this violation of rights?

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a specific right that pertains to Indigenous peoples and is recognised in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It allows them to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories. Once they have given their consent, they can withdraw it at any stage. Furthermore, FPIC enables them to negotiate the conditions under which the project will be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated. This is also embedded within the universal right to self-determination.

I am calling on city council to address this violation of rights and to move forward by respecting local Indigenous nations' Free, Prior, and Informed Consent on city decision-making processes that occur on their unceded territory.

I urge you to listen to these points made and the needs of the community. We have the opportunity to address inequity in our city and create a thriving community for all who live here. Your responsibility as city employees is to make decisions informed by what the public wants and the public is asking you to divest funding from unnecessary punitive measures and use those funds to create secure housing, food security, and increased equitable public engagement in city affairs.

Sincerely,

S. 22



## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 11:39 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Budget

The most important thing on my mind is that you provide the funding to save Kings Rd Green space between Haultain and Kings, I go there at least once a day with my dog. It is peaceful and soothing for me. It is quite busy with dogs and people and often I meet patients or friends of patients from the cancer clinic. It is a beloved green space and myself and many others would be devastated if it was not kept as this lovely sanctuary. It is very much a part of the neighbourhood I have lived in for the last 20 years. Please save this beloved park with the necessary funding.

Sincerely,

S. 22

Sent from my iPad

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:**  
**To:** Engagement  
**Cc:** Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew (Councillor); Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); S. 22  
**Subject:** This year's budget survey

Greetings,

I'm writing to provide feedback on the draft budget for 2022/23.

I have done the budget survey for a number of years, so am aware of the questions asked in previous iterations. This year I notice that the survey (linked from <https://engage.victoria.ca/2022-draft-budget>) is heavily focussed on evaluating specific supplemental requests -- with 50 questions about specific proposed supplementary budget line items -- plus a few questions about rating of strategic priorities and satisfaction with two components of City infrastructure (transportation and parks). The only question I could find on the proposed operating or capital expenses is question 8: "Do you have any comments or suggestions you would like to share about the City's operating or capital budgets proposed for 2022?"

My impression of this approach is that Council has already made up its mind regarding operating and capital budgets and is not interested in hearing substantive input from the public around the overall weighting of the budget, which as in past years is heavily skewed to funding law and bylaw enforcement with over 25% of the proposed operating budget going to social control, and a proposed increase of more than 7% to the VicPD. In contrast very little of the proposed operating budget is allocated for the kind of transformative work that is needed here so everyone can thrive in healthy relationships to land and each other. I'm not seeing any funding for substantive decolonization (such as return of stolen lands, restitution for wealth amassed from stolen resources, and repair of settler-damaged Lkwungen territories and economies), the kind of mass-scale rapid transitions needed to address climate change, or reduction of social inequities. I'm not even seeing basic care to make sure that everyone living here has access to basics like adequate housing, nutritious food, etc. Instead what I see is that millions are proposed for containment through coercion / threat / punishment and a so-called "sheltering support program" that is actually about cleanup (treating people as trash).

Given this I'm not sure what to say about the budget, other than it is revealing around the vision for this city as one where only rich people are supported to live, where the priority is a security force to maintain the status quo rather than a commitment to change the unhealthy aspects of the status quo. I find it very sad that the City has gone in this direction and wish that there was the political will to consider doing things differently. If we invested wisely in needed infrastructure and collectively decided to take responsibility for social problems, we could live in a community where people are committed to treating each other fairly, we solve problems non-violently, and we share rather than being greedy. But instead this city seems so stuck in upholding the hoarding of wealth and creating hierarchies of normalcy that privilege some and isolate others. This budget once again pours funding into reactive, force-oriented approaches that create safety for some and violence for others, instead of putting money towards the things that create public safety for everyone. It continues a colonial

legacy of perpetrating massive theft and violence, then turning around and blaming a tiny community with the least structural power -- disproportionately Indigenous people -- with committing crimes against good upstanding citizens.

It's also revealing that attempts to have discussion about the most responsible approach to public safety are being derailed by some individuals who insist that if we don't give police the money they've asked for, we're being violent to police. Positioning police as the victims of community advocates is not honest about who has power in society and once again invisibilizes the survival struggles of the people who are most negatively impacted by the criminal punishment system. While I can sympathize with how difficult it feels to be unappreciated (as I witness every day the impact of lack of appreciation of people in the street community who do incredible community work despite being constantly harassed, underfunded, exploited, and largely unpaid) it would be completely irresponsible for us as a society to not talk about public safety and law / bylaw enforcement. We can talk and must about these issues, which affect everyone but especially the people who are most targeted for surveillance and criminalization. It would be deeply irresponsible, and indeed against Council's own stated strategic priorities, to not talk about the largest operating expense in Council's budget. It's also not doing police any favors to not have frank conversations about the impossible position they are being put in as a group being called on to fix problems they can't actually fix.

I've written many letters to Council and staff, and presented to Council many times, about the inherent violence and unsustainability of trying to solve social problems through a law enforcement approach. I've given you many examples of realistic things that are being done in other cities to shift to more constructive approaches to social problems, and I've shared examples of what I do personally as an individual. But I don't know that any of that has had any impact whatsoever. Decision-makers in this City seem determined to stick with only considering a policing approach to poverty, substance use, and mental illness (all of which are deeply racialized in their impacts) and to keep pushing this city in the direction of becoming a gated community where the "haves" live in fear of the "have-nots" and manage that fear and anxiety through armed guards. There's nothing new to say about that, just sadness that this is where things are at, and especially deep sadness about the mess we are creating for younger generations.

Sincerely,

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 8:33 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft budget 2022

We need to know more about the proposed Grant for first nations and how this will benefit the taxpayers of Victoria. What will the funds be used for, and how was such a Grant conceived? Also, it seems to have no end, and will only grow each year. Such a Grant, along with race-based housing, services and funding only serves to promote racism, rather than eliminate it.

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 7:15 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

To the Mayor and Council,

I am impressed that the city has a Financial Sustainability Policy in which to fall back on *when* a rainy day comes. This is unfortunately all too rare these days for governments to plan ahead and save for the future, protecting our young from ubiquitous enslavement to debt via taxes; that being said, with the tumultuous couple years we've had enduring the pandemic and all the associated economic restrictions, I can't help but think that it may be in the best interest of the *citizens* to let us keep more of our money rather than taking more than necessary to put in reserve. Keeping property taxes at an even level rather than continuing to increase them may be just the thing we need to pay that expense burden that has outstripped our income due to the economic effects associated with COVID. City revenue will continue to increase as long as development continues and new property taxes are added to the revenue stream. Why tack on any more burden than necessary to us taxpayers who are already stretched to the limit via the regressive taxes of provincial and federal governments? I urge you to at least consider a middle ground of minimizing property taxes and placing some money in reserve or better yet, replace \$800 000 in current property taxes with the incoming taxes of new developments!

One other thing I would like to speak on; downtown Victoria has changed for the significant worse in the past few years. More and more, I am hearing people say they have little desire to go downtown beyond what is absolutely necessary. Yesterday over dinner, our friends shared that one of their neighbours got his arm slashed when he first moved to Victoria while walking downtown by a complete stranger, unprovoked. He required multiple surgeries to repair the knife damage to his arm. I'm believe this is becoming more and more common. For risk of sounding like a broken record, I lend my full support to increasing funds to public safety within reason to accomplish the most expeditious reform of the downtown core. Bylaw officers should not have to be protected by police on regular occasions. People should not have to fear random assaults walking along the streets. Empower our law enforcement officers who have a very difficult job as it is, to do their job robustly and feel supported.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

---

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 6:20 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** new budget

I think we spent enough money on bike lanes.  
We would like to see improvements to our swimming pool. When money will be allocated to go there?

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

---

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 6:15 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft budget 2022 feedback

I am not in favour of sending our taxpayers money to the local indigenous nations. There are many venues for individuals to donate funds to the indigenous peoples if they choose to do so. It is not the City's mandate to take our money and send it away for other causes.

I would prefer it if council could stick to the business of running the city business effectively

Incidentally, today I noticed yet another Victoria business (Oh Sugar) relocating out of town (Uptown Saanich)

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 5:32 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Budget 2022

Recovery first. Budget should Not include Hiring till we get business and people back to work.  
Please refrain from spending to such a degree, put on pause, other than VPD which requires full support.  
Thank you.

S. 22

Sent from my iPhone



## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 5:28 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

Dear Victoria City Council, Mayor, and City Staff,

I am writing to you with my feedback on the 2022 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria. Below I will discuss six key points that need to be addressed: housing, the Victoria police department, accessibility, bylaw, public engagement, and free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples.

### 1. Housing:

Currently, the city of Victoria is experiencing a housing crisis, and there is a lack of affordable and expedited housing options available that meet the needs of unhoused and insecurely housed people. However, the current plans reflected in the proposed city budget outline an intent to incentivize developers and landlords, rather than prioritize the housing process for renters. There needs to be more concrete and expedited housing solutions. In the budget it is stated that there are \$120 million of funds from all three levels of government that will be used to create affordable low end market housing and housing for “chronically homeless people”, however, it is not stated where and when these temporary supportive housing or “low-income apartments” are being built. For instance, in the budget Pandora housing construction does not begin until 2024. Housing solutions need to be created tangibly, and immediately to address the lack of housing.

I am calling on city council to allocate the budget to *concrete* and *expedited* housing solutions that tangibly address the urgent nature of the housing crisis, rather than prioritizing landlords and developers.

### 2. Victoria Police Department:

In the budget an increase is proposed for crowd management and patrolling in response to larger scale organized demonstrations. This money is prioritizing the policing of events, rather than community care supports present at these events. Rather than budgeting for police patrol at events, it would be important to consider how this money can be put into the community to reflect the demands of demonstrators. For example, the proposed budget increase for “crowd management” and patrolling could be used for community created/supported solutions ie. a community crisis response team that is trained in de-escalation, trauma-informed, and anti-oppressive tactics.

I am calling on city council to allocate the money for police “crowd management” to support community created solutions that promote safety, care, harm reduction, and anti-oppression at events and demonstrations.

3. Accessibility:

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I am calling on city council to welcome communities with lived experience into decision making regarding accessibility and to make decisions directly informed by their needs.

4. Bylaw:

Within the proposed budget, a large portion of bylaw services is dedicated to patrolling parks and taking down illegal shelters (ie. taking down shelters of those who are tenting in the park because they do not have housing). Rather than the budget being allocated to bylaw services to patrol parks and to remove “illegal” sheltering, this money should be funneled into long term housing solutions and anti-poverty measures, such as comprehensive healthcare, food justice supports and more. If budgets intended for patrolling and tearing down sheltering were allocated to relevant services, such as food justice and housing, this would decrease the need for shelters in parks.

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5. Public Engagement

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and capacity to engage in municipal affairs. City council needs to ensure that folks from all walks of life are providing their input for the city's decision-making processes.

Some ways to consider doing this could be to: split the budget into sections and review each section by section, rather than once a year all at once. Or, if there will continue to be an annual budget review process, there should be more than one town hall meeting and these should be held at varying times of the day, to allow for people with varying schedules to attend. These measures should be accompanied by funded citizen task forces that operate year-round, as noted above, to ensure increased public consultation.

I am calling on city council to make engagement in municipal affairs, such as the annual city budget, more accessible for the community- so that all community members have an opportunity to *engage in, understand, and have a say* in municipal affairs.

## 6. Prior and Informed Consent with Indigenous Nations:

The ləkʷəŋən peoples should have informed consent for all projects occurring on their unceded territory. Despite statements made by the Mayor and Council about “decolonizing practices”, city council continues to have final say even after consultation with the nations. This is in direct violation of the rights of ləkʷəŋən peoples Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. How will the city mayor and council address this violation of rights?

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a specific right that pertains to Indigenous peoples and is recognised in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It allows them to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories. Once they have given their consent, they can withdraw it at any stage. Furthermore, FPIC enables them to negotiate the conditions under which the project will be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated. This is also embedded within the universal right to self-determination.

I am calling on city council to address this violation of rights and to move forward by respecting local Indigenous nations' Free, Prior, and Informed Consent on city decision-making processes that occur on their unceded territory.

I urge you to listen to these points made and the needs of the community. We have the opportunity to address inequity in our city and create a thriving community for all who live here. Your responsibility as city employees is to make decisions informed by what the public wants and the public is asking you to divest funding from unnecessary punitive measures and use those funds to create secure housing, food security, and increased equitable public engagement in city affairs.

Sincerely,

S. 22



## Dale Vanelli

---

**From:** Kegan McFadden, VAC <ed@vicartscouncil.ca>  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 4:00 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

To the Mayor & Council,

As a grassroots organization with longstanding ties to the community since the 1960s, a membership of over 150 individual artists/art supporters and local businesses, the Victoria Arts Council applauds the efforts to ensure arts and culture is among the budget highlights for 2022 and we strongly encourage our Councillors to vote in favour of ensuring these important investments to the betterment of civic life here are not overlooked.

Specifically, we want to see us all work together to "Continue to support the design, production and installation of public art through the City's Artist-in-Residence program, Indigenous Artist-in-Residence program, Commute: Bus Shelter Art program, Commercial Alley Outdoor Art Gallery, and Kiosk program, and a Public Art Symposium. In addition, champion the literary arts with the annual City of Victoria Butler Book Prize and Children's Book Prize and support the Poet Laureate and Youth Poet Laureate programs."

Over the past year we have worked directly with Dylan Thomas (Indigenous Artists-in-Residence) on an international presentation of his artwork, having taken place in Morioka Japan as well as a corresponding group exhibition of Coast Salish artists here in Victoria. Similarly, we have presented the work of both Poet Laureate John Barton as well as current Youth Poet Laureate James Summer (in addition to having worked with nearly all past Youth Poets Laureate) through our publishing programs. Our artist members have had their visual art presented through the various art in public places throughout the City, for which we applaud these opportunities to engage with art day-to-day.

In addition, the newly incorporated Cultural Infrastructure Grant is an important step in the right direction for a small-sized city with big development plans. The VAC was fortunate to receive a grant through this new funding stream earlier this year which has meant improvements to our main gallery, including accessibility upgrades. I have previously written to you about our involvement with this specific program [email: 5 Oct 2021] and I remain enthusiastic at the possibilities for art spaces in Victoria because of these grants. However, without the continued and ongoing support from Council for the Cultural Infrastructure Grant our reputation as a city that values culture and people will be tarnished and certainly not be able to sustain the diversity of operations as prices rise and nonprofits as well as the cultural workers who maintain them are forced further and further afield.

Please vote for Arts and Culture.

Sincerely,

--

Kegan McFadden  
Executive Director  
Victoria Arts Council  
lək'wəŋən Territories  
PO BOX 8453 Stn Central  
Victoria, British Columbia  
V8W 3S1

Main Gallery and Administrative Office: 1800 Store Street

778.533.7123

[vicartscouncil.ca](http://vicartscouncil.ca)

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 1:23 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** budget

Good Afternoon

We filled the survey out and just want to emphasize the direction we believe the city should go in at least for the short term , keeping in mind the unprecedented events, with their associated costs, of the last 2 years.

There are many infrastructure issues (roads for one a new pool for another) that should be addressed before embarking on new and ongoing grants and subsidies for local indigenous communities which ought to be a larger regional legitimate concern

In view of the weather events on the last few days and the enormous negative effect on the island and primarily the province as a whole re transportation and infrastructure needs, there should be more emphasis on climate mitigation and contingency planning for the inevitable future events..

Sincerely

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 12:53 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Victoria Budget

Hi,

We trust that the proposed budget will include a similar top up for EV charging stations in condo buildings as instituted in Saanich.

Regards,  
S. 22



## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 11:58 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

I wish to give feedback for the suggestion that Victoria City Council apply a local native Reconciliation Grant that would be taken from their annual new construction revenue.

First of all, with tax issues aside (based on the above sentence, I can't see that such a grant would, in fact, affect taxpayers), I agree with Geoff Young that this burden should be on the provincial & federal government, not the City of Victoria.

However, perhaps consideration could be given to the City of Victoria taking a stand on the matter by jump-starting action to fund it for one year only. That could be publicized widely to push provincial & federal government into taking over what should be their responsibility.

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** Victoria Regional Pickleball <vicrpba@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 11:09 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

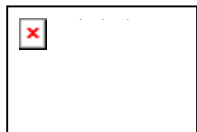
November 17, 2021

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of the membership of the Victoria Regional Pickleball Association, I am writing to ask you to include funding for Phase 2, Topaz Park Plan, which scheduled 6 dedicated pickleball courts to be built at Topaz. We know that in the last budget cycle Phase 1 was scheduled and we were expecting to see the next Phase to be brought forward. There is a growing need for dedicated pickleball courts in our Region and in particular, in the City of Victoria, which has zero dedicated courts. We are aware of the recent additional lines to tennis courts in a number of City Parks. Both pickleball players and tennis players will tell you that although it is one way to increase court space it is not a perfect solution. The best solution is dedicated courts especially in an appropriate site and Topaz Park is an appropriate site. VRPA's members have involved themselves in the planning process for Topaz and were positive that the first dedicated courts in the City were coming soon. We encourage Council to continue with Phase 2 and budget accordingly. There is one alternative, albeit, not our first choice. The unused sports box could be converted to pickleball courts for under \$100,000 and could be done in a short period of time. It would quickly add more choices to players which is a positive. However, building the 6 dedicated courts according to the Plan is much preferred. If the Council agreed to fund pickleball courts for the Sport Box we ask that the 6 dedicated courts not be removed from Phase 2 of the Plan. Every single one of these courts are needed to alleviate the pressure for places to play. In September 2022, the 55+ Games will be taking place and pickleball is one of the sports included in the Games. If the City builds the Phase 2, 6 dedicated pickleball courts, then, the City becomes a partner in the Games not a bystander. We thank you for taking the time to consider our request and for assisting our Association in meeting the needs of a fun, healthy and growing sport.

Regards,  
Connie McCann  
President

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VRPA



[victoriapickleball.org](http://victoriapickleball.org)

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 10:12 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** City budget

Please find ways to increase the numbers of trees and greenspace – anything to ameliorate climate change; keep any wetlands intact; preserve as much of our intact garry oak habitat as possible, and restore what has been damaged.  
Thanks very much, S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** Public Hearings  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 10:01 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** FW: Support for arts venues in City of Victoria Budget planning

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Peter Sandmark <peter@fluxmediagallery.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 17, 2021 9:31 AM  
**To:** Public Hearings <PublicHearings@victoria.ca>  
**Cc:** S. 22  
**Subject:** Support for arts venues in City of Victoria Budget planning

Dear Mayor Helps and Victoria City Council members:

I am writing on behalf of the Independent Media Producers Network Society, known as MediaNet, and for our FLUX media gallery.

Founded in 1981, we are celebrating 40 years of supporting artists and presenting works of film and video art to the general public. Over the years our organization has had to move many times, largely due to the cost of rental spaces within the downtown core area.

We feel the City must pay special attention in order to ensure that arts organizations can manage to stay in the downtown, presenting cultural events for the entire Greater Victoria public.

We have been fortunate to receive support from the City of Victoria's recent Cultural Infrastructure grant program, to help us set up our new FLUX gallery location, and we strongly urge the Council to continue and even enlarge the program. Funding for arts groups to plan for new spaces, renovate or even acquire venues is crucial if we are to ensure the arts can continue to exist in Victoria.

Sincerely yours,

Peter Sandmark  
FLUX media gallery and MediaNet Executive Director

Cc. Jason Lei, President, MediaNet

<https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fflux-media-gallery.squarespace.com%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cengage%40victoria.ca%7C284dfecd699a4150219208d9a9f42cef%7Cd7098116c6e84d2a89eedb15b6c23375%7C0%7C0%7C637727688448153918%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&psdata=83ITsNKUOJ%2Bu1qglvA%2Fsxb7q%2FWSdklbahQXG6KTZiLI%3D&reserved=0>

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 9:34 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Budgeting

Don't do fancy things. The bike lanes are now empty for most of winter. Traffic sits idling at traffic Lights adding more emissions than before the bike lanes!! Lights are very badly timed.. put on An experienced person to rectify this. Cut back in spending... don't spend it all. We cannot afford continual increases in all areas, while wages stay stagnant...especially taxes.

Be wise for the times ....

Best regards, S. 22

Sent from my iPhone

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 9:02 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Budget

I am totally against the proposal to provide grants to First Nations from our tax revenue. It is irresponsible and in the years to come will be unsustainable. Funding for Indigenous Peoples is not the responsibility of civic governments.

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 8:51 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Police Budget - Citizen(s) Input

Hello,

The proposal to increase the police budget is, in our opinion, an absolute minimum. And that as only a stop gap solution. In the long run much more policing and a much larger policing budget is required. There are many reasons for a radical increase. We are sure better informed people than us will know many of them. Please see our modest input below.

The main reason, for my wife and I, is the fact that the South West coast in general and the South Island in particular is the closest Canada has to a 'California' in terms of mild weather. This attracts many well off folks. But it also attracts the crowd that asks the question: "Where can I move in Canada where I can be most comfortable to stay outside during all seasons?". Ergo the larger proportion of homeless people in Victoria. Coupled with young age, a lack of ambition, desire to party and increased alcohol/drug use it leads to more crime. The full gambit of crime from petty bylaw infractions to serious theft and assault. And please accept that, despite our natural tendency to be optimistic about the human race, there will always be people who feel no civic duty or even a need to follow laws. Despite multiple organizations attempting to improve the situation of people with these proclivities over the decades there has been little change in the numbers. That has always been the case always will be. The problem can only be policed and curtailed by legal means.

We feel these problems, particular in the downtown core, cannot be solved until there are regular and multiple walking patrols by the police. We recognize this would require a tremendous increase in the police budget. But, in the long run, the cost to the province and its citizens would be lower than the cost inflicted upon all by the bad behaviours of the group(s) involved. In addition more foot patrols would hopefully decrease the 'catch and release' policy prevalent now. A policy that has had many, many failures.

We firmly believe that Victoria Council's ideals should be based on reality; not reality based on ideals. Please remember the pure definition of 'ideals':

"Existing as a mental image or in fancy or imagination only...

Broadly: lacking practicality"

*Merriam-Webster*

Thank you,

S. 22

Retired citizens who just wish to feel safe on our streets, parks & at home.

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 8:51 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Budget

Hello,

First of all, I will say that your website is broken, as it will not accept a postal code when required to register. If I can't register, I can't take your survey.

I personally want to see the Police budget increased dramatically. We need far more police officers with their boots on the ground, and also available for calls, urgent or not. Waiting for police help is NOT an acceptable option, as is the case now. We need a *presence* on the urban streets. The bike idea was a good one; I don't see much of them any more.

You will need to raise taxes to accomplish this. I am certain that you will be surprised at the lack of push back *if you explain that the money will go to the police budget (and what part of it) and then just do it*. People are willing to pay taxes, just not on moving 'nice-to-have' items pushed ahead of 'we-gotta-have-it' items.

I think that current Council has completely mis-read the citizens' priorities regarding governance in Victoria. Time to backtrack and make things right.

Sincerely,  
S. 22



## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 8:22 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Budget 2022 Input

Hi There;

As someone who has been through many public budgeting exercises, this year when the call to provide input to the 2022 City of Victoria budget came, I initially thought, "Ah, I'm going to pass on putting my 2 cents worth in this time - let the new generation do that." Then, Councillor Andrew posted on FB about the opportunity to provide input in support of \$50K for storage lockers for those who aren't housed. Instantly I grabbed that passed torch back so I could say my piece. I can't think of anything more helpful or needed for those without their own place to store day-to-day items for living than a secure storage locker. I know the anguish and disruption my unhoused cousin S. 22 faced daily having his unsecured goods stolen while he slept or momentarily set them down. Hauling his large packsack and sleeping bag around was a great encumbrance, made worse as he has a permanently damaged hip.

So, on behalf of dear S. 22 and all who are unhoused, I hope that the \$50K for storage makes its way into the 2022 City of Victoria budget.

Many thanks, Joanne

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 7:22 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** RE: new funding for indigenous groups as a sign of good will

I just had a look at the proposed 3.25% city budget, which reminded me to give feedback on council's consideration to provide a percentage of goodwill funding to indigenous groups on an ongoing basis.

I DO NOT agree with this proposal. This is not the role of the city mayor and councilors to allocate our city tax dollars to. This is not what tax dollars are meant to fund.

Other levels of government, with our tax dollars, are providing money to support indigenous groups. Especially concerning is the suggestion it be done on an ongoing percentage basis.

Again, I DO NOT SUPPORT or agree with this proposal.

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 16, 2021 9:06 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** 2022 Draft Budget Feedback

I shall keep my comments short and to the point.

Stop wasting our precious tax dollars on those bleeding heart initiatives.

Fix the pot holes in the roads, and for once try asking Vic Pd just what's it going to take to restore law and order on the streets. Stop forcing Vic Pd to operate under impossible conditions by means of a

skeleton budget forced upon them.

S. 22

Victoria, property tax payer.

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 16, 2021 6:07 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

Dear Victoria City Council, Mayor, and City Staff,

I am writing to you with my feedback on the 2022 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria. Below I will discuss six key points that urgently need to be addressed moving forward: housing, the Victoria police department, accessibility, bylaw, public engagement, and free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples.

### 1. Housing:

Currently, the city of Victoria is experiencing a housing crisis, and there is a lack of affordable and expedited housing options available that meet the needs of unhoused and insecurely housed people. However, the current plans reflected in the proposed city budget outline an intent to incentivize developers and landlords, rather than prioritize the housing process for renters. There needs to be more concrete and expedited housing solutions. In the budget it is stated that there are \$120 million of funds from all three levels of government that will be used to create affordable low end market housing and housing for “chronically homeless people”, however, it is not stated where and when these temporary supportive housing or “low-income apartments” are being built. For instance, in the budget Pandora housing construction does not begin until 2024. Housing solutions need to be created tangibly, and immediately to address the lack of housing.

I am calling on city council to allocate the budget to *concrete* and *expedited* housing solutions that tangibly address the urgent nature of the housing crisis, rather than prioritizing landlords and developers.

### 2. Victoria Police Department:

In the budget an increase is proposed for crowd management and patrolling in response to larger scale organized demonstrations. This money is prioritizing the policing of events, rather than community care supports present at these events. Rather than budgeting for police patrol at events, it would be important to consider how this money can be put into the community to reflect the demands of demonstrators. For example, the proposed budget increase for “crowd management” and patrolling could be used for community created/supported solutions ie. a community crisis response team that is trained in de-escalation, trauma-informed, and anti-oppressive tactics.

I am calling on city council to allocate the money for police “crowd management” to support community created solutions that promote safety, care, harm reduction, and anti-oppression at events and demonstrations.

### 3. Accessibility:

The budget outlines many projects regarding accessibility. However, it is impossible to determine what accessibility needs are needed without consultation with those who experience disabilities and/or have varying needs. Consultation with these voices is not noted in the proposed budget, and without these voices being at the forefront of the conversation, decisions made will further contribute to ableist architecture and program development. Consulting populations with relevant lived experience helps to maintain accessibility of projects.

I am calling on city council to welcome communities with lived experience into decision making regarding accessibility and to make decisions directly informed by their needs.

#### 4. Bylaw:

Within the proposed budget, a large portion of bylaw services is dedicated to patrolling parks and taking down illegal shelters (ie. taking down shelters of those who are tenting in the park because they do not have housing). Rather than the budget being allocated to bylaw services to patrol parks and to remove “illegal” sheltering, this money should be funneled into long term housing solutions and anti-poverty measures, such as comprehensive healthcare, food justice supports and more. If budgets intended for patrolling and tearing down sheltering were allocated to relevant services, such as food justice and housing, this would decrease the need for shelters in parks.

I am calling on city council to allocate the funding, that would be used to remove shelters, instead towards long-term housing solutions for those who currently have no choice but to shelter in public spaces.

#### 5. Public Engagement

The Community Wellness and Peer Informed Task Force and Citizen’s Assembly have both been terminated due to completing their assigned tasks. We need these groups, or similar community participatory task forces, with new project focuses to remain funded in 2022 and beyond to allow for increased community engagement/consultation. The winding down of both of these groups means less funding and fewer pathways for equitable community engagement and consultation. It is vital for these initiatives to continue on with new project focuses, to ensure that the community is included in decision making. Alongside this, measures should be taken to make the budget review process more accessible to all folks in the community. The annual city budget is quite a dense, large, and inaccessible project. With its size and jargon, it can be quite difficult to access/understand for many who do not have the time or capacity to thoroughly read and understand the document. There needs to be tangible solutions created that make engaging in this document more accessible. Many people simply do not have the spare time and capacity to engage in municipal affairs. City council needs to ensure that folks from all walks of life are providing their input for the city’s decision-making processes.

Some ways to consider doing this could be to: split the budget into sections and review each section by section, rather than once a year all at once. Or, if there will continue to be an annual budget review process, there should be more than one town hall meeting and these should be held at varying times of the day, to allow for people with varying schedules to attend. These measures should be accompanied by funded citizen task forces that operate year-round, as noted above, to ensure increased public consultation.

I am calling on city council to make engagement in municipal affairs, such as the annual city budget, more accessible for the community- so that all community members have an opportunity to *engage in, understand, and have a say* in municipal affairs.

6. Prior and Informed Consent with Indigenous Nations:

The ləkʷəŋən peoples should have informed consent for all projects occurring on their unceded territory. Despite statements made by the Mayor and Council about “decolonizing practices”, city council continues to have final say even after consultation with the nations. This is in direct violation of the rights of ləkʷəŋən peoples Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. How will the city mayor and council address this violation of rights?

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a specific right that pertains to Indigenous peoples and is recognised in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It allows them to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories. Once they have given their consent, they can withdraw it at any stage. Furthermore, FPIC enables them to negotiate the conditions under which the project will be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated. This is also embedded within the universal right to self-determination.

I am calling on city council to address this violation of rights and to move forward by respecting local Indigenous nations' Free, Prior, and Informed Consent on city decision-making processes that occur on their unceded territory.

I urge you to listen to these points made and the needs of the community. We have the opportunity to address inequity in our city and create a thriving community for all who live here. Your responsibility as city employees is to make decisions informed by what the public wants and the public is asking you to divest funding from unnecessary punitive measures and use those funds to create secure housing, food security, and increased equitable public engagement in city affairs.

Sincerely,

S. 22

*She/they/he*

*I am an uninvited guest on the traditional and unceded territories of the ləkʷəŋən speaking peoples; the Esquimalt, Songhees, and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. I would like to give thanks to and acknowledge the strengths and resiliency of its peoples, despite historical and current injustices, and to state my commitment to actively participating in antiracism and dismantling colonialism.*

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 16, 2021 5:17 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

Dear Victoria City Council, Mayor, and City Staff,

I am writing to you with my feedback on the 2022 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria. Below I will discuss six key points that need to be addressed: housing, the Victoria police department, accessibility, bylaw, public engagement, and free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples.

### 1. Housing:

Currently, the city of Victoria is experiencing a housing crisis, and there is a lack of affordable and expedited housing options available that meet the needs of unhoused and insecurely housed people. However, the current plans reflected in the proposed city budget outline an intent to incentivize developers and landlords, rather than prioritize the housing process for renters. There needs to be more concrete and expedited housing solutions. In the budget it is stated that there are \$120 million of funds from all three levels of government that will be used to create affordable low end market housing and housing for “chronically homeless people”, however, it is not stated where and when these temporary supportive housing or “low-income apartments” are being built. For instance, in the budget Pandora housing construction does not begin until 2024. Housing solutions need to be created tangibly, and immediately to address the lack of housing.

I am calling on city council to allocate the budget to *concrete* and *expedited* housing solutions that tangibly address the urgent nature of the housing crisis, rather than prioritizing landlords and developers. Alongside increased rental protection for tenants and regulating of the rental market.

### 2. Victoria Police Department:

In the budget an increase is proposed for crowd management and patrolling in response to larger scale organized demonstrations. This money is prioritizing the policing of events, rather than community care supports present at these events. Rather than budgeting for police patrol at events, it would be important to consider how this money can be put into the community to reflect the demands of demonstrators. For example, the proposed budget increase for “crowd management” and patrolling could be used for community created/supported solutions ie. a community crisis response team that is trained in de-escalation, trauma-informed, and anti-oppressive tactics.

I am calling on city council to allocate the money for police “crowd management” to support community created solutions that promote safety, care, harm reduction, and anti-oppression at events and demonstrations.

### 3. Accessibility:

The budget outlines many projects regarding accessibility. However, it is impossible to determine what accessibility needs are needed without consultation with those who experience disabilities and/or have varying needs. Consultation with these voices is not noted in the proposed budget, and without these voices being at the forefront of the conversation, decisions made will further contribute to ableist architecture and program development. Consulting populations with relevant lived experience helps to maintain accessibility of projects.

I am calling on city council to welcome communities with lived experience into decision making regarding accessibility and to make decisions directly informed by their needs.

#### 4. Bylaw:

Within the proposed budget, a large portion of bylaw services is dedicated to patrolling parks and taking down illegal shelters (ie. taking down shelters of those who are tenting in the park because they do not have housing). Rather than the budget being allocated to bylaw services to patrol parks and to remove "illegal" sheltering, this money should be funneled into long term housing solutions and anti-poverty measures, such as comprehensive healthcare, food justice supports and more. If budgets intended for patrolling and tearing down sheltering were allocated to relevant services, such as food justice and housing, this would decrease the need for shelters in parks.

I am calling on city council to allocate the funding, that would be used to remove shelters, instead towards long-term housing solutions for those who currently have no choice but to shelter in public spaces.

#### 5. Public Engagement

The Community Wellness and Peer Informed Task Force and Citizen's Assembly have both been terminated due to completing their assigned tasks. We need these groups, or similar community participatory task forces, with new project focuses to remain funded in 2022 and beyond to allow for increased community engagement/consultation. The winding down of both of these groups means less funding and fewer pathways for equitable community engagement and consultation. It is vital for these initiatives to continue on with new project focuses, to ensure that the community is included in decision making. Alongside this, measures should be taken to make the budget review process more accessible to all folks in the community. The annual city budget is quite a dense, large, and inaccessible project. With its size and jargon, it can be quite difficult to access/understand for many who do not have the time or capacity to thoroughly read and understand the document. There needs to be tangible solutions created that make engaging in this document more accessible. Many people simply do not have the spare time and capacity to engage in municipal affairs. City council needs to ensure that folks from all walks of life are providing their input for the city's decision-making processes.

Some ways to consider doing this could be to: split the budget into sections and review each section by section, rather than once a year all at once. Or, if there will continue to be an annual budget review process, there should be more than one town hall meeting and these should be held at varying times of the day, to allow for people with varying schedules to attend. These measures should be accompanied by funded citizen



task forces that operate year-round, as noted above, to ensure increased public consultation.

I am calling on city council to make engagement in municipal affairs, such as the annual city budget, more accessible for the community- so that all community members have an opportunity to *engage in, understand, and have a say* in municipal affairs.

6. Prior and Informed Consent with Indigenous Nations:

The ɫəkwəŋən peoples should have informed consent for all projects occurring on their unceded territory. Despite statements made by the Mayor and Council about “decolonizing practices”, city council continues to have final say even after consultation with the nations. This is in direct violation of the rights of ɫəkwəŋən peoples Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. How will the city mayor and council address this violation of rights?

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a specific right that pertains to Indigenous peoples and is recognised in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It allows them to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories. Once they have given their consent, they can withdraw it at any stage. Furthermore, FPIC enables them to negotiate the conditions under which the project will be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated. This is also embedded within the universal right to self-determination.

I am calling on city council to address this violation of rights and to move forward by respecting local Indigenous nations' Free, Prior, and Informed Consent on city decision-making processes that occur on their unceded territory.

Additionally on Pg. 643 of the Draft Budget, re: Project: Bus Shelter Installation, “By improving the level of amenities at bus stops, the City promotes greater use of transit, reducing single occupancy vehicle trips in the City.”

-Wouldn't decreasing or abolishing fares promote greater use of transit and allow for greater accessibility to those who cannot afford fares currently?

On Pg. 705: Public Washroom Improvements, “For 2022, staff propose investments to existing public washrooms in Beacon Hill Park, including the buildings located on Nursery Road and at the intersection of the Cook St and Dallas Road.”

-In the upcoming year will there be any new construction of washrooms? Because of the increase in sheltering in public spaces and the continuation of the COVID pandemic- construction of new bathrooms in areas where there are none is critical. Public bathrooms benefit everyone for various reasons; whether it be people who are sheltering, people who experience incontinence, younger children etc.

I urge you to listen to these points made and the needs of the community. We have the opportunity to address inequity in our city and create a thriving community for all who live here. Your responsibility as city employees is to make decisions informed by what the public wants and the public is asking you to divest funding from unnecessary punitive measures and use those funds to create secure housing, food security, and increased equitable public engagement in city affairs.

Sincerely,  
S. 22

a concerned citizen of Victoria

S. 22

*They/them*

*Settler on ləkʷəŋən and WSÁNEĆ lands. I stand in solidarity with Indigenous sovereignty and acknowledgement of the historical and contemporary colonial harms that have been enacted by settlers to Indigenous folks.*

## Dale Vanelli

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S. 22

**From:**  
**Sent:** November 16, 2021 4:47 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

Dear Victoria City Council, Mayor, and City Staff,

I am writing to you with my feedback on the 2022 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria. Below I will discuss six key points that need to be addressed: housing, the Victoria police department, accessibility, bylaw, public engagement, and free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples.

### 1. Housing:

Currently, the city of Victoria is experiencing a housing crisis, and there is a lack of affordable and expedited housing options available that meet the needs of unhoused and insecurely housed people. However, the current plans reflected in the proposed city budget outline an intent to incentivize developers and landlords, rather than prioritize the housing process for renters. There needs to be more concrete and expedited housing solutions. In the budget it is stated that there are \$120 million of funds from all three levels of government that will be used to create affordable low end market housing and housing for “chronically homeless people”, however, it is not stated where and when these temporary supportive housing or “low-income apartments” are being built. For instance, in the budget Pandora housing construction does not begin until 2024. Housing solutions need to be created tangibly, and immediately to address the lack of housing.

I am calling on city council to allocate the budget to *concrete* and *expedited* housing solutions that tangibly address the urgent nature of the housing crisis, rather than prioritizing landlords and developers.

### 2. Victoria Police Department:

In the budget an increase is proposed for crowd management and patrolling in response to larger scale organized demonstrations. This money is prioritizing the policing of events, rather than community care supports present at these events. Rather than budgeting for police patrol at events, it would be important to consider how this money can be put into the community to reflect the demands of demonstrators. For example, the proposed budget increase for “crowd management” and patrolling could be used for community created/supported solutions ie. a community crisis response team that is trained in de-escalation, trauma-informed, and anti-oppressive tactics.

I am calling on city council to allocate the money for police “crowd management” to support community created solutions that promote safety, care, harm reduction, and anti-oppression at events and demonstrations.

### 3. Accessibility:

The budget outlines many projects regarding accessibility. However, it is impossible to determine what accessibility needs are needed without consultation with those who experience

disabilities and/or have varying needs. Consultation with these voices is not noted in the proposed budget, and without these voices being at the forefront of the conversation, decisions made will further contribute to ableist architecture and program development. Consulting populations with relevant lived experience helps to maintain accessibility of projects.

I am calling on city council to welcome communities with lived experience into decision making regarding accessibility and to make decisions directly informed by their needs.

#### 4. Bylaw:

Within the proposed budget, a large portion of bylaw services is dedicated to patrolling parks and taking down illegal shelters (ie. taking down shelters of those who are tenting in the park because they do not have housing). Rather than the budget being allocated to bylaw services to patrol parks and to remove “illegal” sheltering, this money should be funneled into long term housing solutions and anti-poverty measures, such as comprehensive healthcare, food justice supports and more. If budgets intended for patrolling and tearing down sheltering were allocated to relevant services, such as food justice and housing, this would decrease the need for shelters in parks.

I am calling on city council to allocate the funding, that would be used to remove shelters, instead towards long-term housing solutions for those who currently have no choice but to shelter in public spaces.

#### 5. Public Engagement

The Community Wellness and Peer Informed Task Force and Citizen’s Assembly have both been terminated due to completing their assigned tasks. We need these groups, or similar community participatory task forces, with new project focuses to remain funded in 2022 and beyond to allow for increased community engagement/consultation. The winding down of both of these groups means less funding and fewer pathways for equitable community engagement and consultation. It is vital for these initiatives to continue on with new project focuses, to ensure that the community is included in decision making. Alongside this, measures should be taken to make the budget review process more accessible to all folks in the community. The annual city budget is quite a dense, large, and inaccessible project. With its size and jargon, it can be quite difficult to access/understand for many who do not have the time or capacity to thoroughly read and understand the document. There needs to be tangible solutions created that make engaging in this document more accessible. Many people simply do not have the spare time and capacity to engage in municipal affairs. City council needs to ensure that folks from all walks of life are providing their input for the city’s decision-making processes.

Some ways to consider doing this could be to: split the budget into sections and review each section by section, rather than once a year all at once. Or, if there will continue to be an annual budget review process, there should be more than one town hall meeting and these should be held at varying times of the day, to allow for people with varying schedules to attend. These measures should be accompanied by funded citizen task forces that operate year-round, as noted above, to ensure increased public consultation.

I am calling on city council to make engagement in municipal affairs, such as the annual city budget, more accessible for the community- so that all community members have an opportunity to *engage in, understand, and have a say* in municipal affairs.

#### 6. Prior and Informed Consent with Indigenous Nations:

The ləkʷəŋən peoples should have informed consent for all projects occurring on their unceded territory. Despite statements made by the Mayor and Council about “decolonizing practices”, city council continues to have final say even after consultation with the nations. This is in direct violation of the rights of ləkʷəŋən peoples Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. How will the city mayor and council address this violation of rights?

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a specific right that pertains to Indigenous peoples and is recognised in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It allows them to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories. Once they have given their consent, they can withdraw it at any stage. Furthermore, FPIC enables them to negotiate the conditions under which the project will be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated. This is also embedded within the universal right to self-determination.

I am calling on city council to address this violation of rights and to move forward by respecting local Indigenous nations' Free, Prior, and Informed Consent on city decision-making processes that occur on their unceded territory.

I urge you to listen to these points made and the needs of the community. We have the opportunity to address inequity in our city and create a thriving community for all who live here. Your responsibility as city employees is to make decisions informed by what the public wants and the public is asking you to divest funding from unnecessary punitive measures and use those funds to create secure housing, food security, and increased equitable public engagement in city affairs.

Sincerely,

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 16, 2021 11:34 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** 2022 DRAFT BUDGET FEEDBACK

Hello and good morning and thank you for again having an opportunity to provide input into your budget planning. This will be about year number 4 for me in providing ideas and thoughts, ALL of which have met with deaf ears and an apparent lack of fiscal prudence. But in the interest of public discourse, please allow me to offer.....

- with your proposed 3.25% increase in budget you again assume an endless supply of cash in the pockets of taxpayers of our fair city. And in the same breath as you increase taxes, you expect others to 'make things more affordable' for those who choose to live within the city's four walls.
- the Mayor's lament that parking revenue is down seems surprising to her. The same woman whose practices and ideals have made downtown unsafe due to crime and the never to end homeless issue. Coupled with her rapid, get in done before I leave in November 2022 bike lane projects, I visit downtown about 80% less than I did 5 years ago.
- Council's desire to have new programs or new employees or nice to haves must end. FOCUS on the CORE BUSINESS of what cities are expected to do!! Safety, roads and sewers, parks and garbage should be your priorities. NOT poet laureates or homeless advocacy or a pre-occupation with issues outside of your mandate. Stick to your knitting and do some things very well instead of alot of things haphazardly
- the preamble to the request for submissions speaks to 'maintaining current levels' of city services. Let me speak to those current levels resulting from paying attention as I walk my neighbourhood.....
- a city employee enjoyed a 45 minute coffee break while I sat in my local haunt. When I wrote to the city, I was dismissed as if i was intruding
- that employee works on a crew which I observed arriving on the job site at 8:35 am, leaving for coffee at 9:50 am returning at 10:30 am, leaving at 11:55 for lunch with a return at 1 pm. then departed the job at 2:30 pm never to return that day. Efficient NO. Cost effective NO Current levels maintained YES
- street sweepers visit our street sporadically. The job I assume is to sweep the curbs of debris. Cannot be done due to 70% of the curbside being occupied by cars. The sweeper goes down the middle of the road where there is no debris; when he can go along the curb it is done with such speed as to pick up a limited amount of debris. When asked repeatedly why not move vehicles as in other jurisdictions, I am again met with blank stares. Great leadership Efficient NO. Cost effective NO Current levels maintained YES
- lastly, what costs are associated with our brave firefighters taking time on their shift, driving a large pumper truck, to the Thrifty Foods to shop for dinner? Three of them to pick up groceries? I shop on my own time in my own vehicle.....is it a safety issue??

So, how about sending out a missive to your senior managers and department heads asking for them to be strategic in their spending? Look at cutting labour costs? Look at contracting out? Look at nice to haves vs. must haves?

As I noted in my opening paragraph, prior requests have been met with deaf ears. I expect nothing less again this year .

Thank for the opportunity.

Sincerely,

S. 22



## Dale Vanelli

---

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 16, 2021 10:08 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft budget 2022 feedback

Dear Victoria City Council, Mayor, and City Staff,

I am an Indigenous, queer, college student writing to you with my feedback on the 2022 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria. Below I will discuss six key points that need to be addressed: housing, the Victoria police department, accessibility, bylaw, public engagement, and free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples.

### 1. Housing:

Currently, the city of Victoria is experiencing a housing crisis, and there is a lack of affordable and expedited housing options available that meet the needs of unhoused and insecurely housed people. However, the current plans reflected in the proposed city budget outline an intent to incentivize developers and landlords, rather than prioritize the housing process for renters. There needs to be more concrete and expedited housing solutions. In the budget it is stated that there are \$120 million of funds from all three levels of government that will be used to create affordable low end market housing and housing for “chronically homeless people”, however, it is not stated where and when these temporary supportive housing or “low-income apartments” are being built. For instance, in the budget Pandora housing construction does not begin until 2024. Housing solutions need to be created tangibly, and immediately to address the lack of housing.

I am calling on city council to allocate the budget to *concrete* and *expedited* housing solutions that tangibly address the urgent nature of the housing crisis, rather than prioritizing landlords and developers.

### 2. Victoria Police Department:

In the budget an increase is proposed for crowd management and patrolling in response to larger scale organized demonstrations. This money is prioritizing the policing of events, rather than community care supports present at these events. Rather than budgeting for police patrol at events, it would be important to consider how this money can be put into the community to reflect the demands of demonstrators. For example, the proposed budget increase for “crowd management” and patrolling could be used for community created/supported solutions ie. a community crisis response team that is trained in de-escalation, trauma-informed, and anti-oppressive tactics.

I am calling on city council to allocate the money for police “crowd management” to support community created solutions that promote safety, care, harm reduction, and anti-oppression at events and demonstrations.

### 3. Accessibility:



The budget outlines many projects regarding accessibility. However, it is impossible to determine what accessibility needs are needed without consultation with those who experience disabilities and/or have varying needs. Consultation with these voices is not noted in the proposed budget, and without these voices being at the forefront of the conversation, decisions made will further contribute to ableist architecture and program development. Consulting populations with relevant lived experience helps to maintain accessibility of projects.

I am calling on city council to welcome communities with lived experience into decision making regarding accessibility and to make decisions directly informed by their needs.

#### 4. Bylaw:

Within the proposed budget, a large portion of bylaw services is dedicated to patrolling parks and taking down illegal shelters (ie. taking down shelters of those who are tenting in the park because they do not have housing). Rather than the budget being allocated to bylaw services to patrol parks and to remove “illegal” sheltering, this money should be funneled into long term housing solutions and anti-poverty measures, such as comprehensive healthcare, food justice supports and more. If budgets intended for patrolling and tearing down sheltering were allocated to relevant services, such as food justice and housing, this would decrease the need for shelters in parks.

I am calling on city council to allocate the funding, that would be used to remove shelters, instead towards long-term housing solutions for those who currently have no choice but to shelter in public spaces.

#### 5. Public Engagement

The Community Wellness and Peer Informed Task Force and Citizen’s Assembly have both been terminated due to completing their assigned tasks. We need these groups, or similar community participatory task forces, with new project focuses to remain funded in 2022 and beyond to allow for increased community engagement/consultation. The winding down of both of these groups means less funding and fewer pathways for equitable community engagement and consultation. It is vital for these initiatives to continue on with new project focuses, to ensure that the community is included in decision making. Alongside this, measures should be taken to make the budget review process more accessible to all folks in the community. The annual city budget is quite a dense, large, and inaccessible project. With its size and jargon, it can be quite difficult to access/understand for many who do not have the time or capacity to thoroughly read and understand the document. There needs to be tangible solutions created that make engaging in this document more accessible. Many people simply do not have the spare time and capacity to engage in municipal affairs. City council needs to ensure that folks from all walks of life are providing their input for the city’s decision-making processes.

Some ways to consider doing this could be to: split the budget into sections and review each section by section, rather than once a year all at once. Or, if there will continue to be an annual budget review process, there should be more than one town hall meeting and these should be held at varying times of the day, to allow for people with varying schedules to attend. These measures should be accompanied by funded citizen task forces that operate year-round, as noted above, to ensure increased public consultation.

I am calling on city council to make engagement in municipal affairs, such as the annual city budget, more accessible for the community- so that all community members have an opportunity to *engage in, understand, and have a say* in municipal affairs.

6. Prior and Informed Consent with Indigenous Nations:

The ləkʷəŋən peoples should have informed consent for all projects occurring on their unceded territory. Despite statements made by the Mayor and Council about “decolonizing practices”, city council continues to have final say even after consultation with the nations. This is in direct violation of the rights of ləkʷəŋən peoples Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. How will the city mayor and council address this violation of rights?

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a specific right that pertains to Indigenous peoples and is recognised in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It allows them to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories. Once they have given their consent, they can withdraw it at any stage. Furthermore, FPIC enables them to negotiate the conditions under which the project will be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated. This is also embedded within the universal right to self-determination.

I am calling on city council to address this violation of rights and to move forward by respecting local Indigenous nations' Free, Prior, and Informed Consent on city decision-making processes that occur on their unceded territory.

I urge you to listen to these points made and the needs of the community. We have the opportunity to address inequity in our city and create a thriving community for all who live here. Your responsibility as city employees is to make decisions informed by what the public wants and the public is asking you to divest funding from unnecessary punitive measures and use those funds to create secure housing, food security, and increased equitable public engagement in city affairs.

Sincerely,

## Dale Vanelli

---

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 16, 2021 10:08 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

Hello,

Please see below email sent Monday Nov. 15, 2021 regarding the above subject. Could I please have my email included in the formal process being discussed?

Kind regards,

S. 22

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** S. 22  
**Date:** Mon, 15 Nov 2021 at 10:36  
**Subject:** In support of increased police funding/resources and a "Safe City"  
**To:** <[mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca)>, <[mayorandcouncil@esquimalt.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@esquimalt.ca)>

Dear Mayor Lisa Helps and Council, Mayor Desjardins and Council,

I write this email to you to request an increase in police funding. I am very concerned about the escalating criminal activity that has emerged in our City. Victoria is in a State of Crisis with an alarming escalation in violence, anarchy and criminal activity – statistics prove that Victoria has become one of the most dangerous cities in Canada. The Vic PD has been underfunded, under-resourced and understaffed for many years and no longer has the necessary resources to counteract the rise in criminal activity and public disorder.

Public safety is critical for everyone. It is critical that the Mayor and Council begin a co-ordinated and aggressive advocacy effort to the BC Provincial Government for more funds to fulfill the drastic need for more support and social services for the homeless, mentally ill and addicted.

Although I am a resident of Saanich, I am often downtown for shopping, theatre-going and personal activities such as singing in the choir at the Victoria Conservatory on Pandora and Quadra. I feel more and more unsafe in Victoria, especially in the evening as I am often yelled at and occasionally followed for a few blocks while getting to my car. I have considered carrying personal protection in my purse. Having travelled to other countries in the past, I find myself feeling more at risk in my own city than I have in any other city I've travelled to (including Istanbul, Paris, London and Dublin). A result of this is that I am now travelling to other areas to do my shopping, etc. (like Langford and View Royal).

I am very sad at this situation as I grew up in Victoria and it has definitely not evolved into the confident, strong and beautiful city it should be.

It is essential that Mayors and Councils vote to invest in the safety and protection of its citizens by approving Vic PD's upcoming budget which includes an increase in police officers, mental health support positions and civilian staff.

Kind regards,

S. 22



## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 16, 2021 8:44 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

I am a long time hardened downtown resident, always comfortable walking to and from restaurants, concerts, shopping, late night walks. Lately that has changed. I went past Alex Gooldin Hall this weekend, and I can't see any way it can be used for concerts or classes. People won't be willing to pass all the tents, debris, angry street people. I have never seen so many out of control street people, damaged windows, smashed bottles from recycling bins, theft from local yards, cars, homes. For the first time in forty years of living in our house, we keep the gates bolted.

I am watching our beloved city being destroyed. And to hear that a majority of city council is against increasing the police budget terrifies me. We NEED to be able to feel safe on the streets, in our homes! Please please fund the police budget fully. What use are bike lanes if all the bikes get trashed or stolen?

Sent from my iPad

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** Public Hearings  
**Sent:** November 16, 2021 8:20 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** FW: REVISED opposition to Community Reconciliation Levy

Good morning,

Here is another email. Are you able to respond to the below?

Legislative Services  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6  
T 250.123.4567 C 250.123.4567



The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People.

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** Friday, November 12, 2021 2:51 PM  
**To:** Lisa Helps (Mayor) <LHelps@victoria.ca>; Marianne Alto (Councillor) <MAlto@victoria.ca>; Stephen Andrew (Councillor) <stephen.andrew@victoria.ca>; Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor) <sdubow@victoria.ca>; Ben Isitt (Councillor) <BIsitt@victoria.ca>; Jeremy Loveday (Councillor) <jloveday@victoria.ca>; Sarah Potts (Councillor) <spotts@victoria.ca>; Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor) <cth Thornton-joe@victoria.ca>; Geoff Young (Councillor) <gyoung@victoria.ca>  
**Cc:** Public Hearings <PublicHearings@victoria.ca>  
**Subject:** REVISED opposition to Community Reconciliation Levy

Hello Mayor and Councillors:

I am unable to attend the pre-budget town hall on November 17th. I am sending you this note instead.

I watched the meeting on November 4th, when you reached a compromise on the Community Reconciliation Levy. To me, the notion of sharing wealth with the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations has a lot of merit. However, I think the form you chose is wrong, in two main ways.

First, a long-term financial agreement -- "in perpetuity" is the phrase repeated during your meeting -- is too important to be settled with a survey and inclusion in one pre-budget town hall session. It demands a wider public debate, and it should be championed by people who pledge to be in office as it is implemented. It is disingenuous for a council to create a perpetual obligation in its last budget, hoping to bind future councils to the agreement. It is also unfair.

What I would support: Make a one-time commitment in the budget for 2022, and suggest a framework for future grants. Make sure the councillors and mayor who are elected in 2022 discuss that future. If you're running for election or re-election next year, make this a significant part of your campaign.

Second, the formula you propose for the grants is fatally flawed. The plan to repeat each year's total grant every year creates increases that cannot be sustained. The first year's grant is granted again in every subsequent year; the second year's grant is granted again in every subsequent year; and so on in perpetuity. The year-over-year increases appear manageable in the early years, but they compound very quickly. It appears that you are offering 15% of each year's New Assessed Revenue, but you are granting much more than that, and soon.

An example based on numbers used in your discussion: If New Assessed Revenue (NAR) remains stable at \$1,000,000 per year, you grant **\$150,000 or 15%** of NAR in the first year, and retain 85% for the City. By the fifth year, you have granted **\$2,250,000 or 45%** of accumulated NAR since 2022, and retained 55% for the City. By the tenth year, you have granted **\$8,250,000 or 82.5%** of accumulated NAR, and retained 17.5% for the City. By

the 13th year you have granted **\$13,650,000 or 105%** of accumulated NAR, retained none for the City, and have to finance **\$650,000 or 5%** of the grant from what I call General Revenue.

Councillor Alto, you made a decisive comment at the meeting on November 4th, saying the grant structure means "as the City is successful, so are the Nations." Your point was, if New Assessed Revenue is high one year, the grant will reflect that... if it is low the next year, the grant will also reflect that. Your assumption is incorrect. Compounding the grants year over year means the total grant invariably increases each year, and the rate of increase accelerates. Inevitably it consumes all the available funds.

If you put the numbers on a graph, you get a curve that rises slowly for the first few entries, then begins to climb steeply, until it is almost a vertical line. This type of growth is called "hyperbolic" - - the mathematical meaning, not the rhetorical meaning. Other terms we use with more familiarity these days are "geometric," "compounding," or "viral." Whatever you call it, a practical word is "unsustainable."

If you adopt the formula as proposed, you guarantee that one year soon the City will have transferred all of the accumulated NAR since 2022 to the Nations. Increases from that time forward will be all of the current year's NAR plus a top-up from General Revenue. The top-ups will also increase unsustainably.

Of course you know that a future council will not allow that to happen. What you are actually guaranteeing is that a future council will have to cancel the arrangement you set in motion, probably within the next term of office. When that happens, many will see it as another broken promise, another betrayal of



commitments, another lie. That will be so contrary to the spirit of reconciliation. It is unconscionable to establish a process that will inexorably lead to such hurt and recrimination.

What I would support: Make a one-time commitment in the 2022 budget. Let's say \$150,000 for the sake of discussion. Let the next council agree with the Nations on a "target amount," to be reached by 2026, during that council's time in office. Let's say \$600,000 for the sake of discussion. That would involve significant increases every year. The future council will agree to increase the "target amount" in subsequent years, by the same rate that general property taxes increase. Make the promise now and campaign for it in 2022, vigorously, as if you mean it.

I am attaching a spreadsheet showing the results if the New Assessed Revenue remains stable, for the sake of discussion. You can enter different numbers for New Assessed Revenue, to show it declining, increasing, or going up and down from year to year, and see the results. Or you can make your own forecasts, using your favourite spreadsheet or just a calculator, pencil, and paper.

Thank you for taking up this issue. It is important. It deserves a better outcome than the one you propose for it.

## Dale Vanelli

---

**From:** Public Hearings  
**Sent:** November 16, 2021 8:20 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** FW: 2022 Budget - Annual Grant to the Songhees & Esquimalt Nations

Good morning,

Are you able to respond to the below email?

Legislative Services  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6  
T 250.123.4567 C 250.123.4567



The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People.

---

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** Friday, November 12, 2021 12:59 PM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>; Public Hearings <PublicHearings@victoria.ca>  
**Subject:** 2022 Budget - Annual Grant to the Songhees & Esquimalt Nations

Unfortunately we can not attend the Nov 17<sup>th</sup> town hall meeting.

We do not support the City Council's pre-budget proposal for a Community Reconciliation Levy. We do support reconciling with the Indigenous peoples of Canada and all financial and land based settlements should remain and be the sole jurisdiction of the Provincial and Federal Governments who have the resources and expertise. To have individual municipalities paying grants will cause confusion and we fear further complicate reconciliation.

S. 22

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** Engagement  
**Sent:** November 16, 2021 8:00 AM  
**To:** S. 22  
**Subject:** RE: Draft budget 2022 feedback

Hi S. 22

Thank you for your feedback. Your email will be included in the official budget engagement package for Council's consideration.

You can also share your priorities for investment in 2022 with Council by completing our online survey by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, November 23. You can find the survey here: [2022 Draft Budget | Have Your Say \(victoria.ca\)](#)

Kind regards,

**Engagement**  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People.

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 15, 2021 9:56 PM  
**To:** Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>  
**Subject:** Draft budget 2022 feedback

Dear Victoria City Council, Mayor, and City Staff,

I am writing to you with my feedback on the 2022 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria. Below I will discuss six key points that need to be addressed: housing, the Victoria police department, accessibility, bylaw, public engagement, and free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples.

### 1. Housing:

Currently, the city of Victoria is experiencing a housing crisis, and there is a lack of affordable and expedited housing options available that meet the needs of unhoused and insecurely housed people. However, the current plans reflected in the proposed city budget outline an intent to incentivize developers and landlords, rather than prioritize the housing process for renters. There needs to be more concrete and expedited housing solutions. In the budget it is stated that there are \$120 million of funds from all three levels of government that will be used to create affordable low end market housing and housing for “chronically homeless people”, however, it is not stated where and when these temporary

supportive housing or “low-income apartments” are being built. For instance, in the budget Pandora housing construction does not begin until 2024. Housing solutions need to be created tangibly, and immediately to address the lack of housing.

I am calling on city council to allocate the budget to *concrete* and *expedited* housing solutions that tangibly address the urgent nature of the housing crisis, rather than prioritizing landlords and developers.

2. Victoria Police Department:

In the budget an increase is proposed for crowd management and patrolling in response to larger scale organized demonstrations. This money is prioritizing the policing of events, rather than community care supports present at these events. Rather than budgeting for police patrol at events, it would be important to consider how this money can be put into the community to reflect the demands of demonstrators. For example, the proposed budget increase for “crowd management” and patrolling could be used for community created/supported solutions ie. a community crisis response team that is trained in de-escalation, trauma-informed, and anti-oppressive tactics.

I am calling on city council to allocate the money for police “crowd management” to support community created solutions that promote safety, care, harm reduction, and anti-oppression at events and demonstrations.

3. Accessibility:

The budget outlines many projects regarding accessibility. However, it is impossible to determine what accessibility needs are needed without consultation with those who experience disabilities and/or have varying needs. Consultation with these voices is not noted in the proposed budget, and without these voices being at the forefront of the conversation, decisions made will further contribute to ableist architecture and program development. Consulting populations with relevant lived experience helps to maintain accessibility of projects.

I am calling on city council to welcome communities with lived experience into decision making regarding accessibility and to make decisions directly informed by their needs.

4. Bylaw:

Within the proposed budget, a large portion of bylaw services is dedicated to patrolling parks and taking down illegal shelters (ie. taking down shelters of those who are tenting in the park because they do not have housing). Rather than the budget being allocated to bylaw services to patrol parks and to remove “illegal” sheltering, this money should be funneled into long term housing solutions and anti-poverty measures, such as comprehensive healthcare, food justice supports and more. If budgets intended for patrolling and tearing down sheltering were allocated to relevant services, such as food justice and housing, this would decrease the need for shelters in parks.

I am calling on city council to allocate the funding, that would be used to remove shelters, instead towards long-term housing solutions for those who currently have no choice but to shelter in public spaces.

## 5. Public Engagement

The Community Wellness and Peer Informed Task Force and Citizen's Assembly have both been terminated due to completing their assigned tasks. We need these groups, or similar community participatory task forces, with new project focuses to remain funded in 2022 and beyond to allow for increased community engagement/consultation. The winding down of both of these groups means less funding and fewer pathways for equitable community engagement and consultation. It is vital for these initiatives to continue on with new project focuses, to ensure that the community is included in decision making. Alongside this, measures should be taken to make the budget review process more accessible to all folks in the community. The annual city budget is quite a dense, large, and inaccessible project. With its size and jargon, it can be quite difficult to access/understand for many who do not have the time or capacity to thoroughly read and understand the document. There needs to be tangible solutions created that make engaging in this document more accessible. Many people simply do not have the spare time and capacity to engage in municipal affairs. City council needs to ensure that folks from all walks of life are providing their input for the city's decision-making processes.

Some ways to consider doing this could be to: split the budget into sections and review each section by section, rather than once a year all at once. Or, if there will continue to be an annual budget review process, there should be more than one town hall meeting and these should be held at varying times of the day, to allow for people with varying schedules to attend. These measures should be accompanied by funded citizen task forces that operate year-round, as noted above, to ensure increased public consultation.

I am calling on city council to make engagement in municipal affairs, such as the annual city budget, more accessible for the community- so that all community members have an opportunity to *engage in, understand, and have a say* in municipal affairs.

## 6. Prior and Informed Consent with Indigenous Nations:

The lək'wəŋən peoples should have informed consent for all projects occurring on their unceded territory. Despite statements made by the Mayor and Council about "decolonizing practices", city council continues to have final say even after consultation with the nations. This is in direct violation of the rights of lək'wəŋən peoples Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. How will the city mayor and council address this violation of rights?

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a specific right that pertains to Indigenous peoples and is recognised in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It allows them to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories. Once they have given their consent, they can withdraw it at any stage. Furthermore, FPIC enables them to

negotiate the conditions under which the project will be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated. This is also embedded within the universal right to self-determination.

I am calling on city council to address this violation of rights and to move forward by respecting local Indigenous nations' Free, Prior, and Informed Consent on city decision-making processes that occur on their unceded territory.

I urge you to listen to these points made and the needs of the community. We have the opportunity to address inequity in our city and create a thriving community for all who live here. Your responsibility as city employees is to make decisions informed by what the public wants and the public is asking you to divest funding from unnecessary punitive measures and use those funds to create secure housing, food security, and increased equitable public engagement in city affairs.

Sincerely,

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 16, 2021 3:22 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** SALARIED POSITIONS

Hello

I have read the budget for positions and almost the only person making under \$100,000.00 is the youth project coordinator position. This is far too low, and there should be more employment support for one of our most challenging issues- misplaced youth.

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 15, 2021 10:19 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft budget 2022 feedback

I don't know if you will be addressing the suggestions put forward to give the Indigenous peoples a yearly grant. If I was a First Nation I would be insulted to think you can consider it appropriate to buy them off. Some things money can't buy, pride being one of them. Incidentally, I come from a country that was colonized by the Romans, the Vikings and the Saxons, do you suggest I put in a claim for compensation? We need to push for all treaties to be dealt with immediately, then our First Nations and we can get on with living in this amazing country as friends on an equal footing.

Maybe, the suggested grant could be put in the kitty to help hard working people with their taxes which I notice are going up.

S. 22

Sent from my iPad



## Dale Vanelli

---

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 15, 2021 7:20 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Budget

Victoria City Budget, I am writing to respond to one element in particular, the proposed Reconciliation Levy. I am unalterably opposed to the creation and imposition of any such levy. I was shocked to learn that the concept of this levy emerged from consultations within what is known as the Victoria Family. This rather secretive group (no written records are maintained) is hardly the forum for concepts that affect the governance of the city and its residents. Not untypically, this concept appeared to have Mayor Helps' fingerprints all over it. Equally amazing was Council's (with the exception of Mr. Young) quick adoption of the concept being forwarded as a proposed element of the budget, with apparently little understanding of either current or future implications. It is hardly the place of this Mayor and Council to commit funds in perpetuity that could reach millions of dollars each and every year into the future. Yearly increased taxes sourced from new developments within the city are there for the use and enhancement of infrastructure to other social issues that are within the purview of municipal government. This proposed levy does not fall within any rational thought of what constitutes governance of this city. This kind of Reconciliation-washing is completely unacceptable and upon examination has nothing to do with reconciliation. Mayor Helps during a recent podcast described this proposed policy as "... big and bold". I'll grant you it's big and bold but not in the manner she would have Council believe. It is not wanted nor required and must be withdrawn before Council debate, or vigorously opposed and defeated during debate. The future of Victoria and Victoria's future mayor and council and its citizens must not be shackled to this illconsidered deadweight.

S. 22

Sent from my iPad

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 15, 2021 5:29 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Significantly reduce the budget for the police department

I find the amount of money in the budget for the police department much too high. A good chunk of the money would be better used for social services for the mentally ill and the un-housed.

Please re-visit that budget item.

Thank you,

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

---

S. 22

**From:**  
**Sent:**  
**To:** Engagement  
**Cc:** Stephen Andrew (Councillor)  
**Subject:** The 2022 budget special grant proposal

I looked at the engage survey and it seems very slanted by virtue of the questions that are asked so I will not be using that method to give feed-back to the city on the proposed special grant. **Here is my feedback:**

**The recent proposal of a \$180,000 (plus) grant to the Indigenous community is way out of the jurisdiction of this city's duties.** As city councillors, you have a pledged duty to care for the public services for the taxpaying public of Victoria. It is that simple. But yet, this city council chooses to continually re-invent the role of public administrators and council. If there is a surplus in the budget, may I suggest the following:

- 1). fill the millions of potholes in our city streets
- 2) do something, anything, to make Peter Pollen Park look like a park instead of a wasteland.
- 3) put up a 3 way stop at the intersection of Menzies and Quebec
- 4) put up a 5 way stop at the intersection of Belleville, Quebec, Cross Street, and Montreal. Seeing that the city council has gone ahead without a public hearing, and approved the tearing down of the Admiral's Inn and the building of a rather large / high apartment complex, there will be even more traffic at this completely uncontrolled intersection that is laden with construction trucks, delivery trucks, tourist vehicles and pedestrians. An accident waiting to happen.
- 5) hire more police for our understaffed, underpaid police force
- 6) have fireworks in the inner harbour on Canada Day - in case most members of council can't remember, this is a stat holiday to honor the fact that we are all Canadians, regardless of creed, color, age, or the number of years you have lived here.
- 7) finish the statue (or whatever it is) that is presently an unfinished, rather obscure concrete and gravel obstacle with a mesh fence around it on the inner harbour walkway.
- 8) hire more sanitation workers to clean our city's streets and sidewalks of the human waste left each and every day in the downtown core
- 9) put in a proper water park for children at Beacon Hill Park. The existing one is a joke.
- 10) stop gouging the tax payers and cut taxes so that there will not be 'money left over'.
- 11) put the money into capital funding towards a 50 m public swimming pool. It is beyond shameful that there is no outdoor pool in this city, and only a singular old, dilapidated indoor pool to service the entire city of Victoria. The city has no problem approving housing development after housing development, yet does it poke its head out the door to determine exactly where the positive recreational outlets are for people to enjoy, and a swimming pool is a basic facility for every municipality. We have none.

And, if you are still adamant about funding this grant, then may I suggest that all the councillors that want it, should personally fund it. This is how pet peeves work.....you simply fund the project out of your own pocket, not out of the public purse.

Yes, the residential school history is a dark mark on our Canadian history, but if you look at most every other country in the world, they are much more scarred with crimes of discrimination and hatred. Offering this grant will make no difference whatsoever in the pages of history. The only thing that will make a difference is if we come together as Canadians, as British Columbians, and Victorians, and 'move on' from this. I had nothing to do with the residential schools, and I resent having a portion of my municipal taxes being used for something that is a federal issue, especially at a time when this city has so many glaring needs regarding infrastructure.

S. 22



## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 14, 2021 10:40 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** More police support

Victoria has sadly become a very uninviting city.

We have vulnerable sick potentially dangerous people wandering our streets.

No help forth coming from our over burdened destroyed health care system and are completely lost and a danger to themselves and others.

Businesses are hurting and people are sceptical about going downtown. I know many who would never venture out after dark.

We sorrily need more police protection, it works both ways. For the lost souls who need help and your law abiding citizens who want to support our businesses and just enjoy our once beautiful city.

Crime is rampant and our law officers are over worked and stressed to the hilt.

They need our full support.

I'm more than happy to have increases in my taxes to make Victoria a safer more enjoyable place for all!

I volunteer in mental health and so want to make a positive difference.

We need your help to achieve this. I think we can if we are all willing to work together.

I know you care by being on city council. So please can we move forward in a positive direction.

It will benefit everyone in the long run.

Please make Victoria a safe and caring place once again.

Sincerely,

S. 22

Sent from my iPhone

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:**  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** New budget

Hello all involved in the budget process,

I am a home owner and tax payer in Victoria. We have some serious problems that need to be addressed by all levels of government.

To begin we need to increase our Municipal Police force, in numbers and in skills. General policing is a luxury for Victoria, and it needs to be addressed. Homelessness, mental health issues spilling onto the street, and crime are demanding much time from our police force. Many other areas of policing are not attended to as there aren't enough police to do all the jobs. A spin-off from these problems shows the need for additional funding from the Province and Federal governments, to provide facilities and staff in mental health and addictions treatment that is capable of creating change.

In Victoria we need Doctors of every kind, and especially General Practitioners. Victoria could create a multi service facility that would eliminate the overhead cost for Doctors of establishing an office and treatment centre. Ideally laboratory, X-ray, physio-therapy and other health services would be located in the same facility. It is critical that we provide incentive for Doctors to move to Victoria. It is necessary for our Provincial government to get involved in this strategy as well. There needs to be cooperation and collaboration in providing the people in Victoria the medical services they need, rather than spending more money when the unaddressed health problems become severe and much more costly to fix.

S. 22

Taxpayer in Fairfield, Victoria.

Sent from my iPhone

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 14, 2021 7:32 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am responding to your request for comments on the draft budget, as reported by Roxanne Egan-Elliott in the Times Colonist of November 13.

I appreciate the need for additional employees in cases where unexpected or unprecedented developments may require additions to the work force. Police burnout is one such situation, and I support Vic PD's request for additions to the regular budget.

On the other hand, I am opposed to adding supervisory persons to teach others things they should already know. No one who is part of "key city staff" should need "anti-racism training". I am opposed as well to adding lobbyists to the payroll as if they were neutral arbiters - I refer to the "Elder in Residence" who will have the vague task of supporting "the city's reconciliation work." Finally, when a function has been badly handled for many years - as with bike lanes - it is disingenuous to bring in a new figurehead - a "Vision Zero transportation planner" - and pretend that we are getting something new rather than something that has become awfully old and shopworn. By the way, whose idea was it to identify a transportation planner with the unfortunate name Vision Zero?

The suggestion that we who are already heavily taxed should chip in and pay First Nations a continuing stipend to right past wrongs may or may not be part of the draft budget. In any case, I oppose it strenuously. It is unprecedented; it will cause divisions, not reconciliation; it is wrong to imagine that tax money from new building approvals is "found money" that we can easily part with; and it is unethical for the several council members who do not live - and pay property taxes - in Victoria even to consider such a cavalier use of our tax money.

Thank you for your consideration of my remarks. Sincerely, S. 22 , Victoria West

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 14, 2021 6:07 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** 2022 Budget

### Reactions:

1. Strongly favour increased funding for Police
2. Looks like 50k proposed for transit shelters. This looks like minimal token amount. Suggest City needs to improve public transit to reduce reliance on cars. Many bus stops in city are without shelters. Suggest multi-year plan to create six new shelters per year.
3. Proposed Reconciliation Grants: Reconciliation is obviously an important challenge for city residents. However this proposal does not appear to be connected to a stated need. Moreover the grants will grow rapidly and crowd out alternate uses for scarce funds earned annually from new construction. No one can argue that improved infrastructure and housing are important for the Songhees Nation and the Esquimalt First Nation. Are federal and provincial support funds inadequate in this area? Realize that Council wants to make a gesture that leaves decisions on how to use the funds to the two Nations. The issue is whether Victoria should be embarking on this new path in isolation without discussion with other municipalities in the region and input from citizens. Suggest that a portion of the revenue received from new construction each year should be earmarked to improve public transit.

Yours S. 22

S. 22



## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 14, 2021 3:31 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** first nations payments

I strongly object to this escalating grant of city tax money that is included in the draft of the upcoming budget, it will increase at a rapid rate. It appears to have been poorly thought out by an unelected group and suddenly sprung on the city at large. Large payments from a city council that has limited finances is a step to far. Financial support should be from BC and federal governments.

I believe that we as citizens should work hard to build respect and inclusion for our first nations citizens. I think we have made good progress in this direction but it will take time as each generation over comes the poor attitude's that had been part of main stream view of indigenous persons for to long.

S. 22

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 14, 2021 11:11 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Budget

To say that the quality of life has been improved is completely wrong. We have family that will not visit us in Victoria anymore due to the unsafe feeling at night. We won't go out down many streets (like Douglas) at night as we get aggressively panhandled 10x per block.

My budget input to Council:

1. Stay in your lane: aka fix the potholes. No first family, none - indigenous relations are a Fed issue ( I am Metis) . Stop spending city money on indigenous issue and most homeless issues. Mental health and addictions are a provincial issue not Councils. Enforce our bylaws and our laws 100% - that is what we pay for. Council is spending our money on things that are not theirs. Fix the potholes, enforce our bylaws and laws... period.

No money spent for our place storage of personal belongings. Not the cities responsibility. If items are left on our streets take it to the trash, if there is value for items people can claim within 30 days if they pay a fee. Enforce our laws please.

No money for some of these social police positions. The police and bylaw are hired to enforce the law and bylaws - period. They are not social workers and taxpayers shouldn't foot the bill to make them that. Way too many 'social'positions in the budget. Everyone needs to stay in their own lane and be held accountable for that. If there is civil disorder on the street, make the arrest. Police should be working with Crown and Council should be requesting the province to do their job - process the charges.

2. Council is going over the top with bike lanes. Enough - stop now.

When we all have electric cars ppl will have 2. Start planning for that now. No more bike lanes. Council should be holding developers to providing a minimum of 1 parking space per unit. Dont allow developers to trade parking space for bike racks.

3. Fund the police but also hold them accountable for enforcing our bylaws and laws 100% - that is why we have them. Less social positions and more policing positions. Walking wounded can work front desk, property log in, phone call follow ups and so on. A strong return to work policy should be in place. The police do not need a business analyst position. The city does that. Enforce the law, hold ECOMM accountable or fire them.

4. No new positions for climate action. Continue with the plans in place; waste reduction, fleet management and so on. That is enough so stop spending money.

5. Council needs a much stronger conflict of interest policy. Council needs to stay in their lane. Stop spending frivolous money. Fix the potholes. Hold our police and bylaw to account to enforce our laws and bylaws... period - not social work. Go with climate action policies in place. Stay in our lane. Respect the silent majority.



## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:**  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

I own a legal four-plex at S. 22

The City is proposing a 3.5% property tax increase, while landlords were only allowed 1.5% rent increase after rents were frozen during COVID.

I am subsidizing my tenants' rent which is unfair. I run a business that respects renters and the RTA.

Please stop unnecessary funding, of pet projects such as rainbow sidewalks, climate control, interference with the RTA which already covers "renovictions."

Focus on the most important items: safety downtown (I hardly go as I am tired of being accosted by addicts and mentally ill people), reinstate free parking on Sundays, help local businesses (so many small businesses have closed with too many vacant stores), get more police on the streets, stop police using radar guns which is a waste of their skills.

Focus on the city and its boundaries, not issues outside the boundaries.

Stop making Victoria so attractive for homeless people who continue to arrive to housing, meals, cell phones, medical care (when 1000's of Victoria's do not have a GP, and who are not accountable or responsible for anything. Why are volunteers making their lunches? Responsibility is a good thing for confidence, skill, routine and success.

My property taxes and utility bills have just exploded and I am fed up. Mayor and Council need to better understand the disappointment and anger remhow you are driving this city into the ground.

You must do better.

And please do not ask for consultation unless you listen and act on it. Otherwise, it is just busy work and again, a waste of tax payers' money.

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 13, 2021 2:35 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Budget

Climate leadership : No

Additional staff for non enforcement work: No

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 13, 2021 11:11 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Budget

Yes to PD budget increase

Yes to Bylaw increase

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 12, 2021 2:18 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Budget feedback

All,

In light of our property taxes increasing by almost double of what most people get in pay increases, I find it fiscally irresponsible to be giving money away to the Songhees first Nation. This is not a municipal responsibility but rather a federal issue.

To be giving 15% of new tax dollars (about \$150k) per year to local Songhees FNs is insulting to taxpayers that struggle to pay the ballooning property tax assessment each year. To further add insult to injury, according to their last financial report (2020) the Songhees Nation have cash and assets of over \$54 million!

If the city has extra money to just give away to wealthy groups then we are paying far too much in taxes!

<https://www.songheesnation.ca/files/2020-annual-report.pdf>

Sincerely,  
S. 22

Sent from my iPad

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 12, 2021 2:05 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft 2022 Budget Feedback

I am opposed to the proposal that a portion of the "new assessed revenue" be paid to the Songheees and Esquimalt Nations. Compensation to First Nations is a matter for the Federal and Provincial governments. This proposal is an example of the city council wandering into areas that are not within their jurisdiction. The city council should address more of their efforts towards city administration and services. The funding of police services is more important than this proposal.

S. 22



## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 12, 2021 1:11 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** FW:Draft Budget - Annual Grant to the Songhees & Esquimalt Nations

Our feedback for the pre-budget proposal for a community reconciliation levy to the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

S. 22

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 12, 2021 12:58 PM  
**To:** [mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca); [publichearings@victoria.ca](mailto:publichearings@victoria.ca)  
**Subject:** 2022 Budget - Annual Grant to the Songhees & Esquimalt Nations

Unfortunately we can not attend the Nov 17<sup>th</sup> town hall meeting. We do not support the City Council's pre-budget proposal for a Community Reconciliation Levy. We do support reconciling with the Indigenous peoples of Canada and all financial and land based settlements should remain and be the sole jurisdiction of the Provincial and Federal Governments who have the resources and expertise. To have individual municipalities paying grants will cause confusion and we fear further complicate reconciliation.

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** Public Hearings  
**Sent:** November 12, 2021 11:27 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** FW: Feedback for the Nov. 17, 6:30 pm Town Hall Meeting

Good morning,

Are you able to respond to the below email?

Thank you,

Legislative Services  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6  
T 250.123.4567 C 250.123.4567



The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People.

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** Friday, November 12, 2021 11:00 AM  
**To:** Public Hearings <PublicHearings@victoria.ca>; Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>  
**Subject:** Feedback for the Nov. 17, 6:30 pm Town Hall Meeting

We will not be able to participate in the 2022 Virtual Budget Town Hall Meeting but we would like to contribute this feedback:

Re: Council's idea to provide an annual grant to Songhees & Esquimalt Nations

We are not in favour of the City Council's unilateral, pre-budget proposal for a Community Reconciliation Levy.

Matters regarding financial and land-based Indigenous reconciliation settlements should be managed by the Federal and Provincial Governments. Such unilateral municipal acts of reconciliation can only lead to complication and confusion going forward.

Regards.

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 11, 2021 10:21 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Dfraft 2022 Budget Survey

Spend more on infrastructure improvements and public safety and less on non-core areas of responsibility. I disagree with the proposal for annual contributions in support of Truth & Reconciliation initiatives.

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 10, 2021 2:46 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Budget

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

I am writing in opposition to the grant from future new developments going to the local indigenous for reconciliations. While I support the indigenous on many issues I believe that the federal and provincial government is where this issue should be addressed.

Sincerely  
S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** Shelby Lloydsmith <slloydsmith@charddevelopment.com>  
**Sent:** November 10, 2021 2:03 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Cc:** Dave Chard  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback  
**Attachments:** CDL\_PoliceBudgetLetter.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed



Dear Mayor Helps and Council & Mayor Desjardins and Council,

Re: Increase budget and support for Victoria Police Department

As Mayors and Councils look to consider the 2022 budget for the Victoria Police Department, I am ready to advocate for continued and increased financial support. The City of Victoria requires a police presence that can meet the challenges currently facing downtown Victoria and Esquimalt. Continued reductions in the VPD's operating budget in recent years have contributed to an alarming escalation in criminal activity and a concern for personal safety. We've heard from residents, families, office workers, retailers and social service providers who have witnessed firsthand the lack of public safety in downtown Victoria and can attest to Statistics Canada's rating of Victoria as among the most dangerous cities in Canada. This downward trend cannot be allowed to continue.

I personally have a high regard for the VPD and consider myself lucky to have made the acquaintance of many of their officers. These individuals continually demonstrate an admirable level of care and devotion to the City and its residents... but they are overworked, underappreciated and, quite frankly, on the verge of burnout. Without a significant increase to the VPD operating budget, their ability to truly serve and protect in a safe and meaningful way will remain severely hindered, and their own safety will continue to be placed at undue risk.

At Chard Development, we are proud to have created a diversity of housing alternatives in downtown Victoria, including rental, affordable ownership and market condos. Over the past 16 years, my team has constructed close to 1,000 homes and has significantly increased the City's tax base. The residents of these homes expect a level of service and safety commensurate with the tax dollars they contribute. In our view, the VPD cannot maintain adequate service due to limited budget resources even during periods of relative peace. What would happen in the case of an emergency incident within Victoria if police resources were further diminished or inadequately replenished?

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 10, 2021 1:10 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Grant to Songhees & Esquimalt Nations

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Mayor Helps and Councillors,

I recently read in Times Colonist newspaper the article regarding the City of Victoria providing an annual grant to the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations from the city's new assessed revenue...property tax from new developments & additions to existing properties.

I totally support creating this grant...I feel strongly that we need to demonstrate our commitment to reconciliation.

Yours sincerely,

S. 22

Sent from our iPhone/iPad CA

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 10, 2021 1:07 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Grant to the Songhees & Esquimalt Nations

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Mayor & Council,

Recently I read of the proposal to give grant to the Songhees & Esquimalt Nations a grant from cities new assessed revenue. Further that this grant would be on an accumulative basis.

As a long time resident of Victoria I whole heartedly endorse this plan. It is so refreshing to see concrete action being taken towards redressing damages done by colonization.

I hope to see soon that this proposal is in fact a policy of the city going forward.

Sincerely,

S. 22

Sent from our iPhone/iPad CA

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 10, 2021 12:15 PM  
**To:** Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Lisa Helps (Mayor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor)  
**Cc:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Comment on the Strategic Priorities for 2019 - 2022

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Hi,

Could any council members comment on why public safety is not included in the list of Strategic Priorities for 2019 - 2022? Does this fall under Well-Being, and if so, shouldn't this be higher on this list? Or is this included under 'liveable neighbourhoods'?

Regarding item number 2, Reconciliation is **not** a municipal issue. Reconciliation is **not** a municipal issue. Reconciliation is **not** a municipal issue. A Times Colonist article is located [here](#) **Lisa, this is directed at you.** This is discriminatory, because you can't have preferential treatment for some people, without discrimination against others. This is racist at its most basic level. You, Potts, Isitt, Dubow and Loveday are all about equality, but you are proposing a tax on 'some' property owners for 'some' other people. What are you going to do if a First Nation person purchases new property? Are you going to give them an exemption because they are First Nations? Please just stop it. You are playing in an arena that you are clearly not equipped to be in.

Thank you,

S. 22

### Strategic Priorities

Council has established the following eight Strategic Priorities for the City from 2019 to 2022:

1. Good Governance and Civic Engagement
2. **Reconciliation and Indigenous Relations**
3. Affordable Housing
4. Prosperity and Economic Inclusion
5. Health, Well-Being and a Welcoming City
6. Climate Leadership and Environmental Stewardship
7. Sustainable Transportation
8. Strong, Liveable Neighbourhoods



## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 10, 2021 11:58 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Budget

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

To Mayor and Council Victoria,

We own property at S. 22

During the past couple of years there has been many changes to the downtown core. Especially for the safety of our citizens.

On several occasions we have run into a woman screaming profanities on the sidewalk in front of the building, men high on drugs barely able to walk and people asking for money constantly.

Our condo is located by London Drugs, The Market and a convenience store.

When you feel reluctant to step out to go shopping ... that means there's something wrong in the picture and I'm sure there are many other residences or workers feeling the same way.

We completely agree what Victoria PD requires to make it safe. We support 100% what the department needs to move forward in hiring enough police officers for the city.

Del Manak is an amazing leader and we should support him and the needs of the Vic PD now not when a new budget comes in place.

This is truly an urgent matter!

Also criminals should be locked up and into rehab. not roaming the streets after being convicted so many times. It's a waste of police resources.

Warm regards, S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 10, 2021 10:22 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Budget

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please approve the police budget as submitted by Victoria and esquimalt PD.  
Do not reduce it to the level recommended by "Staff"

## Dale Vanelli

---

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 10, 2021 8:36 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft 2022 Budget Feedback

Hello,

I am writing to give feedback regarding the police budget. I recently learned of VPD's plan to give signing bonuses for police officers. This incentive is unnecessary in my opinion.

As an ER nurse, signing bonuses are non-existent in a desirable city like ours. The greatest signing bonuses (\$10,000 maximum) are for rural, isolated communities, not for the thriving capital of BC. I cannot justify budget increases given this wild spending. In fact, I'd prefer refunding/improved funding of other areas (housing, safe injection and drug use sites, traffic slowing strategies, mental health, etc) and an overall defunding of our police.

Also, Stephen Andrew is a menace and should be removed for encouraging dangerous alt right views in our city.

Warmest regards,  
S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** Public Service Centre - Internet email  
**Sent:** November 8, 2021 4:29 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** FW: General - City of Victoria Feedback Form

**From:** webforms@victoria.ca <webforms@victoria.ca>  
**Sent:** November 6, 2021 7:05 AM  
**To:** Public Service Centre - Internet email <publicservice@victoria.ca>  
**Subject:** General - City of Victoria Feedback Form

You have received an email from [S. 22](#) via the City of Victoria website feedback form

Name: [S. 22](#)  
Email: [S. 22](#)  
Topic: General  
Phone: [S. 22](#)  
Address: [S. 22](#)

Message: I vote against tax revenue grants being given to First Nations. Our mea culpa is endless, and money will never make up for all the Indigenous complaints and wounds. To say these payments would be toward reconciliation begs the question, "how will we know when we are reconciled?" Is it even a viable goal—one that money can buy?

Date: Saturday, November 6, 2021 7:04:45 AM

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** Public Service Centre - Internet email  
**Sent:** November 8, 2021 4:29 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** FW: General - City of Victoria Feedback Form

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**From:** webforms@victoria.ca <webforms@victoria.ca>  
**Sent:** November 6, 2021 8:34 AM  
**To:** Public Service Centre - Internet email <publicservice@victoria.ca>  
**Subject:** General - City of Victoria Feedback Form

You have received an email from [S. 22](#) via the City of Victoria website feedback form

Name: [S. 22](#)  
Email: [S. 22](#)  
Topic: General  
Phone: [S. 22](#)  
Address [S. 22](#)

Message: I absolutely oppose ANY money to be diverted to support 'reconciliation' by way of grants to the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations. Use ALL tax money to fix/repair/upgrade the many concerns existing in the city that we taxpayers expect to be addressed. NO, NO, NO to grants to anything not related to municipal affairs.

Date: Saturday, November 6, 2021 8:34:16 AM

## Dale Vanelli

---

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 6, 2021 10:18 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Regarding the 2022 Budget - Property Tax

Dear Council,

I am writing to express my full support of property tax sharing with First Nations as described in the press release. I believe this is right morally and logically, and I hope that the discussion is free from guesses as to how the funds will be spent or anything like that.

My hope is that this move can be made, free from paternalism and in recognition of the vast changes we as settlers have made to these lands when we overstepped what few treaties existed here in BC. In Victoria, this is the right thing to do and I commend the council for suggesting it. I hope that it can be followed through.

Regards,  
S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

---

**From:** Engagement  
**Sent:** November 5, 2021 12:00 PM  
**To:** S. 22  
**Subject:** RE: Police Budget

Dear S. 22

Thank you for your feedback. Your email will be included in the official budget engagement package for Council's consideration.

Kind regards,

**Engagement**  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People.

---

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 4, 2021 12:47 PM  
**To:** Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>  
**Subject:** Police Budget

Hello,

As a resident/owner in Victoria I am in full support of the Police Budget increase including increased Bylaw Officers.

The increase in violent crime, mentally ill, addicted and unhoused marginalized citizens being preyed on, the situation is out of control. I have lived two blocks off downtown for over 10 years and the decline in safety and the appalling state of our downtown is deplorable. Please support these vital services for all Victoria citizens!

Best,  
S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

---

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 4, 2021 12:47 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Police Budget

Hello,

As a resident/owner in Victoria I am in full support of the Police Budget increase including increased Bylaw Officers.

The increase in violent crime, mentally ill, addicted and unhoused marginalized citizens being preyed on, the situation is out of control. I have lived two blocks off downtown for over 10 years and the decline in safety and the appalling state of our downtown is deplorable. Please support these vital services for all Victoria citizens!

Best,  
S. 22



## Dale Vanelli

---

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 23, 2021 11:08 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** 2022 Draft Budget Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Hello,

As a citizen and community member of Victoria BC, I would like to express my wholehearted objection to having Vic PD's budget increase in this upcoming budget draft. As someone who works with community members who are constantly criminalized and violently displaced by Vic PD and RCMP due to facing homelessness, I cannot tell you how important it is that the funds (which we as taxpayers provide) that you are attempting to allocate to policing be put elsewhere- into community welfare, or literally anything else.

There is growing knowledge on the harms of policing that set us back centuries. These systems are a violent form of colonialism, as we can see by the Vic PD and RCMP presence at Fairy Creek rather than assisting those devastated by the flood. This is OUR money. We see how you spend it in the private sector amidst an ongoing housing crisis, opioid crisis, climate catastrophe and flooding, and a literal pandemic. The city of Victoria has no right to allocate funds to police forces as signing bonuses or in any matter while the tax payers say no. It is a violation of consent and nondemocratic.

I implore you to re-examine funds to Vic PD in this proposed budget. I implore that you listen to the people, in particular the Indigenous community members that Victoria claims to advocate for while simultaneously using police forces to violently detain and displace them illegally. I implore you to uphold democracy.

Regards  
S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

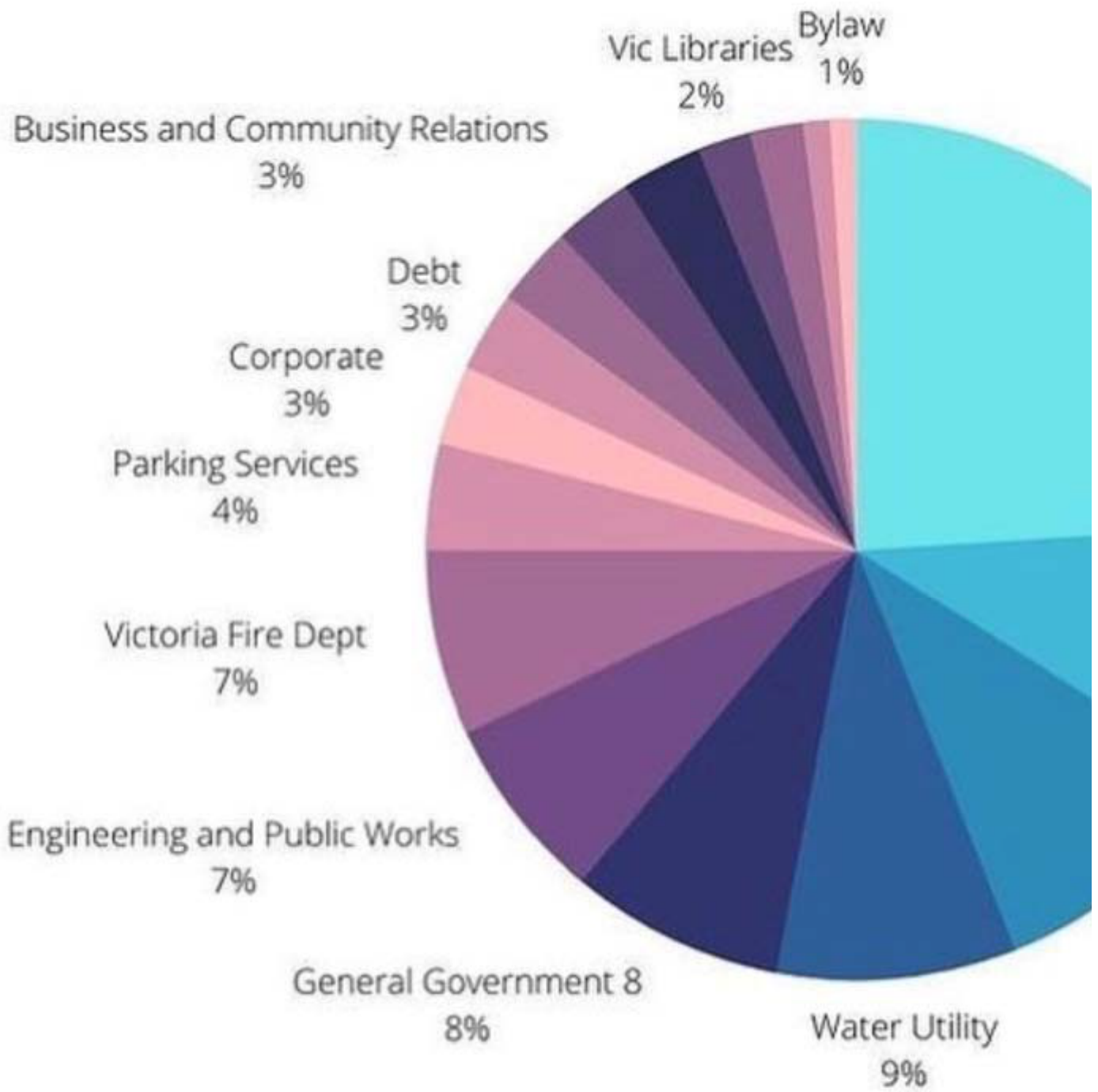
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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 23, 2021 11:05 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

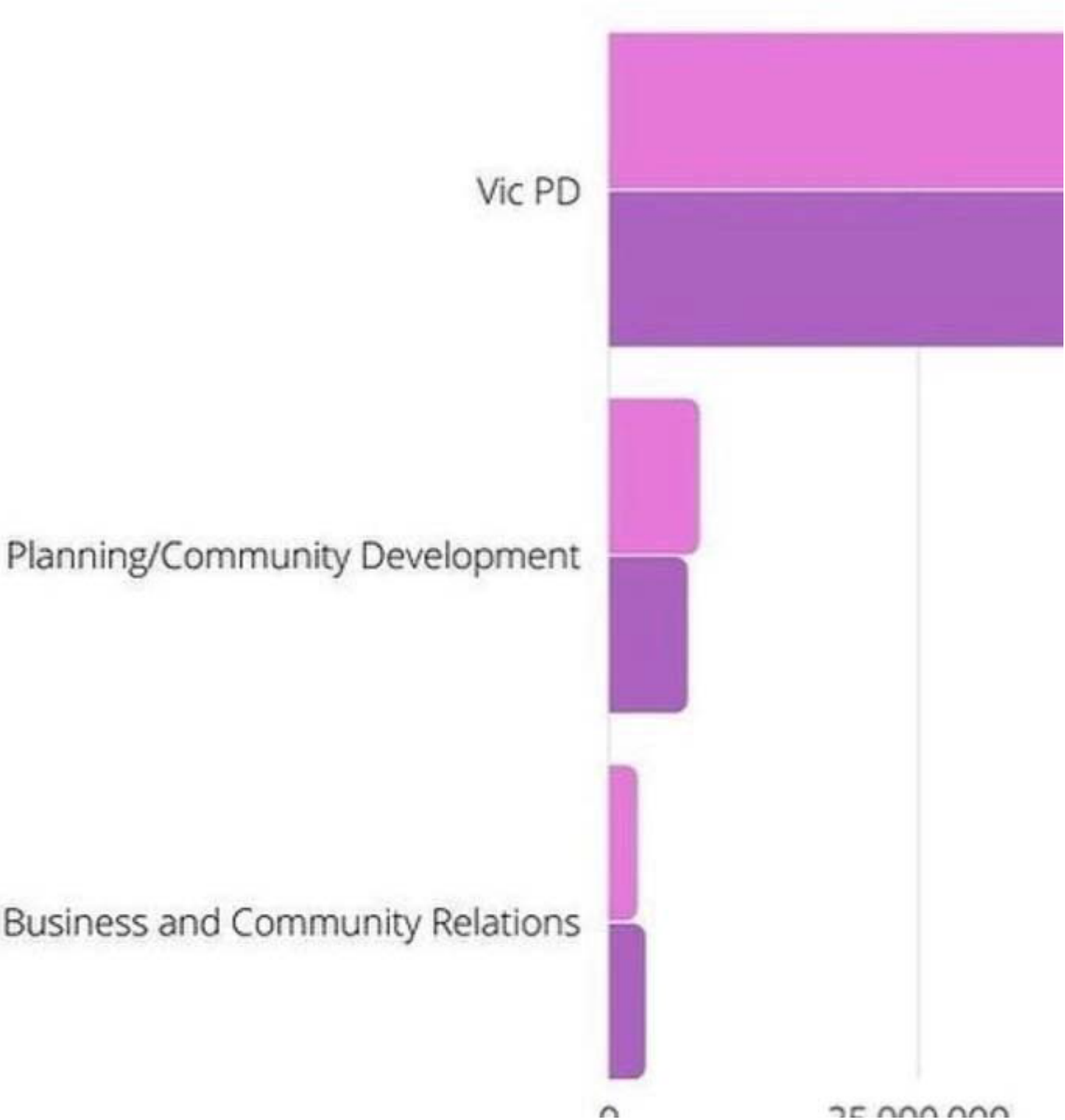
I am a proud Canadian and have lived in victoria bc for my entire life. Watching this town get ravaged by a plague, fires, and floods has taught me that we are in part the most resilient community of people Victoria could ask for. I want everyone on this Island to be cared for regardless of identity. When I see the 2022 draft budget, I see opportunities for the Victorians I love to be over policed and removed without reason. I see the homeless get constantly relocated by cops on the street, from park to park to park, somehow claiming this is "repairing" the social image or cohesion of victoria. with the over policing of lgbt individuals, sex workers, POC, indigenous peoples, people without steady housing or income, I see the destruction and removal of victorian identity. I want more than anything to see the things this budget proposes, the upgrades to public spaces, housing intended for families that is not built on top of our rapidly disappearing bogs and diverse range of wildlife, upgraded transit system, rapid emergency response programs and the many many things that are outlined. When it comes down to where our money goes, I see a complete disregard of any of the overwhelmingly positive suggestions made in the outline. The idea that this amount of our budget is going to the over policing of people claimed to be helped by this budget makes the part of me that claims to be a proud Canadian a lot quieter. i cannot help but remember the Fairy Creek Blockade (which continues to this day as the largest act of civil disobedience in Canadian history) as an example of real community protectors, land protectors and water protectors banding together to defend the old growth over 94% of us in BC voted that we wanted protected when our elected government skirted the issue as long as humanly possible. I saw that growth sold and logged by private individuals, entirely on the basis of a private corporations injunction. I saw the violent and terroristic policing used at that blockade and I see the militant tactics bleeding down into victorias police force. I respect the idea of a police force, I know the budget must be allocated to them despite my one email, but I beg on the history of Canada and for the future of it that any percent of that increase be designated ANYWHERE else. The bus shelters deserve it more, the people dying on your streets deserve it more, not the people relocating us. After everything in the pandemic is this the appropriate response? I will continue to be an active and passionate community member. I thank you for the work that has been done and will continue to be done. These are infographics I found from @truthandtransparency on the social media platform Instagram, they outline in a visual manner why I think so many are upset about this and I hope they resonate the same

here.



+

# 2021 vs 20



Thank you for your time,  
Citizen

## Dale Vanelli

---

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:**  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback  
**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Victoria City Council, Mayor, and City Staff,

I am writing to you with my feedback on the 2022 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria. Below I will discuss six key points, which I have elaborated on.

- 1.
- 2.
3. Housing:
- 4.

Currently, the city of Victoria is experiencing a housing crisis, and there is a lack of affordable and expedited housing options available that meet the needs of unhoused and insecurely housed people. However, the current plans reflected in the proposed city budget outline an intent to incentivize developers and landlords, rather than prioritize the housing process for renters. There needs to be more concrete and expedited housing solutions. In the budget it is stated that there are \$120 million of funds from all three levels of government that will be used to create affordable low-end market housing and housing for “chronically homeless people”, however, it is not stated where and when these temporary supportive housing or “low-income apartments” are being built. For instance, in the budget Pandora housing construction does not begin until 2024. Housing solutions need to be created tangibly, and immediately to address the lack of housing.

I am calling on city council to allocate the budget to *concrete* and *expedited* housing solutions that tangibly address the urgent nature of the housing crisis, rather than prioritizing landlords and developers. Rental caps on tiny homes in backyards are one place to start. Ensuring that there is affordable housing for families, including those where one parent is experiencing homelessness but does not have sole or primary custody of their child, is also important and should not be forgotten. In addition, the city should engage in proactive education about supportive housing projects in order to bridge the class divides that exist in our city.

- 2.
- 3.
4. Victoria Police Department:



5.

In the budget an increase is proposed for crowd management and patrolling in response to larger scale organized demonstrations. This money is prioritizing the policing of events, rather than community care supports present at these events. Rather than budgeting for police patrol at events, it would be important to consider how this money can be put into the community to reflect the demands of demonstrators. For example, the proposed budget increase for “crowd management” and patrolling could be used for community created/supported solutions ie. a community crisis response team that is trained in de-escalation, trauma-informed, and anti-oppressive tactics, which would be particularly pertinent to events led by people who have experienced trauma at the hands of police, such as Black, Indigenous, impoverished, and unhoused people.

I am calling on city council to allocate the money for police “crowd management” to support community-created solutions that promote safety, care, harm reduction, and anti-oppression at events and demonstrations. I also call on council not to increase support for the VicPD budget overall. Victoria already has the second-highest cost of policing per capita in Canada, and policing away either protest or poverty are not the solutions to the social problems that we face. Funds should be invested in non-punitive community organizations that increase life chances and safety for all of our citizens, including the most vulnerable, such as those sheltering outdoors and/or experiencing mental health crises. In addition, I call on the city not to support funding for police to accompany bylaw, since police often trigger anger from those who have experienced disrespect and ill treatment at the hands of uniformed officers. This funding should be put towards community-building with those sheltering outside, empowering grassroots organizations and mutual aid efforts, and ensuring that people sheltering outside have access to basic human rights.

3.

4.

5. Accessibility:

6.

The budget outlines many projects regarding accessibility. However, it is impossible to determine what accessibility needs are needed without consultation with those who experience disabilities and/or have varying needs. Consultation with these voices is not noted in the proposed budget, and without these voices being at the forefront of the conversation, decisions made will further contribute to ableist architecture and program development. Consulting populations with relevant lived experience helps to maintain accessibility of projects.

I am calling on city council to welcome communities with lived experience of disabilities and varying needs into decision making regarding accessibility and to make decisions directly informed by their needs.

4.

5.

6. Bylaw and Sheltering Supports:

7.

Within the proposed budget, a large portion of bylaw services is dedicated to patrolling parks and taking down illegal shelters (ie. taking down shelters of those who are tenting in the park because they do not have housing). Rather than the budget being allocated to bylaw services to patrol parks and to remove “illegal” sheltering, this money should be directed towards long-term housing solutions and anti-poverty measures, such as comprehensive healthcare, food justice supports, and ensuring that people have safe and dignified access to washroom facilities, which seem like a basic right. If budgets intended for patrolling and tearing down sheltering were allocated to relevant services, such as food justice and housing, this would decrease the need for shelters in parks.

I am calling on city council to refuse the funding that would be used to remove shelters or police the parks, or "mitigate the negative impact of sheltering in parks," and instead allocate that funding towards upstream, rather than downstream, services. These services, which the municipal level is uniquely positioned to provide, should centre on education about the housing crisis and homelessness, improving life chances and dignity for those who are sheltering in parks, and long-term housing solutions for those who currently have no choice but to shelter in public spaces.

5.

6.

7. Public Engagement

8.

The Community Wellness and Peer Informed Task Force and Citizen’s Assembly have both been terminated due to completing their assigned tasks. We need these groups, or similar community participatory task forces, with new project focuses to remain funded in 2022 and beyond to allow for increased community engagement/consultation. The winding down of both of these groups means less funding and fewer pathways for equitable community engagement and consultation. It is vital for these initiatives to continue on with new project focuses, to ensure that the community is included in decision making. Alongside this, measures should be taken to make the budget review process more accessible to all folks in the community. The annual city budget is quite a dense, large, and inaccessible project. With its size and jargon, it can be quite difficult to access/understand for many who do not have the time or capacity to thoroughly read and understand the document. There needs to be tangible solutions created that make engaging in this document more accessible. Many people simply do not have the spare time and capacity to engage in municipal affairs. City council needs to ensure that folks from all walks of life are providing their input for the city’s decision-making processes.

Some ways to consider doing this could be to: split the budget into sections and review each section by section, rather than once a year all at once. Or, if there will continue to be an annual budget review process, there should be more than one town hall meeting and these should be held at varying times of the day, to allow for people with varying schedules to attend. These measures should be accompanied by funded citizen task forces that operate year-round, as noted above, to ensure increased public consultation. The survey would also be more accessible if it could be saved while in progress; since one already must register and sign in to complete the survey, this should be possible.

I am calling on city council to make engagement in municipal affairs, such as the annual city budget, more accessible for the community- so that all community members have an opportunity to *engage in, understand, and have a say* in municipal affairs. These efforts should also consciously consider class-based disparities between people who are able to respond to the survey, access the town hall, or use email.

- 6.
- 7.
- 8. Prior and Informed Consent with Indigenous Nations:
- 9.

The ləkʷəŋən peoples should have informed consent for all projects occurring on their unceded territory. Despite statements made by the Mayor and Council about “decolonizing practices”, city council continues to have final say even after consultation with the nations. This is in direct violation of the rights of ləkʷəŋən peoples Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. How will the city mayor and council address this violation of rights?

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a specific right that pertains to Indigenous peoples and is recognised in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It allows them to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories. Once they have given their consent, they can withdraw it at any stage. Furthermore, FPIC enables them to negotiate the conditions under which the project will be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated. This is also embedded within the universal right to self-determination.

I am calling on city council to address this violation of rights and to move forward by respecting local Indigenous nations' Free, Prior, and Informed Consent on city decision-making processes that occur on their unceded territory. I also believe that this should include giving land back to the nations, including off-reserve, to meet their communities' housing and service needs across all of their traditional territory, as well as following Indigenous protocols in caring for the parks, such as the lead of respected Songhees citizen Cheryl Bryce when it comes to controlled burns and other such endeavours that increase the long-term health and resilience of parks.

I urge you to listen to these points made and the needs of the community. We have the opportunity to address inequity in our city and create a thriving community for all who live here. Your responsibility as city employees is to make the decision to use funding in ways that envision safety for *all* of our citizens, including the most marginalized; in addition to creating secure housing, food security, and increased equitable public engagement in city affairs.

Sincerely,

## Dale Vanelli

---

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 23, 2021 10:25 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Hello, thank you so much for the work you are doing to make Victoria a stellar place to live. I'm writing to provide feedback on the draft 2022 budget for your consideration. I moved to Victoria at the beginning of the year, and have begun to learn about how the city works.

I will discuss six key points that need to be addressed: Indigenous leadership and consent (including free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples), the Victoria police department, accessibility, bylaw, public engagement, and housing.

6. 1. Prior and Informed Consent with Indigenous Nations:

The ɫəkwəŋən peoples should have informed consent for all projects occurring on their unceded territory. Despite statements made by the Mayor and Council about “decolonizing practices”, city council continues to have final say even after consultation with the nations. This is in direct violation of the rights of ɫəkwəŋən peoples Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. How will the city mayor and council address this violation of rights?

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a specific right that pertains to Indigenous peoples and is recognised in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), also adopted by BC. It allows them to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories. Once they have given their consent, they can withdraw it at any stage. Furthermore, FPIC enables them to negotiate the conditions under which the project will be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated. This is also embedded within the universal right to self-determination.

I am calling on city council to address this violation of rights and to move forward by respecting local Indigenous nations' Free, Prior, and Informed Consent on city decision-making processes that occur on their unceded territory.

2.

3. 2. Victoria Police Department:

4.

5. In the budget an increase is proposed for crowd management and patrolling in response to larger scale organized demonstrations. This money is prioritizing the policing of events, rather than community care supports present at these events. Rather than budgeting for police patrol at events, it would be important to consider how this money can be put into the community to reflect the demands of demonstrators. For example, the proposed budget increase for “crowd management” and patrolling could be used for community created/supported solutions ie. a community crisis response team that is trained in de-escalation, trauma-informed, and anti-oppressive tactics.

6.

7. I am calling on city council to allocate the money for police “crowd management” to support community created solutions that promote safety, care, harm reduction, and anti-oppression at events and demonstrations.

3. 3. Accessibility:

4.

5. The budget outlines many projects regarding accessibility. However, it is impossible to determine what accessibility needs are needed without consultation with those who experience disabilities and/or have

varying needs. Consultation with these voices is not noted in the proposed budget, and without these voices being at the forefront of the conversation, decisions made will further contribute to ableist architecture and program development. Consulting populations with relevant lived experience helps to maintain accessibility of projects.

- 6.
7. I am calling on city council to welcome communities with lived experience into decision making regarding accessibility and to make decisions directly informed by their needs.
4. 4. Bylaw:
- 5.
6. Within the proposed budget, a large portion of bylaw services is dedicated to patrolling parks and taking down illegal shelters (ie. taking down shelters of those who are tenting in the park because they do not have housing). Rather than the budget being allocated to bylaw services to patrol parks and to remove “illegal” sheltering, this money should be funneled into long term housing solutions and anti-poverty measures, such as food justice supports, housing (see next point), and more. If budgets intended for patrolling and tearing down sheltering were allocated to relevant services, such as food justice and housing, this would decrease the need for shelters in parks.
- 7.
8. I am calling on city council to allocate the funding, that would be used to remove shelters, instead towards long-term housing solutions for those who currently have no choice but to shelter in public spaces.
5. 5. Public Engagement
- 6.
7. The Community Wellness and Peer Informed Task Force and Citizen’s Assembly have both been terminated due to completing their assigned tasks. We need these groups, or similar community participatory task forces, with new project focuses to remain funded in 2022 and beyond to allow for increased community engagement/consultation. The winding down of both of these groups means less funding and fewer pathways for equitable community engagement and consultation. It is vital for these initiatives to continue on with new project focuses, to ensure that the community is included in decision making. Alongside this, measures should be taken to make the budget review process more accessible to all folks in the community. The annual city budget is quite a dense, large, and inaccessible project. With its size and jargon, it can be quite difficult to access/understand for many who do not have the time or capacity to thoroughly read and understand the document. There needs to be tangible solutions created that make engaging in this document more accessible. Many people simply do not have the spare time and capacity to engage in municipal affairs. City council needs to ensure that folks from all walks of life are providing their input for the city’s decision-making processes.
- 8.
9. Some ways to consider doing this could be to: split the budget into sections and review each section by section, rather than once a year all at once. Or, if there will continue to be an annual budget review process, there should be more than one town hall meeting and these should be held at varying times of the day, to allow for people with varying schedules to attend. These measures should be accompanied by funded citizen task forces that operate year-round, as noted above, to ensure increased public consultation.
- 10.
11. I am calling on city council to make engagement in municipal affairs, such as the annual city budget, more accessible for the community- so that all community members have an opportunity to *engage in, understand, and have a say* in municipal affairs.
1. 6. Housing:
- 2.
3. Currently, the city of Victoria is experiencing a housing crisis, and there is a lack of affordable and expedited housing options available that meet the needs of unhoused and insecurely housed people. However, the current plans reflected in the proposed city budget outline an intent to incentivize developers and landlords, rather than prioritize the housing process for renters. There needs to be

more concrete and expedited housing solutions. In the budget it is stated that there are \$120 million of funds from all three levels of government that will be used to create affordable low end market housing and housing for “chronically homeless people”, however, it is not stated where and when these temporary supportive housing or “low-income apartments” are being built. For instance, in the budget Pandora housing construction does not begin until 2024. Housing solutions need to be created tangibly, and immediately to address the lack of housing.

4.

5. I am calling on city council to allocate the budget to *concrete* and *expedited* housing solutions that tangibly address the urgent nature of the housing crisis, rather than prioritizing landlords and developers.

I urge you to listen to these points made and the needs of the community. We have the opportunity to address inequity in our city and create a thriving community for all who live here. Your responsibility as city employees is to make decisions informed by what the public wants and the public is asking you to divest funding from unnecessary punitive measures and use those funds to create secure housing, food security, and increased equitable public engagement in city affairs.

Sincerely,

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 23, 2021 10:17 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** 2022 Draft Budget Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Hello,

I'm writing you as a resident of Victoria who is concerned about the proposed budget allocation for 2022. I see on a daily basis how large the unhoused population around our community is. The cost of rent continues to rise to levels which are very difficult even for many full time workers to afford, so it's unsurprising that some are left behind, but it is not an excuse.

Meanwhile, we are once again increasing funding to policing. While I see them around town all the time as well, this doesn't solve the social problems we're facing. Instead of dumping more and more money into the police, we should be making affordable housing and trying to get people who are unhoused into proper accommodations. It is a mystery to me why this is controversial, considering that so many seem to have such negative reactions to tent cities, etc. We can't avoid seeing people on the street if we won't put the resources towards getting them off the street and integrated into society.

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 23, 2021 9:23 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Victoria City Council, Mayor, and City Staff,

I am writing to you with my feedback on the 2022 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria. Below I will discuss several key points that need to be addressed: housing, bylaw, the Victoria police department, climate action, and free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples.

### 1. Housing:

Currently, the city of Victoria is experiencing a housing crisis, and there is a lack of affordable and expedited housing options available that meet the needs of community members - in particular unhoused and insecurely housed people.

My partner and I both work full-time jobs. We both make between \$40,000 - \$50,000 a year each and yet the majority of our income consistently goes to paying rent on a one bedroom apartment in the outskirts of downtown. It is becoming increasingly impossible to live in Victoria due to the rising living costs and the lack of housing options and if we are experiencing these difficulties as full-time workers sharing the expense of living, I can only imagine who is left severely suffering.

The current plans reflected in the proposed city budget outline an intent to incentivize developers and landlords rather than prioritize the housing availability and accessibility for renters.

As stated in the report, “[Victoria] has one of the lowest apartment rental vacancy rates in the country and the average rent increased by 3.3% in 2020 (faster than inflation and the provincially allowable rent increase)”. It is also stated that “a key goal for Victoria is to increase overall affordable housing supply in the City, [and] allocate additional City revenue to affordable housing. If this is truly the case, there needs to be more concrete and expedited housing solutions and this should start with re-allocating budget items in recognition of the priority that housing affordability and accessibility is.

In reviewing the budget proposal, I am calling on city council to re-allocate the proposed increase to the Victoria Police department’s budget to fund *concrete* and *expedited* housing solutions that tangibly address the urgent nature of the housing crisis, rather than prioritizing landlords and developers.

### 2. Bylaw:



Within the proposed budget, a large portion of bylaw services is dedicated to patrolling parks and taking down illegal shelters (ie. taking down shelters of those who are tenting in the park because they do not have housing). Rather than the budget being allocated to bylaw services to patrol parks and to remove “illegal” sheltering, this money should be funneled into long term housing solutions and anti-poverty measures, such as comprehensive healthcare, food justice supports and more. If budgets intended for patrolling and tearing down sheltering were allocated to relevant services, such as food justice and housing, this would decrease the need for shelters in parks.

I am calling on city council to allocate the funding, that would be used to remove shelters, instead towards long-term housing solutions for those who currently have no choice but to shelter in public spaces.

### 3. Victoria Police Department:

In the budget an increase is proposed for crowd management and patrolling in response to larger scale organized demonstrations. This money is prioritizing the policing of events, rather than considering how money can be put into the community to reflect the demands of demonstrators. For example, the proposed budget increase for “crowd management” and patrolling could be used for community created/supported solutions. Instead of investing even more resources in the Victoria Police Department, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, anti-colonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of BIPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I want to emphasize that **increased police presence does not keep the community safe**. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.). Continuing to increase the police department’s budget sends a message to these members of our community that they need to be policed. Instead of increased support for police presence at events and demonstrations, there should instead be a push towards providing civilian led alternative responders trained in de-escalation and harm reduction techniques.

I am calling on city council to allocate the money for police “crowd management” to support community created solutions that promote safety, care, harm reduction and/or to put towards affordable and accessible housing solutions. I am also calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the police department’s budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

### 4. Climate Action

It was distressing to see that within the proposed reserves for 2022 the second-highest item was for Police at 17% over the minuscule 6% for Climate Action. If the recent environmental devastation in BC has shown us anything, it is that climate change should be a top priority and certainly over police

resources.

In terms of aiming for 100% renewable energy by 2050, this goal needs to be fast-tracked. We are seeing the devastating effects of climate change worsen with every passing year.

I am calling on city council to review the proposed budget and reserves and keep in mind that swift and drastic climate action is required for the safety of our community.

## **5. Prior and Informed Consent with Indigenous Nations:**

The ɫəkʷəŋən peoples should have informed consent for all projects occurring on their unceded territory. Despite statements made by the Mayor and Council about “decolonizing practices”, city council continues to have final say even after consultation with the nations. This is in direct violation of the rights of ɫəkʷəŋən peoples Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. How will the city mayor and council address this violation of rights?

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a specific right that pertains to Indigenous peoples and is recognised in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It allows them to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories. Once they have given their consent, they can withdraw it at any stage. Furthermore, FPIC enables them to negotiate the conditions under which the project will be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated. This is also embedded within the universal right to self-determination.

I am calling on city council to address this violation of rights and to move forward by respecting local Indigenous nations' Free, Prior, and Informed Consent on city decision-making processes that occur on their unceded territory.

I urge you to listen to these points made and the needs of the community. We have the opportunity to address inequity in our city and create a thriving community for all who live here. Your responsibility as city employees is to make decisions informed by what the public wants and the public is asking you to divest funding from unnecessary punitive measures and use those funds to create secure housing, take climate action, and increase engagement with and respect for the Indigenous communities whose land we occupy.

Sincerely,

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 23, 2021 8:04 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Victoria City Council, Mayor, and City Staff,

I am writing to you with my feedback on the 2022 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria. Below I will discuss six key points that need to be addressed: housing, the Victoria police department, accessibility, bylaw, public engagement, and free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples.

### 1. Housing:

Currently, the city of Victoria is experiencing a housing crisis, and there is a lack of affordable and expedited housing options available that meet the needs of unhoused and insecurely housed people. However, the current plans reflected in the proposed city budget outline an intent to incentivize developers and landlords, rather than prioritize the housing process for renters. There needs to be more concrete and expedited housing solutions. In the budget it is stated that there are \$120 million of funds from all three levels of government that will be used to create affordable low end market housing and housing for “chronically homeless people”, however, it is not stated where and when these temporary supportive housing or “low-income apartments” are being built. For instance, in the budget Pandora housing construction does not begin until 2024. Housing solutions need to be created tangibly, and immediately to address the lack of housing.

I am calling on city council to allocate the budget to *concrete* and *expedited* housing solutions that tangibly address the urgent nature of the housing crisis, rather than prioritizing landlords and developers.

### 2. Victoria Police Department:

In the budget an increase is proposed for crowd management and patrolling in response to larger scale organized demonstrations. This money is prioritizing the policing of events, rather than community care supports present at these events. Rather than budgeting for police patrol at events, it would be important to consider how this money can be put into the community to reflect the demands of demonstrators. For example, the proposed budget increase for “crowd management” and patrolling could be used for community created/supported solutions ie. a community crisis response team that is trained in de-escalation, trauma-informed, and anti-oppressive tactics.

I am calling on city council to allocate the money for police “crowd management” to support community created solutions that promote safety, care, harm reduction, and anti-oppression at events and demonstrations.

### 3. Accessibility:

The budget outlines many projects regarding accessibility. However, it is impossible to determine what accessibility needs are needed without consultation with those who experience disabilities and/or have varying needs. Consultation with these voices is not noted in the proposed budget, and without these voices being at the forefront of the conversation, decisions made will further contribute to ableist architecture and program development. Consulting populations with relevant lived experience helps to maintain accessibility of projects.

I am calling on city council to welcome communities with lived experience into decision making regarding accessibility and to make decisions directly informed by their needs.

#### 4. Bylaw:

Within the proposed budget, a large portion of bylaw services is dedicated to patrolling parks and taking down illegal shelters (ie. taking down shelters of those who are tenting in the park because they do not have housing). Rather than the budget being allocated to bylaw services to patrol parks and to remove “illegal” sheltering, this money should be funneled into long term housing solutions and anti-poverty measures, such as comprehensive healthcare, food justice supports and more. If budgets intended for patrolling and tearing down sheltering were allocated to relevant services, such as food justice and housing, this would decrease the need for shelters in parks.

I am calling on city council to allocate the funding, that would be used to remove shelters, instead towards long-term housing solutions for those who currently have no choice but to shelter in public spaces.

#### 5. Public Engagement

The Community Wellness and Peer Informed Task Force and Citizen’s Assembly have both been terminated due to completing their assigned tasks. We need these groups, or similar community participatory task forces, with new project focuses to remain funded in 2022 and beyond to allow for increased community engagement/consultation. The winding down of both of these groups means less funding and fewer pathways for equitable community engagement and consultation. It is vital for these initiatives to continue on with new project focuses, to ensure that the community is included in decision making. Alongside this, measures should be taken to make the budget review process more accessible to all folks in the community. The annual city budget is quite a dense, large, and inaccessible project. With its size and jargon, it can be quite difficult to access/understand for many who do not have the time or capacity to thoroughly read and understand the document. There needs to be tangible solutions created that make engaging in this document more accessible. Many people simply do not have the spare time and capacity to engage in municipal affairs. City council needs to ensure that folks from all walks of life are providing their input for the city’s decision-making processes.

Some ways to consider doing this could be to: split the budget into sections and review each section by section, rather than once a year all at once. Or, if there will continue to be an annual budget review process, there should be more than one town hall meeting and these should be held at varying times of the day, to allow for people with varying schedules to attend. These measures should be accompanied by funded citizen task forces that operate year-round, as noted above, to ensure increased public consultation.

I am calling on city council to make engagement in municipal affairs, such as the annual city budget, more accessible for the community- so that all community members have an opportunity to *engage in, understand, and have a say* in municipal affairs.

6. Prior and Informed Consent with Indigenous Nations:

The ləkʷəŋən peoples should have informed consent for all projects occurring on their unceded territory. Despite statements made by the Mayor and Council about “decolonizing practices”, city council continues to have final say even after consultation with the nations. This is in direct violation of the rights of ləkʷəŋən peoples Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. How will the city mayor and council address this violation of rights?

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a specific right that pertains to Indigenous peoples and is recognised in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It allows them to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories. Once they have given their consent, they can withdraw it at any stage. Furthermore, FPIC enables them to negotiate the conditions under which the project will be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated. This is also embedded within the universal right to self-determination.

I am calling on city council to address this violation of rights and to move forward by respecting local Indigenous nations' Free, Prior, and Informed Consent on city decision-making processes that occur on their unceded territory.

I urge you to listen to these points made and the needs of the community. We have the opportunity to address inequity in our city and create a thriving community for all who live here. Your responsibility as city employees is to make decisions informed by what the public wants and the public is asking you to divest funding from unnecessary punitive measures and use those funds to create secure housing, food security, and increased equitable public engagement in city affairs.

Sincerely,

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 23, 2021 7:21 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** 2022 Draft Budget Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

To whom it may concern,

I feel very strongly that the proposed 2022 budget increase for the VicPD should be reallocated towards work that will help address climate change and affordable housing. More police presence is not something that makes me feel safe and I would much rather see that money go towards these other areas that in my mind are exponentially more important and serve the entire community instead of just the privileged and wealthy.

My partner and I both work full time and rent a 1-bedroom apartment and frankly, we won't be able to afford to live in Victoria for much longer with the current housing situation. If we are barely getting by, imagine how many people are getting left behind and priced out of the city.

In particular, I am distressed when looking at the proposed reserves for 2022 were the second-highest item (Police) at 17% over the minuscule 6% for Climate Action Reserve. If the recent environmental devastation in BC has taught us anything, it is that climate change should be our number one priority and we definitely need to plan ahead.

Thank you,

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 23, 2021 7:13 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Victoria City Council, Mayor, and City Staff,

I am writing to you with my feedback on the 2022 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria. Below I will discuss six key points that need to be addressed: housing, the Victoria police department, accessibility, bylaw, public engagement, and free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples.

Housing:

Currently, the city of Victoria is experiencing a housing crisis, and there is a lack of affordable and expedited housing options available that meet the needs of unhoused and insecurely housed people. However, the current plans reflected in the proposed city budget outline an intent to incentivize developers and landlords, rather than prioritize the housing process for renters. There needs to be more concrete and expedited housing solutions. In the budget it is stated that there are \$120 million of funds from all three levels of government that will be used to create affordable low end market housing and housing for “chronically homeless people”, however, it is not stated where and when these temporary supportive housing or “low-income apartments” are being built. For instance, in the budget Pandora housing construction does not begin until 2024. Housing solutions need to be created tangibly, and immediately to address the lack of housing.

I am calling on city council to allocate the budget to concrete and expedited housing solutions that tangibly address the urgent nature of the housing crisis, rather than prioritizing landlords and developers.

Victoria Police Department:

In the budget an increase is proposed for crowd management and patrolling in response to larger scale organized demonstrations. This money is prioritizing the policing of events, rather than community care supports present at these events. Rather than budgeting for police patrol at events, it would be important to consider how this money can be put into the community to reflect the demands of demonstrators. For example, the proposed budget increase for “crowd management” and patrolling could be used for community created/supported solutions ie. a community crisis response team that is trained in de-escalation, trauma-informed, and anti-oppressive tactics.

I am calling on city council to allocate the money for police “crowd management” to support community created solutions that promote safety, care, harm reduction, and anti-oppression at events and demonstrations.

Accessibility:

The budget outlines many projects regarding accessibility. However, it is impossible to determine what accessibility needs are needed without consultation with those who experience disabilities and/or have varying needs. Consultation with these voices is not noted in the proposed budget, and without these voices being at the forefront of the conversation, decisions made will further contribute to ableist architecture and program development. Consulting populations with relevant lived experience helps to maintain accessibility of projects.

I am calling on city council to welcome communities with lived experience into decision making regarding accessibility and to make decisions directly informed by their needs.

Bylaw:

Within the proposed budget, a large portion of bylaw services is dedicated to patrolling parks and taking down illegal shelters (ie. taking down shelters of those who are tenting in the park because they do not have housing). Rather than the budget being allocated to bylaw services to patrol parks and to remove “illegal” sheltering, this money should be funneled into long term housing solutions and anti-poverty measures, such as comprehensive healthcare, food justice supports and more. If budgets intended for patrolling and tearing down sheltering were allocated to relevant services, such as food justice and housing, this would decrease the need for shelters in parks.

I am calling on city council to allocate the funding, that would be used to remove shelters, instead towards long-term housing solutions for those who currently have no choice but to shelter in public spaces.

Public Engagement

The Community Wellness and Peer Informed Task Force and Citizen’s Assembly have both been terminated due to completing their assigned tasks. We need these groups, or similar community participatory task forces, with new project focuses to remain funded in 2022 and beyond to allow for increased community engagement/consultation. The winding down of both of these groups means less funding and fewer pathways for equitable community engagement and consultation. It is vital for these initiatives to continue on with new project focuses, to ensure that the community is included in decision making. Alongside this, measures should be taken to make the budget review process more accessible to all folks in the community. The annual city budget is quite a dense, large, and inaccessible project. With its size and jargon, it can be quite difficult to access/understand for many who do not have the time or capacity to thoroughly read and understand the document. There needs to be tangible solutions created that make engaging in this document more accessible. Many people simply do not have the spare time and capacity to engage in municipal affairs. City council needs to ensure that folks from all walks of life are providing their input for the city’s decision-making processes.

Some ways to consider doing this could be to: split the budget into sections and review each section by section, rather than once a year all at once. Or, if there will continue to be an annual budget review process, there should be more than one town hall meeting and these should be held at varying times of the day, to allow for people with varying schedules to attend. These measures should be accompanied by funded citizen task forces that operate year-round, as noted above, to ensure increased public consultation.

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Prior and Informed Consent with Indigenous Nations:

The ɫəkʷəŋən peoples should have informed consent for all projects occurring on their unceded territory. Despite statements made by the Mayor and Council about “decolonizing practices”, city council continues to have final say even after consultation with the nations. This is in direct violation of the rights of ɫəkʷəŋən peoples Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. How will the city mayor and council address this violation of rights?

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a specific right that pertains to Indigenous peoples and is recognised in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It allows them to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories. Once they have given their consent, they can withdraw it at any stage. Furthermore, FPIC enables them to negotiate the conditions under which the project will be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated. This is also embedded within the universal right to self-determination.



I am calling on city council to address this violation of rights and to move forward by respecting local Indigenous nations' Free, Prior, and Informed Consent on city decision-making processes that occur on their unceded territory.

I urge you to listen to these points made and the needs of the community. We have the opportunity to address inequity in our city and create a thriving community for all who live here. Your responsibility as city employees is to make decisions informed by what the public wants and the public is asking you to divest funding from unnecessary punitive measures and use those funds to create secure housing, food security, and increased equitable public engagement in city affairs.

Sincerely,

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 23, 2021 6:46 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Feedback for Victoria 2022 Draft Budget

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Victoria City Council, Mayor, and City Staff,

I am writing to you with my feedback on the 2022 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria. Below I will discuss six key points that need to be addressed: housing, the Victoria police department, accessibility, bylaw, public engagement, and free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples.

### 1. Housing:

Currently, the city of Victoria is experiencing a housing crisis, and there is a lack of affordable and expedited housing options available that meet the needs of unhoused and insecurely housed people. However, the current plans reflected in the proposed city budget outline an intent to incentivize developers and landlords, rather than prioritize the housing process for renters. There needs to be more concrete and expedited housing solutions. In the budget it is stated that there are \$120 million of funds from all three levels of government that will be used to create affordable low end market housing and housing for "chronically homeless people", however, it is not stated where and when these temporary supportive housing or "low-income apartments" are being built. For instance, in the budget Pandora housing construction does not begin until 2024. Housing solutions need to be created tangibly, and immediately to address the lack of housing.

I am calling on city council to allocate the budget to *concrete* and *expedited* housing solutions that tangibly address the urgent nature of the housing crisis, rather than prioritizing landlords and developers.

### 1. Victoria Police Department:

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#### 1. Prior and Informed Consent with Indigenous Nations:

The ləkʷəŋən peoples should have informed consent for all projects occurring on their unceded territory. Despite statements made by the Mayor and Council about “decolonizing practices”, city council continues to have final say even after consultation with the nations. This is in direct violation of the rights of ləkʷəŋən peoples Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. How will the city mayor and council address this violation of rights?

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I am calling on city council to address this violation of rights and to move forward by respecting local Indigenous nations' Free, Prior, and Informed Consent on city decision-making processes that occur on their unceded territory.

I urge you to listen to these points made and the needs of the community. We have the opportunity to address inequity in our city and create a thriving community for all who live here. Your responsibility as city employees is to make decisions informed by what the public wants and the public is asking you to divest funding from unnecessary punitive measures and use those funds to create secure housing, food security, and increased equitable public engagement in city affairs.

Sincerely,

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 23, 2021 5:57 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** VPD Budget Increase

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 6% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget that is financed partly by cutting funds to sustainable planning and community development and arts, culture and events. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is permanently frozen against increases so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget decrease is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- Police criminalize minority and vulnerable communities, and the defund and abolish movements are gaining support nationally and internationally. The city should respect and participate in the defund and abolish movements.
- COVID-19 has shifted priorities and exposed areas of public interest that are underfunded and underserved by the City of Victoria
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets.
- Chief Del Manak's salary is over a quarter of a million dollars while public servants earn fractions of that.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to decrease the VicPD budget and immediately begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in citizen-directed areas.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, decolonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of BIPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

S. 22

\*\* This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

## Dale Vanelli

---

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:**  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** 2022 Draft Budget Feedback  
  
**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

The Victoria Police Department does not need a greater budget. What our communities need is greater investment in Sustainable Development, and Arts and Culture, both of which are seeing a decrease alongside the proposed increase of VicPD's funds in the draft budget.

To increase the budget of a police department in the wake of 2020's movements and mass protests (that, yes, took place here in Victoria as well) calling for a defunding of police departments is tone-deaf, and the opposite of leadership. It is a slap in the face to my friends and community members who have described to me time and time again the discrimination and harassment they have faced at the hands of Vic PD. It is a loud approval of the destruction of the personal belongings of Victoria's unhoused population in raids on the communities they set up for themselves because this city will not house them: communities they need to support each other because the city, the province, and the nation have failed them. Homelessness and the crimes of desperation that unhoused people turn to are not solved by a greater police force. This same police force that assaulted protestors at the legislature that spoke out against RCMP violence in Northern BC.

Invest in building communities. Invest in people. Don't invest in policing. Better yet, divest from it. Show leadership. We are imagining a world without police. It will be a long road to get there. Take the first step.

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** Sarah Webb  
**Sent:** November 23, 2021 5:37 PM  
**To:** Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor)  
**Cc:** Christine Brinton; Engagement; Eric Ebarb; Ross Kenny  
**Subject:** ATAC Motion - Budget Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Councillors –

Please see the below motion that was passed today at ATAC.

We will ensure that it is shared with the engagement division as formal budget input, but also wanted to flag for you as the liaisons to this Committee.

Kind regards,  
Sarah

**“Whereas active and multi-modal transportation investments can contribute to climate action, equity, accessibility and affordability goals, the Active Transportation Advisory Committee encourages Council to support proposed infrastructure, programs and initiatives within the Draft 2022 Financial Plan and Supplemental Requests which improve accessibility, safety and comfort for residents to walk, roll, cycle and take transit more often.”**

**MOVED THOMAS; SECOND LINDA  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **Sarah Webb**

Pronouns: She/Her  
Manager, Transportation Planning & Development  
Engineering & Public Works  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6  
C 250.686.7432



The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People.



## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 23, 2021 5:24 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Feedback on Proposed Budget

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Hello;

I would like to raise a couple of concerns regarding the proposed budget for the City of Victoria, 2022.

I am adamantly opposed to the expansion of funding for VicPD. One of the questions on the priorities of the city is asking us to rank how important the statement of "Our community is safe" is to respondents? I answered that it is high priority, however, I would like to formally request that a definition of "safe" be determined and publically circulated. I anticipate that this language has been chosen specifically to support further funding of the VicPD, however I would argue that the police do not make us safer. For example, this past year I had my car window smashed in, and despite making a report and being assured someone would call me back, no one ever did. Safety in the community comes by providing for people's needs and addressing the ongoing issues that are root causes, not in punitive measures that lead to anxiety and stress, such as increased policing. I am quite certain that our underserved and unhoused populations do not feel more safe when the police are around, as well.

Additionally, in line 48, the Sheltering Support question -- I would argue that this should not include any expansion of police members. Health care providers and community liaisons should be the first line of connection for people seeking shelter, in order to provide supports, rather than punitive measures, increasing trauma and stress.

Thank you,

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 23, 2021 2:32 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft 2022 Budget Feedback

S. 22

To the Mayor and Council

Re: Annual Grant to First Nations

I am descended from 4 generations of a Metis parent and grandparents on my Father's side. My cousins, based on this lineage, applied for and received Government funding for university so, even though I have taken no action to formalize it, I am Metis.

None of these relatives lived on a reservation likely because my great- great grandmother married a white man and would not have been allowed to live on her tribal lands so all of my forebearers were required to make their way elsewhere. Native men on the other hand were permitted to marry white women and continue to live on the reservation receiving all benefits conferred on members of their tribe. Will the Esquimalt and Songhees women who were forced to leave their bands and their children share in this rental tax you have inferred on all of us or will you continue to promote this discrimination? And will I be required to pay this tax given I am entitled to compensation on the same basis, just elsewhere?

If this tax you plan to impose on us is passed, what assurance do you have that the funds will equitably benefit all band members? There are numerous examples of Band Chiefs and their council rewarding themselves lavishly instead of improving the lives of their band members. One example is the Onion Lake band who has been taken to court by a band member on more than one occasion for refusing to file Financial Statements so they could understand why they were impoverished. Reading up on this one misappropriation of funds should provide some insight on what has taken place in numerous instances and most likely still does. The plan to transfer a large amount of money annually from Victoria residents will ultimately raise municipal taxes in an already very expensive City – which is a problem this Council has highlighted on many occasions.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/onion-lake-taxpayers-federation-financial-documents-1.5237881>

Are you legally permitted to pay our taxes to another entity for no service having been rendered to the City or, decide that Victoria residents, without their consent, are indebted to another, impose and collect a rental tax and transfer it to them? These bands operate as businesses and have access to many government subsidies already funded by taxpayers.

Sincerely

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** Engagement  
**Sent:** November 23, 2021 2:18 PM  
**To:** S. 22  
**Subject:** RE: 2022 Draft Budget Feedback

Thank you for your feedback. Your email will be included in the official budget engagement package for Council's consideration.

You can also share your priorities for investment in 2022 with Council by completing our online survey by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, November 23. You can find the survey here: [2022 Draft Budget | Have Your Say \(victoria.ca\)](#)

Kind regards,

**Engagement**  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People.

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 23, 2021 1:38 PM  
**To:** Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>  
**Subject:** 2022 Draft Budget Feedback

Good afternoon,

I wanted to write in my strong support for the annual grant to the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations coming from new development property-tax revenue.

I would also like to add that I would prefer that the property tax of each year's new developments be counted toward the grant for *more* than two years. Two years of benefit from a city that continues to grow as Victoria is growing, is not much (you couldn't even buy a condo for the estimated \$240,000 that the second year will generate). Perhaps the contribution could go to 5% after the two years, in perpetuity (on new developments going forward).

Thank you for accepting feedback on the budget!

Best wishes,

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 23, 2021 12:20 PM  
**To:** Engagement; Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew (Councillor); Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca  
**Subject:** 2022 Budget proposal feedback  
**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 6% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget that is financed partly by cutting funds to sustainable planning and community development and arts, culture and events. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is permanently frozen against increases so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

I am appalled that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget decrease is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- Police criminalize minority and vulnerable communities, and the defund and abolish movements are gaining support nationally and internationally. The city should respect and participate in the defund and abolish movements.
- COVID-19 has shifted priorities and exposed areas of public interest that are underfunded and underserved by the City of Victoria
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets.
- Chief Del Manak's salary is over a quarter of a million dollars while public servants earn fractions of that.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to decrease the VicPD budget and immediately begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in citizen-directed areas.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress and harass our most targeted community members (Indigenous, Black, people of colour, transgender, Two-Spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.), and puts their lives at risk.

Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, decolonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of BIPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,  
S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 23, 2021 12:04 PM  
**To:** Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew (Councillor); Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Engagement; Lisa Helps (Mayor)  
**Subject:** Police Funding - Do Not Increase  
**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 6% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget that is financed partly by cutting funds to sustainable planning and community development and arts, culture and events. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is permanently frozen against increases so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

S. 22

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

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## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 23, 2021 12:00 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback  
**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

I am a youth who has lived in Victoria my entire life. I am voicing my emphatic resistance to the proposal of an increase in the Victoria Police Department budget for 2022. Allocating nearly 3.5 million more to a militarized group that already receives more than 23% of the city budget is irresponsible and chaotic. The police, who recently killed someone, whose communications constantly lie to the community about their role, do not need more money. Del Manak does not even live within Victoria, yet the budget proposal seeks to use our community's taxes to increase his already immense salary. If this budget increase passes, I and my peers will protest within our civil rights against taking more money away from our communities and putting them in the pockets of the police.

Sincerely,

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 23, 2021 11:57 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** 2022 budget feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 6% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget that is financed partly by cutting funds to sustainable planning and community development and arts, culture and events. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is permanently frozen against increases so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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- COVID-19 has shifted priorities and exposed areas of public interest that are underfunded and underserved by the City of Victoria
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets.
- Chief Del Manak's salary is over a quarter of a million dollars while public servants earn fractions of that.

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to decrease the VicPD budget and immediately begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria Police Department and invest in citizen-directed areas.

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Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, decolonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of BIPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

S. 22

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## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 23, 2021 11:56 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** 2022 Draft Budget Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

The police budget is far too high and only creates more fear and violence. This money would be better spent calming roads by passive means and then remove traffic enforcement. The fire department is 7% of the budget because we focus on education and prevention not enforcement. The police force is only used to enforce property rights of the wealthy through violent means and this money would be better focused on programs for the least fortunate and housing for all. Society is changing and the police force is a remnant of our colonial past and it's time to rethink what we expect from our society and our tax dollars. Raise taxes on the wealthy, take higher local property tax and focus on building a better city not poorly enforcing the status quo with a majority white male, militarized, violent force.

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 23, 2021 11:04 AM  
**To:** Engagement; Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew (Councillor); Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca  
**Subject:** Vic City Budget '22  
**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 6% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget that is financed partly by cutting funds to sustainable planning and community development and arts, culture and events. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is permanently frozen against increases so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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- Chief Del Manak's salary is over a quarter of a million dollars while public servants earn fractions of that.

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Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, decolonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of BIPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely.  
S. 22

\*This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

---

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:**  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback  
**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Mayor, Council, and city staff,

I support hiring a co-ordinator for helping homeless people, however there must be a fixed requirement that any person hired for that role has had personal experience with homelessness. This is because only personal experience provides the necessary job experience for that role. Hiring a person who has not experienced homelessness would be like hiring a white man to the role of gender and race equality coordinator.

Thanks,  
S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 23, 2021 9:57 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** 2022 Proposed Budget

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 6% increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget that is financed partly by cutting funds to sustainable planning and community development and arts, culture and events. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget is permanently frozen against increases so that limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically underfunded and ignored.

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Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, decolonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of BIPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, instead of increasing the VicPD budget.

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

S. 22

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## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 23, 2021 6:52 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft budget 2022 feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Victoria City Council, Mayor, and City Staff,

I am writing to you with my feedback on the 2022 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria. Below I will discuss six key points that need to be addressed: housing, the Victoria police department, accessibility, bylaw, public engagement, and free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples.

### 1. Housing:

Currently, the city of Victoria is experiencing a housing crisis, and there is a lack of affordable and expedited housing options available that meet the needs of unhoused and insecurely housed people. However, the current plans reflected in the proposed city budget outline an intent to incentivize developers and landlords, rather than prioritize the housing process for renters. There needs to be more concrete and expedited housing solutions. In the budget it is stated that there are \$120 million of funds from all three levels of government that will be used to create affordable low end market housing and housing for “chronically homeless people”, however, it is not stated where and when these temporary supportive housing or “low-income apartments” are being built. For instance, in the budget Pandora housing construction does not begin until 2024. Housing solutions need to be created tangibly, and immediately to address the lack of housing.

I am calling on city council to allocate the budget to *concrete* and *expedited* housing solutions that tangibly address the urgent nature of the housing crisis, rather than prioritizing landlords and developers.

### 2. Victoria Police Department:

In the budget an increase is proposed for crowd management and patrolling in response to larger scale organized demonstrations. This money is prioritizing the policing of events, rather than community care supports present at these events. Rather than budgeting for police patrol at events, it would be important to consider how this money can be put into the community to reflect the demands of demonstrators. For example, the proposed budget increase for “crowd management” and patrolling could be used for community created/supported solutions ie. a community crisis response team that is trained in de-escalation, trauma-informed, and anti-oppressive tactics.

I am calling on city council to allocate the money for police “crowd management” to support community created solutions that promote safety, care, harm reduction, and anti-oppression at events and demonstrations.

3. Accessibility:

The budget outlines many projects regarding accessibility. However, it is impossible to determine what accessibility needs are needed without consultation with those who experience disabilities and/or have varying needs. Consultation with these voices is not noted in the proposed budget, and without these voices being at the forefront of the conversation, decisions made will further contribute to ableist architecture and program development. Consulting populations with relevant lived experience helps to maintain accessibility of projects.

I am calling on city council to welcome communities with lived experience into decision making regarding accessibility and to make decisions directly informed by their needs.

4. Bylaw:

Within the proposed budget, a large portion of bylaw services is dedicated to patrolling parks and taking down illegal shelters (ie. taking down shelters of those who are tenting in the park because they do not have housing). Rather than the budget being allocated to bylaw services to patrol parks and to remove “illegal” sheltering, this money should be funneled into long term housing solutions and anti-poverty measures, such as comprehensive healthcare, food justice supports and more. If budgets intended for patrolling and tearing down sheltering were allocated to relevant services, such as food justice and housing, this would decrease the need for shelters in parks.

I am calling on city council to allocate the funding, that would be used to remove shelters, instead towards long-term housing solutions for those who currently have no choice but to shelter in public spaces.

5. Public Engagement

The Community Wellness and Peer Informed Task Force and Citizen’s Assembly have both been terminated due to completing their assigned tasks. We need these groups, or similar community participatory task forces, with new project focuses to remain funded in 2022 and beyond to allow for increased community engagement/consultation. The winding down of both of these groups means less funding and fewer pathways for equitable community engagement and consultation. It is vital for these initiatives to continue on with new project focuses, to ensure that the community is included in decision making. Alongside this, measures should be taken to make the budget review process more accessible to all folks in the community. The annual city budget is quite a dense, large, and inaccessible project. With its size and jargon, it can be quite difficult to access/understand for many who do not have the time or



capacity to thoroughly read and understand the document. There needs to be tangible solutions created that make engaging in this document more accessible. Many people simply do not have the spare time and capacity to engage in municipal affairs. City council needs to ensure that folks from all walks of life are providing their input for the city's decision-making processes.

Some ways to consider doing this could be to: split the budget into sections and review each section by section, rather than once a year all at once. Or, if there will continue to be an annual budget review process, there should be more than one town hall meeting and these should be held at varying times of the day, to allow for people with varying schedules to attend. These measures should be accompanied by funded citizen task forces that operate year-round, as noted above, to ensure increased public consultation.

I am calling on city council to make engagement in municipal affairs, such as the annual city budget, more accessible for the community- so that all community members have an opportunity to *engage in, understand, and have a say* in municipal affairs.

## 6. Prior and Informed Consent with Indigenous Nations:

The ləkʷəŋən peoples should have informed consent for all projects occurring on their unceded territory. Despite statements made by the Mayor and Council about “decolonizing practices”, city council continues to have final say even after consultation with the nations. This is in direct violation of the rights of ləkʷəŋən peoples Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. How will the city mayor and council address this violation of rights?

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a specific right that pertains to Indigenous peoples and is recognised in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It allows them to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories. Once they have given their consent, they can withdraw it at any stage. Furthermore, FPIC enables them to negotiate the conditions under which the project will be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated. This is also embedded within the universal right to self-determination.

I am calling on city council to address this violation of rights and to move forward by respecting local Indigenous nations' Free, Prior, and Informed Consent on city decision-making processes that occur on their unceded territory.

I urge you to listen to these points made and the needs of the community. We have the opportunity to address inequity in our city and create a thriving community for all who live here. Your responsibility as city employees is to make decisions informed by what the public wants and the public is asking you to divest funding from unnecessary punitive measures and use those funds to create secure housing, food security, and increased equitable public engagement in city affairs.

Sincerely,

S. 22

Sent from my iPhone

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 23, 2021 4:45 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Victoria City Council, Mayor, and City Staff,

I am writing to you with my feedback on the 2022 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria. I would like to begin by stating that I am a student living in Victoria with a dynamic disability. Below I have highlighted a few main points that I would like to address.

### Accessibility:

Consultation needs to be a priority. The budget outlines many projects regarding accessibility. However, it is impossible to determine what accessibility needs are needed without consultation with those who experience disabilities and/or have varying needs. Consultation with disabled voices is not noted in the proposed budget, and without these voices being at the forefront of the conversation, decisions made will further contribute to ableist architecture and program development. Consulting populations with relevant lived experience helps to maintain the accessibility of projects. As someone who is often curious about how decisions of accessibility are being made, transparency is important to me. Therefore, I am calling on city council to welcome communities with lived experience into decision making regarding accessibility and to make decisions directly informed by their needs.

### Victoria Police Department:

In the budget, an increase is proposed for crowd management and patrolling in response to larger-scale organized demonstrations. This increase would prioritize policing events, rather than providing funds for other forms of community care supports present at these events. Additionally, the Victoria Police Department budget already accounts for 20% of the current City of Victoria budget. Considering the funds are being requested for crowd management at organized demonstrations, I encourage you to consider allocating these funds to projects many local organizations have been advocating for.

Therefore, I am calling on city council to allocate the money for police “crowd management” to support community created solutions that promote safety, care, harm reduction, and anti-oppression at events and demonstrations.

### Bylaw:

Over the past few years, I have seen an increasing amount of violent displacements occur within parks in Victoria. These displacements are being conducted by Bylaw Officers on the impoverished, unhoused community. Within the proposed budget, a large portion of bylaw services is dedicated to patrolling parks and taking down illegal shelters (ie. taking down shelters of those who are tenting in the park because they do not have housing). Rather than the budget being allocated to bylaw services to patrol parks and to remove “illegal” sheltering, this money should be funneled into long-term housing solutions and anti-poverty measures, such as comprehensive healthcare, food justice supports, and more. If budgets intended for patrolling and tearing down sheltering were allocated to relevant services, such as food justice and housing, this would decrease the need for shelters in parks.

Therefore, I am calling on city council to allocate the funding that would be used to remove shelters, instead towards long-term housing solutions for those who currently have no choice but to shelter in public spaces.

### Housing:

Currently, the city of Victoria is experiencing a housing crisis. We saw the extent of this housing crisis as students were returning to University in person and many struggled to find any form of housing in time for the fall semester. The Martlet wrote several articles about the lack of housing available to students and the issues within the market that were

specific for students, these articles may be of insight for council when and if you will move forward on affordable housing initiatives. Alternatively, reaching out to students who have faced housing issues would be a good way to engage with an involved population on the matter.

As mentioned, there is a lack of affordable and expedited housing options available that meet the needs of unhoused and insecurely housed people in Victoria. However, the current plans reflected in the proposed city budget outline an intent to incentivize developers and landlords, rather than prioritize the housing process for renters. There need to be more concrete and expedited housing solutions. In the budget it is stated that there are \$120 million of funds from all three levels of government that will be used to create affordable low-end market housing and housing for “chronically homeless people”, however, it is not stated where and when these temporary supportive housing or “low-income apartments” are being built. For instance, in the budget, Pandora housing construction does not begin until 2024.

Housing solutions need to be created tangibly, and immediately to address the lack of housing.

Therefore, I am calling on city council to allocate the budget to *concrete* and *expedited* housing solutions that tangibly address the urgent nature of the housing crisis, rather than prioritizing landlords and developers.

#### Public Engagement:

The Community Wellness and Peer Informed Task Force and Citizen’s Assembly have both been terminated due to completing their assigned tasks. We need these groups, or similar community participatory task forces, with new project focuses to remain funded in 2022 and beyond to allow for increased community engagement/consultation. The winding down of both of these groups means less funding and fewer pathways for equitable community engagement and consultation. It is vital for these initiatives to continue on with new project focuses, to ensure that the community is included in decision making. Alongside this, measures should be taken to make the budget review process more accessible to all folks in the community. The annual city budget is quite a dense, large, and inaccessible project. With its size and jargon, it can be quite difficult to access/understand for many who do not have the time or capacity to thoroughly read and understand the document. There needs to be tangible solutions created that make engaging in this document more accessible. Many people simply do not have the spare time and capacity to engage in municipal affairs. City council needs to ensure that folks from all walks of life are providing their input for the city’s decision-making processes.

Some ways to consider doing this could be to: split the budget into sections and review each section by section, rather than once a year all at once. Or, if there will continue to be an annual budget review process, there should be more than one town hall meeting and these should be held at varying times of the day, to allow for people with varying schedules to attend. These measures should be accompanied by funded citizen task forces that operate year-round, as noted above, to ensure increased public consultation.

Therefore, I am calling on city council to make engagement in municipal affairs, such as the annual city budget, more accessible for the community- so that all community members have an opportunity to *engage in, understand, and have a say* in municipal affairs.

#### Prior and Informed Consent with Indigenous Nations:

The ɫəkʷəŋən peoples should have informed consent for all projects occurring on their unceded territory. Despite statements made by the Mayor and Council about “decolonizing practices”, city council continues to have final say even after consultation with the nations. This is in direct violation of the rights of ɫəkʷəŋən peoples Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. How will the city mayor and council address this violation of rights?

Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a specific right that pertains to Indigenous peoples and is recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It allows them to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories. Once they have given their consent, they can withdraw it at any stage. Furthermore, FPIC enables them to negotiate the conditions under which the project will be designed, implemented, monitored, and evaluated. This is also embedded within the universal right to self-determination.

Therefore, I am calling on city council to address this violation of rights and to move forward by respecting local Indigenous nations' Free, Prior, and Informed Consent on city decision-making processes that occur on their unceded territory.

In closing, I urge you to listen to these points and others made by the community. Above all, this budget needs to reflect the needs of the community. We have an opportunity to address inequity within our community and create a community that people want to live within. An increase in bylaw and police funding will not create safety, but moving those proposed funds into other sectors of the community that can create solutions will improve living conditions for everyone. Victoria needs secure housing, food security and increased public engagement in city affairs.

Sincerely,

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:**  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Victoria City Council, Mayor, and City Staff,

I am writing to you with my feedback on the 2022 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria. Below I will discuss six key points that need to be addressed: housing, the Victoria police department, accessibility, bylaw, public engagement, and free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples.

### 1. Housing:

Currently, the city of Victoria is experiencing a housing crisis, and there is a lack of affordable and expedited housing options available that meet the needs of unhoused and insecurely housed people. However, the current plans reflected in the proposed city budget outline an intent to incentivize developers and landlords, rather than prioritize the housing process for renters. There needs to be more concrete and expedited housing solutions. In the budget it is stated that there are \$120 million of funds from all three levels of government that will be used to create affordable low end market housing and housing for “chronically homeless people”, however, it is not stated where and when these temporary supportive housing or “low-income apartments” are being built. For instance, in the budget Pandora housing construction does not begin until 2024. Housing solutions need to be created tangibly, and immediately to address the lack of housing.

I am calling on city council to allocate the budget to *concrete* and *expedited* housing solutions that tangibly address the urgent nature of the housing crisis, rather than prioritizing landlords and developers.

### 2. Victoria Police Department:

In the budget an increase is proposed for crowd management and patrolling in response to larger scale organized demonstrations. This money is prioritizing the policing of events, rather than community care supports present at these events. Rather than budgeting for police patrol at events, it would be important to consider how this money can be put into the community to reflect the demands of demonstrators. For example, the proposed budget increase for “crowd management” and patrolling could be used for community created/supported solutions ie. a community crisis response team that is trained in de-escalation, trauma-informed, and anti-oppressive tactics.

I am calling on city council to allocate the money for police “crowd management” to support community created solutions that promote safety, care, harm reduction, and anti-oppression at events and demonstrations.

### 3. Accessibility:

The budget outlines many projects regarding accessibility. However, it is impossible to determine what accessibility needs are needed without consultation with those who experience disabilities and/or have varying needs. Consultation with these voices is not noted in the proposed budget, and without these voices being at the forefront of the conversation, decisions made will further contribute to ableist architecture and program development. Consulting populations with relevant lived experience helps to maintain accessibility of projects.

I am calling on city council to welcome communities with lived experience into decision making regarding accessibility and to make decisions directly informed by their needs.

### 4. Bylaw:

Within the proposed budget, a large portion of bylaw services is dedicated to patrolling parks and taking down illegal shelters (ie. taking down shelters of those who are tenting in the park because they do not have housing). Rather than the budget being allocated to bylaw services to patrol parks and to remove “illegal” sheltering, this money should be funneled into long term housing solutions and anti-poverty measures, such as comprehensive healthcare, food justice supports and more. If budgets intended for patrolling and tearing down sheltering were allocated to relevant services, such as food justice and housing, this would decrease the need for shelters in parks.

I am calling on city council to allocate the funding, that would be used to remove shelters, instead towards long-term housing solutions for those who currently have no choice but to shelter in public spaces.

### 5. Public Engagement

The Community Wellness and Peer Informed Task Force and Citizen’s Assembly have both been terminated due to completing their assigned tasks. We need these groups, or similar community participatory task forces, with new project focuses to remain funded in 2022 and beyond to allow for increased community engagement/consultation. The winding down of both of these groups means less funding and fewer pathways for equitable community engagement and consultation. It is vital for these initiatives to continue on with new project focuses, to ensure that the community is included in decision making. Alongside this, measures should be taken to make the budget review process more accessible to all folks in the community. The annual city budget is quite a dense, large, and inaccessible project. With its size and jargon, it can be quite difficult to access/understand for many who do not have the time or capacity to thoroughly read and understand the document. There needs to be tangible solutions created that make engaging in this document more accessible. Many people simply do not have the spare time and capacity to engage in municipal affairs. City council needs to ensure that folks from all walks of life are providing their input for the city’s decision-making processes.

Some ways to consider doing this could be to: split the budget into sections and review each section by section, rather than once a year all at once. Or, if there will continue to be an annual budget review process, there should be more than one town hall meeting and these should be held at varying times of the day, to allow for people with varying schedules to attend. These measures should be accompanied by funded citizen task forces that operate year-round, as noted above, to ensure increased public consultation.

I am calling on city council to make engagement in municipal affairs, such as the annual city budget, more accessible for the community- so that all community members have an opportunity to *engage in, understand, and have a say* in municipal affairs.

6. Prior and Informed Consent with Indigenous Nations:

The ləkʷəŋən peoples should have informed consent for all projects occurring on their unceded territory. Despite statements made by the Mayor and Council about “decolonizing practices”, city council continues to have final say even after consultation with the nations. This is in direct violation of the rights of ləkʷəŋən peoples Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. How will the city mayor and council address this violation of rights?

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I am calling on city council to address this violation of rights and to move forward by respecting local Indigenous nations' Free, Prior, and Informed Consent on city decision-making processes that occur on their unceded territory.

I urge you to listen to these points made and the needs of the community. We have the opportunity to address inequity in our city and create a thriving community for all who live here. Your responsibility as city employees is to make decisions informed by what the public wants and the public is asking you to divest funding from unnecessary punitive measures and use those funds to create secure housing, food security, and increased equitable public engagement in city affairs.

Sincerely,

S. 22



## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 22, 2021 8:34 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** 2022 Budget Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Victoria City Council, Mayor, and City Staff,

I am writing to you with my feedback on the 2022 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria. Below I will discuss six key points that need to be addressed: housing, the Victoria police department, accessibility, bylaw, public engagement, and free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples.

### 1. Housing:

Currently, the city of Victoria is experiencing a housing crisis, and there is a lack of affordable and expedited housing options available that meet the needs of unhoused and insecurely housed people. However, the current plans reflected in the proposed city budget outline an intent to incentivize developers and landlords, rather than prioritize the housing process for renters. There needs to be more concrete and expedited housing solutions. In the budget it is stated that there are \$120 million of funds from all three levels of government that will be used to create affordable low end market housing and housing for “chronically homeless people”, however, it is not stated where and when these temporary supportive housing or “low-income apartments” are being built. For instance, in the budget Pandora housing construction does not begin until 2024. Housing solutions need to be created tangibly, and immediately to address the lack of housing.

I am calling on city council to allocate the budget to *concrete* and *expedited* housing solutions that tangibly address the urgent nature of the housing crisis, rather than prioritizing landlords and developers.

### 2. Victoria Police Department:

In the budget an increase is proposed for crowd management and patrolling in response to larger scale organized demonstrations. This money is prioritizing the policing of events, rather than community care supports present at these events. Rather than budgeting for police patrol at events, it would be important to consider how this money can be put into the community to reflect the demands of demonstrators. For example, the proposed budget increase for “crowd management” and patrolling could be used for community created/supported solutions ie. a community crisis response team that is trained in de-escalation, trauma-informed, and anti-oppressive tactics.

I am calling on city council to allocate the money for police “crowd management” to support community created solutions that promote safety, care, harm reduction, and anti-oppression at events and demonstrations.

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The ləkʷəŋən peoples should have informed consent for all projects occurring on their unceded territory. Despite statements made by the Mayor and Council about “decolonizing practices”, city council continues to have final say even after consultation with the nations. This is in direct violation of the rights of ləkʷəŋən peoples Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. How will the city mayor and council address this violation of rights?

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I urge you to listen to these points made and the needs of the community. We have the opportunity to address inequity in our city and create a thriving community for all who live here. Your responsibility as city employees is to make decisions informed by what the public wants and the public is asking you to divest funding from unnecessary punitive measures and use those funds to create secure housing, food security, and increased equitable public engagement in city affairs.

Sincerely,



## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 22, 2021 7:26 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Victoria City Council, Mayor, and City Staff,

I am writing to you with my feedback on the 2022 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria. Below I will discuss six key points that need to be addressed: housing, the Victoria police department, accessibility, bylaw, public engagement, and free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples.

1. Housing:

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2. Victoria Police Department:

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Sincerely,

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 22, 2021 7:24 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Victoria City Council, Mayor, and City Staff,

I am writing to you with my feedback on the 2022 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria. Below I will discuss six key points that need to be addressed: housing, the Victoria police department, accessibility, bylaw, public engagement, and free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples.

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Sincerely,

S. 22

(They/Them)

I respectfully acknowledge that I am a settler whose place of academia and work is on traditional unceded territory of Siksika, Kainai, Piikani; the Tsuut'ina and the Îyâxe Nakoda Nations; and the Métis Nation.

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 22, 2021 6:35 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Feedback draft 2022 budget

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Hello

Please do not make the municipal government Responsible for reconciliation and any monies

I believe that is a federal government initiative and the funds for all policies relating to this matter should be handled by the federal government

And possibly the provincial government .

Let's keep the city out of greater country issues and get to making Victoria a city that Is welcoming to all people.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 22, 2021 5:01 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Hello,

I was scheduled to speak at last night's budget town hall, but I had to cancel due to unforeseen circumstances.

Two points I need to share:

### **Police budget**

The Victoria police department is not policing a city of 90 thousand people in some remote town.

Victoria is the hub for a community of 350,000 people + the tourists + UVic students partying downtown. ETC.

In 1996 when I arrived in Victoria – downtown was dead. No restaurant and bar scene. Look at it now, a restaurant and bar scene serving 350,000 people + tourists + UVic students + ETC.

Victoria is not Red Deer Alberta – some out of the way and not a destination city.

Concerning a police budget, Victoria should not be looked at as a city of 90,000. It is more than that. And that is your job to figure that out and consider a budget suited for the need.

It is not your job to put public safety at risk so you can drive home a point to the provincial government.

Stop the anti-police rhetoric. Please act responsibly. Put your ideology-driven agenda aside and think about the city's safety.

And finally, please stop with the homemade chats – it's embarrassing.

It really is -- the lowest common denominator.

### **15% property tax directed at reconciliation**

This budget item should be an election question. If you believe this is a good idea, this should be part of a person's platform when they run in 2022. Meaning, to push this through in the last year of your mandate is not right and undemocratic.

Better yet, this should be decided by the people of Victoria as a referendum question and not by a city council driven by personal interest and ideology and not acting in the best interest of Victoria.

To vote in favor of this 15% tax in your last year on council is disrespectful and shameful. Let the people of Victoria decide in an election or, better yet, a referendum.

Let the people decide. Anything less would be the lowest common denominator.

Regards,

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 22, 2021 5:01 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Feedback to Proposed City of Victoria Budget and Related Initiatives.  
**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Please accept the following in response to your recent request for input:

1. Provision of financial resources raised by taxation and activities of City of Victoria as grants to the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations is both foolish and simple minded and likely to become very divisive within this community.

City residents pay taxes with the expectation of receiving in return competently managed municipal services.

Reconciliation is the responsibility of provincial and federal governments who have adequate fiscal resources and management competence well exceeding the finances and capabilities of present Mayor and Council.

2. Adequate funding to man and resource Victoria Police Department should be the number one focus of this Mayor and Council, to the exclusion of all other initiatives until successfully achieved. Crime and violence levels in this City are now unacceptable.
3. Anti racism campaigns are the responsibility of higher levels of government.
4. Renewal/replacement of Crystal Pool should take precedence over renewal/replacement of the main library. The Arts and Culture Infrastructure Plan should be paused in order to meet these two higher priorities.
5. This Mayor and Council supports the needs of the homeless at the expense of the safety and well-being of the rest of community. The needs of the addicted, mentally challenged and unfortunately destructive individuals on the sidewalks and boulevards of Pandora and Johnson Streets rest with the Province of British Columbia to resolve.

City of Victoria should shift these folks to the grounds of the Legislature and to Government House, whereupon more provincial ministry attention and supports will become rapidly available.

6. The Bicycle Master Plan and bicycle infrastructure completed to date has been well designed and implemented. These initiatives should not be mitigated by self-important complainers from Fairfield and south Oak Bay who wish to drive their cars through others' residential neighbourhoods on a direct line to downtown.

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 22, 2021 4:59 PM  
**To:** Lisa Helps (Mayor)  
**Cc:** Engagement  
**Subject:** re: Proposed Budget

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Mayor Helps,

I am writing today to let you know that I strongly oppose the proposed 6% increase in the VicPD budget. Not only should there be NO INCREASE to police budgets ever, this proposed increase is coming at the cost of cutting other critical services. Services that support and build safe, strong communities.

Instead of these cuts, and this increase, I am demanding that the VicPD budget be permanently frozen against increases so that our limited municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need. It is appalling that the city of Victoria is even considering a budgetary increase for the police force in this day and age, when the direction for safety, support and a thriving community is clearly in the direction of defunding and ultimately dismantling the police.

It is my belief, and the belief of many of my peers that a budget decrease to the VicPD is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

- Police criminalize minority and vulnerable communities, and the defund and abolish movements are gaining support nationally and internationally. The city should respect and participate in the defund and abolish movements.
- COVID-19 has shifted priorities and exposed areas of public interest that are underfunded and underserved by the City of Victoria
- As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets.
- Chief Del Manak's salary is over a quarter of a million dollars while public servants earn fractions of that. People who are doing valuable frontline supportive work need more support and funding.

Please consider this urgent plea. Investment is needed in harm reduction, housing, cultural programs, conflict resolution services and initiatives that support and centre our most marginalized, especially Indigenous, Black and other people of colour. It's worth noting, as I'm sure you're aware, that these populations are most often targeted by police. Increased police presence does not keep us safe. It scares, it pushes further to margins those most marginalized - sex workers, the unhoused, those who use drugs, the list goes on.

I will leave it there for now. There is much more to say but I hope you get the picture and take this into serious consideration. I do not support any budgetary increase to the VicPD.

Sincerely,

S. 22

\*This message, in full or in part, may not be forwarded or shared with anyone at the Victoria Police Department, or any third party, without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.



## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 22, 2021 4:48 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

As per the suggestion of Lucas de Amaral, I am forwarding his email and my following email dated November 19, 2021 to you to have my email/feedback included in the formal process for drafting the City's 2022 budget. I had already sent it to you under the original title but have now changed the title for you as Lucas suggested.

If there is anything else I need to do, please inform me of same.

Thank you.

S. 22

Sent from [Outlook](#)

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**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>  
**Sent:** November 22, 2021 3:56 PM  
**To:** S. 22  
**Subject:** Re: Calculation of Sewage Fees and Input to the Preparation of the City's 2022 Budget

Dear S. 22

Thank you for your email, it has been shared with Mayor and Council.

Additionally, the community is now invited to share their priorities for the draft budget through a detailed survey and by email feedback. Have your say here: [2022 Draft Budget | Have Your Say \(victoria.ca\)](#)

**Note:** if you want your email included in the formal process, please:

Share your feedback by emailing [engage@victoria.ca](mailto:engage@victoria.ca) with "**Draft Budget 2022 Feedback**" in the subject line **by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, November 23.**

Sincerely,

**Lucas de Amaral**  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People.

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**From:** S. 22

**Sent:** November 19, 2021 12:19 PM

**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>; Ben Isitt (Councillor) <BIsitt@victoria.ca>; Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>; Stephen Andrew (Councillor) <stephen.andrew@victoria.ca>

**Subject:** Calculation of Sewage Fees and Input to the Preparation of the City's 2022 Budget

Further to the City's request for input to the preparation of our 2022 budget, I offer the following.

The current sewage fee structure is not transparent, fair or equitable to residents who water flowers, shrubs, vegetable gardens and carbon-absorbing shade trees on their properties. Sewage fees are based on all of the water consumed by a household...including the water applied outside of a dwelling, none of which goes into our sewage system. The sewage fee rate is decreased in the summer and increased in the winter. However, this actually results in an annual discount for most condominium and apartment dwellers and penalizes residents who water vegetation by overcharging them and requiring them to subsidize the aforementioned discount. Therefore the current methodology is not based on the user pays principle.

The Municipalities of Saanich, Colwood and Langford use the water consumed by residents in the winter months to determine annual sewage fees. These figures represent inhouse use only and this method is transparent, fair, equitable and based on the user pays principle. If these municipalities can do this, then so can Victoria. We do not have to reinvent the wheel. We simply need to consult with our sister municipalities to determine how we can also do that.

I have been corresponding with the City regarding the methodology used to calculate sewage fee for a number of years...primarily with City staff. During that time only Councillor Ben Isitt has shown interest in this issue. Councillor Isitt advised me on how I might engage the other councillors in this matter and the following email was my attempt to do so. However, only Councillor Isitt responded to the email I sent to the mayor and councillors. Since then nothing has changed.

To further assist you in making evidence-based decisions, I have undertaken a number of initiatives to determine how much water I can conserve and hence reduce my water consumption and sewage fees. Firstly, we do not water our grass. And in 2019 I bought a submersible pump and pumped out the grey water from our bath tub and used it to water plants. I also watered the other plants individually instead of using my microjet system as it watered the bare soil between plants. This year I did not pump water out of the bath tub S. 22 and it is not easy to run up and down stairs. As well, my wife now showers more frequently instead of always taking a bath. I did change my microjet system in the backyard to a drip system though.

I have been keeping the utility bills I receive from the City for a number of years now. The latest bill will come at the end of this month and I will again be able to demonstrate that in spite of all of our efforts over the years, the City still penalizes us in its calculation of our sewage fees. Short of not watering our plants and letting them die will my wife and I ever be charged the same sewage fees as a couple in a condominium or apartment under the current system. I will supply those figures to you when they are available but they will simply be additional evidence as to how unfair and inequitable the current assignment of sewage fees is and has been.

Therefore, as part of the budget preparation for 2022 I am requesting that the City budget for and implement a system for calculating sewage fees that is based on residential inhouse water consumption only, as measured during winter months. And I am recommending that a workplan be developed whereby City staff will communicate with Saanich, Langford and Colwood to determine how we can do so in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

That will ensure that all residents are treated fairly and equitably in paying for the operation and maintenance of our sewage system.

Yours truly,

S. 22

Sent from [Outlook](#)

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**From:** S. 22

**Sent:** September 21, 2018 4:15 PM

**To:** mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>

**Cc:** malto@victoria.ca <malto@victoria.ca>; ccoleman@victoria.ca <ccoleman@victoria.ca>; bisitt@victoria.ca <bisitt@victoria.ca>; jloveday@victoria.ca <jloveday@victoria.ca>; mlucas@victoria.ca <mlucas@victoria.ca>; pmadoff@victoria.ca <pmadoff@victoria.ca>; cthornton@victoria.ca <cthornton@victoria.ca>; gyoung@victoria.ca <gyoung@victoria.ca>

**Subject:** Calculation of Sewage Fees

Dear Mayor and Councillors:

I know that you are all very busy with the upcoming civic elections, so I will keep this email as brief as possible. I am writing to apprise you of the inequity towards properties which have vegetable gardens, shade trees, shrubs, flowers and grass in the calculation of Victoria's (the City) and the CRD's sewage fees.

The City (and the CRD) currently calculates sewage fees payable based on our total annual water consumption, which includes all of the water used to irrigate the above-mentioned vegetation...water which does not enter the sewage system. The City's website states "Basing sewer charges on water consumption is considered a best practice, and a more equitable system than basing on assessed property value. In addition, this system will enable you to potentially reduce your CRD sewer costs by reducing the amount of water you

use." While better than using assessed property values, this approach is contrary to the principle of user pays which the City has adopted for our other utilities.

My wife and I [S. 22](#) and have a single detached house on a small lot (40 feet X 120 feet) with a shared driveway and detached garage. We do not water our grass and I have gone back to watering each shrub and plant individually to reduce our water consumption instead of using our sprinkler systems. Unfortunately, I cut back too much last year and 2 mature, large hydrangeas were dead. So there are limits to how much anyone can reduce the amount we irrigate, and hence reduce our sewage fees.

Most of the other core municipalities, such as Saanich, prorate winter water meter readings to determine annual inhouse water use and base their sewage fees on that figure....a most reasonable approach as there is no irrigation during that period. The City of Victoria has chosen not to adopt a similar approach however. Instead, City staff apparently suggested that because the total volume of water consumed in the city increases by 30% in the summer, then that is the amount which should be discounted to reflect outside watering in the summer.

Sadly, that assumption is not true and a gross over-simplification. The 2016 Census determined that there were 49,212 dwellings in the City, of which 9945 or 20% were single detached, semi-detached or row houses. The other 80% were condominiums or apartments which would have little or no vegetation to water in the summer. Therefore the increase in water consumption on properties which irrigate vegetation is much higher than 30%.

I have saved our Utility Bills for a number of years. Based on winter use, our annual inhouse consumption is about 70 Units, whereas our total annual water consumption is approximately 135 Units, an increase of 93%....not 30%. And that is on a very small lot. A friend in our neighbourhood has a larger property (45 feet X 142 feet) and his water consumption is 164 Units (I have not told him yet on much he is being overcharged for sewage).

If my wife and I were assessed sewage fees based on inhouse water use, we would have paid \$379 last year, instead of the \$714 we had to pay...an overage of \$335 or 88%. And that does not include the most recent increase by the CRD or future increases to pay for the sewage treatment plant. A couple in a condominium or apartment would have paid that \$379 because they don't have any vegetation to water. Is that transparent, fair and equitable? Common sense says obviously not. And there is no sleight of hand or misinformation in my figures. The calculations are simple and City staff are capable of doing so. As well, these calculations are usually part of any financial policy development process.

The City discounts sewage rates by 30% in the summer, but then raises rates by 20% during the rest of the year to maintain the necessary O&M budget for sewage treatment. This effectively reduces the discount to 10% for everyone, including the 80% of the residences which do not water vegetation and hence receive a 10% discount they do not deserve. In other words, 20% of the property owners are being penalized by being overcharged for sewage fees and by having to subsidize the other 80%. I do know that if the 20% pay less, the 80% must pay more; but that is what user pays is all about instead of having each of the minority being forced to subsidize the majority to the tune of hundreds of dollars a year. If my wife and I are representative, then the City is currently overcharging single detached homeowners by  $9945 \times \$335 = \$3,331,575$  per annum! It has been suggested that the majority of property owners are happy with the current process...wouldn't you be too if you were one of the 80% being subsidized?

It was a relief to see you, Mayor Helps, quoted in the Times Colonist as saying that our City Council makes evidence-based decisions. Well, now you know the rest of the story. When I spoke with neighbours about the current inequity, all of them were surprised and some were shocked. The latter urged me to tell all of this to the media, but I told them that I did not believe that our Mayor and Councillors would knowingly treat single detached homeowners this way...everyone who has vegetable gardens and shade trees. So now is the chance for all of you to prove me right.

Will you all please so kind as to inform me...individually...and as soon as possible, if you would support a motion to have City staff firstly, consult with the core municipalities who successfully base sewage fees on winter water consumption and secondly, recommend to our Council how the City can and should adopt the same approach so that a couple in a single detached dwelling pays the same amount in sewage fees as a couple in a condominium or apartment.

Thank you very much for your time and efforts.

Yours truly,

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 22, 2021 4:28 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Victoria City Council, Mayor, and City Staff,

I am writing to you with my feedback on the 2022 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria. Below I will discuss six key points that need to be addressed: housing, the Victoria police department, accessibility, bylaw, public engagement, and free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples.

Housing:

Currently, the city of Victoria is experiencing a housing crisis, and there is a lack of affordable and expedited housing options available that meet the needs of unhoused and insecurely housed people. However, the current plans reflected in the proposed city budget outline an intent to incentivize developers and landlords, rather than prioritize the housing process for renters. There needs to be more concrete and expedited housing solutions. In the budget it is stated that there are \$120 million of funds from all three levels of government that will be used to create affordable low end market housing and housing for “chronically homeless people”, however, it is not stated where and when these temporary supportive housing or “low-income apartments” are being built. For instance, in the budget Pandora housing construction does not begin until 2024. Housing solutions need to be created tangibly, and immediately, to address the lack of housing.

I am calling on city council to allocate the budget to concrete and expedited housing solutions that tangibly address the urgent nature of the housing crisis, rather than prioritizing landlords and developers.

Victoria Police Department:

In the budget an increase is proposed for crowd management and patrolling in response to larger scale organized demonstrations. This money is prioritizing the policing of events, rather than community care supports present at these events. Rather than budgeting for police patrol at events, it would be important to consider how this money can be put into the community to reflect the demands of demonstrators. For example, the proposed budget increase for “crowd management” and patrolling could be used for community created/supported solutions ie. a community crisis response team that is trained in de-escalation, trauma-informed, and anti-oppressive tactics.

I am calling on city council to allocate the money for police “crowd management” to support community created solutions that promote safety, care, harm reduction, and anti-oppression at events and demonstrations.

Accessibility:

The budget outlines many projects regarding accessibility. However, it is impossible to determine what accessibility needs are needed without consultation with those who experience disabilities and/or have varying needs. Consultation with these voices is not noted in the proposed budget, and without these voices being at the forefront of the conversation, decisions made will further contribute to ableist architecture and program development. Consulting populations with relevant lived experience helps to maintain accessibility of projects.

I am calling on city council to welcome communities with lived experience into decision making regarding accessibility and to make decisions directly informed by their needs.

Bylaw:

Within the proposed budget, a large portion of bylaw services is dedicated to patrolling parks and taking down illegal shelters (ie. taking down shelters of those who are tenting in the park because they do not have housing). Rather than the budget being allocated to bylaw services to patrol parks and to remove “illegal” sheltering, this money should be funneled into long term housing solutions and anti-poverty measures, such as comprehensive healthcare, food justice supports and more. If budgets intended for patrolling and tearing down sheltering were allocated to relevant services, such as food justice and housing, this would decrease the need for shelters in parks.

I am calling on city council to allocate the funding that would be used to remove shelters instead towards long-term housing solutions for those who currently have no choice but to shelter in public spaces.

Public Engagement

The Community Wellness and Peer Informed Task Force and Citizen’s Assembly have both been terminated due to completing their assigned tasks. We need these groups, or similar community participatory task forces, with new project focuses to remain funded in 2022 and beyond to allow for increased community engagement/consultation. The winding down of both of these groups means less funding and fewer pathways for equitable community engagement and consultation. It is vital for these initiatives to continue on with new project focuses, to ensure that the community is included in decision making. Alongside this, measures should be taken to make the budget review process more accessible to all folks in the community. The annual city budget is quite a dense, large, and inaccessible project. With its size and jargon, it can be quite difficult to access/understand for many who do not have the time or capacity to thoroughly read and understand the document. There needs to be tangible solutions created that make engaging in this document more accessible. Many people simply do not have the spare time and capacity to engage in municipal affairs. City council needs to ensure that folks from all walks of life are providing their input for the city’s decision-making processes.

Some ways to consider doing this could be to: split the budget into sections and review each section by section, rather than once a year all at once. Or, if there will continue to be an annual budget review process, there should be more than one town hall meeting and these should be held at varying times of the day, to allow for people with varying schedules to attend. These measures should be accompanied by funded citizen task forces that operate year-round, as noted above, to ensure increased public consultation.

I am calling on city council to make engagement in municipal affairs, such as the annual city budget, more accessible for the community- so that all community members have an opportunity to engage in, understand, and have a say in municipal affairs.

Prior and Informed Consent with Indigenous Nations:

The ɫə́kʷəŋən peoples should have informed consent for all projects occurring on their unceded territory. Despite statements made by the Mayor and Council about “decolonizing practices”, city council continues to have final say even after consultation with the nations. This is in direct violation of the rights of ɫə́kʷəŋən peoples Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. How will the city mayor and council address this violation of rights?

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a specific right that pertains to Indigenous peoples and is recognised in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It allows them to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories. Once they have given their consent, they can withdraw it at any stage. Furthermore, FPIC enables them to negotiate the conditions under which the project will be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated. This is also embedded within the universal right to self-determination.

I am calling on city council to address this violation of rights and to move forward by respecting local Indigenous nations' Free, Prior, and Informed Consent on city decision-making processes that occur on their unceded territory.

I urge you to listen to these points made and the needs of the community. We have the opportunity to address inequity in our city and create a thriving community for all who live here. Your responsibility as city employees is to make decisions informed by what the public wants and the public is asking you to divest funding from unnecessary punitive measures and use those funds to create secure housing, food security, and increased equitable public engagement in city affairs.

Sincerely,

S. 22



## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** November 22, 2021 3:53 PM  
**To:** S. 22  
**Cc:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Re: 2022 City of Victoria Budget re Reconciliation Levy

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear S. 22

Thanks for your follow-up email. It has been shared with Mayor and Council.

I apologize for any misunderstanding. The process for feedback collection, as outlined below, is for members of the community to email our Engagement Department if they would like their feedback formally included. This is the best way for us to streamline the collection of feedback.

I have, however, copied Engagement by way of this response to include your original feedback below.

Sincerely,

**Lucas de Amaral**

Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People.

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 18, 2021 11:51 AM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: 2022 City of Victoria Budget re Reconciliation Levy

Am I being advised that my email correspondence will not be included in the “formal process” unless I fill in the City’s survey?

I am requesting that our email letter be included in the formal process period. Please confirm.

Please update your contact info for me

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**From:** [Victoria Mayor and Council](#)  
**Sent:** November 18, 2021 11:28 AM  
**To:** S. 22  
**Subject:** RE: 2022 City of Victoria Budget re Reconciliation Levy

Dear S. 22

Thank you for your email, it has been shared with Mayor and Council.

The 2022 Draft Financial Plan (City Budget) was introduced at the October 21, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Now, the community is invited to share their priorities for the draft budget through a detailed survey, email feedback and by participating in a Virtual Budget Town Hall. Have your say here: [2022 Draft Budget | Have Your Say \(victoria.ca\)](#)

**Note:** if you want your email included in the formal process, please:

Share your feedback by emailing [engage@victoria.ca](mailto:engage@victoria.ca) with "**Draft Budget 2022 Feedback**" in the subject line **by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, November 23.**

Sincerely,

**Heather McIntyre**  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People.

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 4:48 PM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>  
**Subject:** 2022 City of Victoria Budget re Reconciliation Levy

Mayor and Council,

This budget item is not supported by us, and we urge all of you to not support it also.

The City's process, on an issue of *such* importance to all of us, Indigenous and non, is FLAWED. Care and attention are needed to ensure reconciliation efforts are being made with an educated, informed, and willing taxpayer fully supporting those efforts. NOT a hasty seemingly, last minute line item of a budget!

The City's process has had a Secret Committee, no public reporting out (to Council even), and no real public participation. This committee is making presentations and notification of this issue to First Nations BEFORE the rest of the public has input and apparently this is known in their communities (*based on supportive comments from members of the First Nations in recent media reports*). This puts the public in a box because in the current political climate ANYONE who even raises any question about what is being negotiated/discussed is going to be "cancelled" (in the current vernacular) or smeared through social media. This is wrong and is a grave danger to our democracy. We need dialogue, we need to fully understand what has occurred, what are the myths, what are the truths?

Bottom line: this is **not** Council's business and you have put residents of this City in an untenable position, in today's cancel culture, of giving you their honest thoughts, if indeed, *any* thoughts regarding the budget at all. You are building future resentment and acrimony not reconciliation and it is so very sad and unnecessary. Truth and reconciliation come from dialogue – two way dialogue.

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 22, 2021 1:30 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback  
**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

I am extremely disgusted by the proposition to keep pouring TAX dollars into the Vic PD.

We need resources for the houseless and vulnerable now, they are in dire need of help and NOT just buying up old hotels to house them.  
Resources are needed for rehabilitation, therapy and the general well-being of YOUR community.

All policing does is criminalize a disease, it's absolutely insane.  
Chief Del Manak makes a quarter million a year harassing people who need HELP, how is that helping our community?

Thanks to the housing crisis, the pandemic and the climate crisis Canada has really shown it has no real commitment to fixing anything but their pockets.  
A short-term resource extract for profit, selling it for cheap to other countries when we could create jobs HERE.

Funny how the gov treats people with addiction, disabilities and anyone else they can't exploit for labour.

Shame.

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 22, 2021 9:48 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** 2022 Draft Budget Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Please do not increase the police budget for this coming year. The chief is already making plenty of money (more money than the premier of BC). As a person making a living wage, but barely making enough money to survive living in Victoria (a place I have called home for 12 years), it is concerning that a police chief would make that much.

Please use that money to help out the community more such as arts and culture or parks and recreation.

Sincerely,

S. 22

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Pronouns - She/Her/They/Them

I acknowledge that I am an uninvited guest on the traditional and unceded territory of the Lkwungen-speaking peoples.

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** Susan Martin <S. 22 >  
**Sent:** November 21, 2021 6:55 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

I write today as both a member of NSUN and as a resident of Victoria concerned with how we treat the most vulnerable among us and how that is reflected in the City of Victoria 2022 budget.

Neighbourhood Solidarity with Unhoused Neighbours (NSUN) is a group of concerned and engaged citizens from many different neighbourhoods in Victoria advocating for unhoused neighbours since October 2020. In the past, we have worked with BC Housing to ensure anyone who wished to be was on the BC Housing list and we distributed cell phones provided by Bell Canada through the United Way to unhoused neighbors in the community. We continue to be in touch with and provide support to unhoused individuals and to those who were moved into shelters and transitional housing sites.

I am encouraged to see and strongly support the creation of a **permanent** staff position "with a focus on resolving system barriers to ending homelessness in the city" (see pages 27 and 28 of <https://pub-victoria.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=72792>). I also support greater funding to the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness so that it can undertake some of the work recommended in Nicole Chaland's report "COVID 19: The beginning of the end of homelessness" specifically recommendations 14-16 on page 8 (<https://pub-victoria.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=69943>).

I want to see money that is in other parts of the budget, specifically the \$446,233 for police officers on the ACT teams (page 8 <https://pub-victoria.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=72952>), the \$1.1 million for 'sheltering support' and the \$1.34 million for Bylaw (see slides 10 and 16 respectively in <https://pub-victoria.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=72786> for the latter two) be either drastically reduced or eliminated and that money be instead used to carry out recommendation 13 from Nicole Chaland's report:

"That Cool Aid or Our Place partner with BC Housing pilot a diversion program and a housing-focused shelter to reduce the length of time people stay in emergency shelters and to reduce the number of people who are at risk of chronic homelessness."

I would also like to see some of the money withdrawn from the above-mentioned budget items be directed instead toward a sanctioned and supported 'tent village' encampment, much like what was set up at 940 Caledonia in late 2020 and early 2021. We regularly discuss the actions of Bylaw Officers in our NSUN meetings and I feel strongly that those doing this job are traumatized by what they are being asked to do by the City. The City's documentation for the budget process identifies what the problem is (emphasis added):

However, there has been no corresponding decrease in the number of hours bylaw officers are spending to prevent daytime sheltering/encampments from reoccurring, **as there are still many people outside who are not able to access appropriate housing to meet their needs**. (page 62 - <https://pub-victoria.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=72788>)

and it's impact:

**Staff are exhibiting signs of stress and stress related sick leave is increasing** as a result of the disproportionate amount of time dealing with difficult, confrontational, and sometimes violent situations related to unauthorized sheltering.

If the City were to create, support and facilitate an authorized tenting facility, preferably on a hard surface and close to existing services like Our Place, this would help to relieve the stress on Bylaw Officers. We would also like to see Trauma Informed Care training for Bylaw officers as well as Naloxone administration training and other training/learning opportunities that would help them not only do their jobs better but be more resilient and more able to cope with the psychological stress that comes from being at the intersection of **two impossible situations**; the complete lack of appropriate housing and campers who having no options are making the only rational choice open to them - to set up a tent in a public park, often outside of permitted hours.

Finally, I find the use of the term 'sheltering support' for the material on page 41 of <https://pub-victoria.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=72788> deeply offensive and stigmatizing. It should be called 'anti-sheltering support'; the City seems to be determined to demonize and scapegoat the unhoused as the source of all disorder in the city and as a reason for why we 'can't have nice things' (as the kids would say). I was part of a group, organized by two formerly unhoused people who continue to go above and beyond doing street outreach on Pandora, that did clean up in Beacon Hill Park on May 15, 2021. I spent an hour picking up garbage by the gravel field and found not a single needle and little damage to the landscape which had had tents on it just a week or so before. Were there cigarette butts, candy wrappers and take out food containers YES - syringes, human waste or drug paraphernalia - NO!

To those who would say we cannot possibly afford to hire a full-time employee at \$140,000 a year to focus on homelessness I respond that we cannot afford not to! If we allocate money towards the other recommendations from Nicole Chaland's report, including recommendation #13 that I have highlighted above, I am confident that in future years we will see decreasing needs for the excessive amounts, as much as 10x larger than that provided for direct support to the unhoused, that are supposedly needed to 'support sheltering' and 'support bylaw'. Additionally, if the homeless serving system becomes a truly Housing First system I am confident that the requirement for increased policing will also be significantly reduced.

Much like with climate change the time for tinkering around the edges is over - we need bold, innovative action. The City invested money in having Nicole Chaland produce a fantastically well-researched report; it would be a waste of that money to then ignore the recommendations it contains or to only pursue them half-heartedly without the required financial support.

Susan Z. Martin  
Member, NSUN

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 21, 2021 4:02 PM  
**To:** Engagement; Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Cc:** Fairfield Community Place; JamesBayBeacon  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

**RE: MILE 0 REALIGNMENT PROPOSAL.  
SPEND THE MONEY ELSEWHERE.**

The proposal to spend \$275,000 re-joining the inappropriately named “orphaned land” at Mile 0 is totally unnecessary, misguided and a waste of tax dollars that could be put to much better use in other areas of the city.

The proponents of this classic example of fixing a problem where none exists prove by their own submissions, that they have no understanding of how Mile 0 functions on a day to day basis and the important role it plays in our city. My perspective comes from observing the park’s daily comings and goings from directly across the street for the past 15 years.

First, and most important, is the fact that Mile 0 is NOT an “orphaned” piece of land. It is arguably the most important “Traffic Circle” on Vancouver Island made all the more so by the growing amount of traffic on Dallas Road resulting from the major traffic realignments throughout the city. A significant traffic flow that none of the proponents of realignment seem to fully understand. The intersection is a major merge point for all of the east/west Dallas Road and north/south Douglas Street traffic and the “traffic circle” handles it all smoothly, efficiently and safely. Under the proposed realignment this intersection would become a bottleneck of frustrated, angry commuters, tourists and locals.

Add to this the 30 plus tour buses that visit Mile 0 on a DAILY basis during tourist season in addition to the buses that need to turn around, and have no where other than Mile 0 to do so, after dropping tour groups downtown and at the Royal BC Museum. Also in the mix is Ogden Point industrial traffic year round and cruise ship transportation in season. Yet again, the “traffic circle” concept works well in handling all of this traffic safely. The proposed changes would turn Mile 0 into a dangerous choke point and put at risk the safety of the thousands of people that include students and sports teams that visit the Terry Fox and Mile 0 monuments annually. A situation that would admittedly be eliminated by Councilor Young’s suggestion in the January 18, 2021 council meeting that both these monuments will be removed. An interesting proposal considering the international interest in both.

Thousands come from around the world to admire and pay respect to the Terry Fox monument. It is particularly heartwarming to see teenagers, who today so desperately need a “hero”, admire the statue of this great Canadian. They get their pictures taken, many reach out and touch the likeness and every year when the cold of winter arrives, an unknown person places a wool toque on Terry’s head where it stays untouched for the entire winter. International visitors in particular stand in awe trying to imagine that Mile 0 is the beginning of a highway that stretches for over 7,000 km across Canada.

At present, the traffic circle design allows tour buses to approach Mile 0 from downtown, circle to the left off Douglas Street and discharge their passengers legally on the right into the park on the Dallas Road side. With the traffic circle gone, in order to discharge passengers legally, the buses will be forced to access Mile 0 via Cook Street thereby further increasing traffic flow through an area that was not designed for such volume.



Mile 0 is not just about the two monuments located there. Many people use the park extensively year round. Cross-Canada cycling and running events begin and end appropriately at Mile 0. Rallies, protests and a host of other special events launch or occur there as well. All of which are made easier and more accessible because of the park's circular design. In summer young people play Frisbee and catch while oldsters take their chairs and gather in groups to chat in the sunshine. People spread blankets and have old-fashioned picnics. All of these activities enhanced and encouraged by the "island" nature of the little circular park. People feel secure and "special" in there. And this feeling could not be duplicated by tacking the land on to the end of the main park where it will become just another dead zone.

One need only stand at Mile 0 and look at the lay of the land to understand how inappropriate it would be to destroy the little park by running Douglas Street through the middle of it. The idea is appalling and makes absolutely no sense. The southwest corner of Beacon Hill Park is naturally cut off from the rest of the park by Beacon Hill itself, as well as large gravel covered sports fields. People are simply not drawn to that corner of the park because of these physical barriers. In fact, they are deterred from going there and the idea of destroying a vibrant, functioning, useful, much loved little park for no reason other than to satisfy the ideology of an insignificant minority is beyond irresponsible.

The Mile 0 Park is perfect and extremely functional the way it is. Spend the \$275,000 on something that has a real need.

Thank you for your consideration.

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

---

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:**  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback  
**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

### Dear Victoria City Council, Mayor, and City Staff,

I am writing to you with my feedback on the 2022 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria. Below I will discuss six key points that need to be addressed: housing, the Victoria police department, accessibility, bylaw, public engagement, and free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples.

1. Housing:

Currently, the city of Victoria is experiencing a housing crisis, and there is a lack of affordable and expedited housing options available that meet the needs of unhoused and insecurely housed people. However, the current plans reflected in the proposed city budget outline an intent to incentivize developers and landlords, rather than prioritize the housing process for renters. There needs to be more concrete and expedited housing solutions. In the budget it is stated that there are \$120 million of funds from all three levels of government that will be used to create affordable low end market housing and housing for “chronically homeless people”, however, it is not stated where and when these temporary supportive housing or “low-income apartments” are being built. For instance, in the budget Pandora housing construction does not begin until 2024. Housing solutions need to be created tangibly, and immediately to address the lack of housing.

I am calling on city council to allocate the budget to *concrete* and *expedited* housing solutions that tangibly address the urgent nature of the housing crisis, rather than prioritizing landlords and developers.

2. Victoria Police Department:

In the budget an increase is proposed for crowd management and patrolling in response to larger scale organized demonstrations. This money is prioritizing the policing of events, rather than community care supports present at these events. Rather than budgeting for police patrol at events, it would be important to consider how this money can be put into the community to reflect the demands of demonstrators. For example, the proposed budget increase for “crowd management” and patrolling could be used for community created/supported solutions ie. a community crisis response team that is trained in de-escalation, trauma-informed, and anti-oppressive tactics.

I am calling on city council to allocate the money for police “crowd management” to support community created solutions that promote safety, care, harm reduction, and anti-oppression at events and demonstrations.

3. Accessibility:

The budget outlines many projects regarding accessibility. However, it is impossible to determine what accessibility needs are needed without consultation with those who experience disabilities and/or have varying needs. Consultation with these voices is not noted in the proposed budget, and without these voices being at the forefront of the conversation, decisions made will further contribute to ableist architecture and program development. Consulting populations with relevant lived experience helps to maintain accessibility of projects.

I am calling on city council to welcome communities with lived experience into decision making regarding accessibility and to make decisions directly informed by their needs.

4. Bylaw:

Within the proposed budget, a large portion of bylaw services is dedicated to patrolling parks and taking down illegal shelters (ie. taking down shelters of those who are tenting in the park because they do not have housing). Rather than the budget being allocated to bylaw services to patrol parks and to remove “illegal” sheltering, this money should be funneled into long term housing solutions and anti-poverty measures, such as comprehensive healthcare, food justice supports and more. If budgets intended for patrolling and tearing down sheltering were allocated to relevant services, such as food justice and housing, this would decrease the need for shelters in parks.

I am calling on city council to allocate the funding, that would be used to remove shelters, instead towards long-term housing solutions for those who currently have no choice but to shelter in public spaces.

#### 5. Public Engagement

The Community Wellness and Peer Informed Task Force and Citizen’s Assembly have both been terminated due to completing their assigned tasks. We need these groups, or similar community participatory task forces, with new project focuses to remain funded in 2022 and beyond to allow for increased community engagement/consultation. The winding down of both of these groups means less funding and fewer pathways for equitable community engagement and consultation. It is vital for these initiatives to continue on with new project focuses, to ensure that the community is included in decision making. Alongside this, measures should be taken to make the budget review process more accessible to all folks in the community. The annual city budget is quite a dense, large, and inaccessible project. With its size and jargon, it can be quite difficult to access/understand for many who do not have the time or capacity to thoroughly read and understand the document. There needs to be tangible solutions created that make engaging in this document more accessible. Many people simply do not have the spare time and capacity to engage in municipal affairs. City council needs to ensure that folks from all walks of life are providing their input for the city’s decision-making processes.

Some ways to consider doing this could be to: split the budget into sections and review each section by section, rather than once a year all at once. Or, if there will continue to be an annual budget review process, there should be more than one town hall meeting and these should be held at varying times of the day, to allow for people with varying schedules to attend. These measures should be accompanied by funded citizen task forces that operate year-round, as noted above, to ensure increased public consultation.

I am calling on city council to make engagement in municipal affairs, such as the annual city budget, more accessible for the community- so that all community members have an opportunity to *engage in, understand, and have a say* in municipal affairs.

#### 6. Prior and Informed Consent with Indigenous Nations:

The ləkʷəŋən peoples should have informed consent for all projects occurring on their unceded territory. Despite statements made by the Mayor and Council about “decolonizing practices”, city council continues to have final say even after consultation with the nations. This is in direct violation of the rights of ləkʷəŋən peoples Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. How will the city mayor and council address this violation of rights?

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a specific right that pertains to Indigenous peoples and is recognised in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It allows them to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories. Once they have given their consent, they can withdraw it at any stage. Furthermore, FPIC enables them to negotiate the conditions under which the project will be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated. This is also embedded within the universal right to self-determination.

I am calling on city council to address this violation of rights and to move forward by respecting local Indigenous nations' Free, Prior, and Informed Consent on city decision-making processes that occur on their unceded territory.

I urge you to listen to these points made and the needs of the community. We have the opportunity to address inequity in our city and create a thriving community for all who live here. Your responsibility as city employees is to make decisions informed by what the public wants and the public is asking you to divest

funding from unnecessary punitive measures and use those funds to create secure housing, food security, and increased equitable public engagement in city affairs.

Sincerely,

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 21, 2021 11:44 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback  
**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

If it were up to me, climate change mitigation would be a much, much bigger priority in the budget than it appears to be. Essentially, with regard to every bit of discretionary spending, if it weren't relevant to preventing climate change, I would say "Sorry, we're in a climate emergency, so we're going to have to cut that back so that we can divert money to address that problem, since if we don't, human civilization will collapse, and all of our spending on our various programs - no matter how commendable - will be seen to have represented a complete failure of our political system and of our collective conscience."

After four decades of being fully aware of the threat posed by climate change, there should, for example, be almost no vehicles owned or leased by, or operated under contract to the City that are fossil fuel powered. No police cars, no police motorcycles, no bylaw enforcement vehicles, no street sweepers, no SUVs, no garbage trucks, no buses. Other cities operate electric versions of these vehicles, and the City of Victoria should too. And although some might wish to say, "Oh yes, we'll integrate such vehicles into our fleets gradually, over time, in the normal course of vehicle replacement," that's no longer enough. That is what previous governments could have done, but unfortunately they were too irresponsible, so now it's too late for that. All departments should be mandated to replace CO2-emitting vehicles with electric vehicles immediately, and to install the necessary charging stations and upgrades to their electrical systems to support those vehicles.

Similarly, there should be no buildings owned, leased, or rented by the City that still burn oil or natural gas for their heating. Any City-owned or leased buildings that do should be immediately upgraded to electrically powered heat heating and cooling technologies. Obviously, the City will be in a better position with regard to getting others to mitigate their own CO2 emissions once its own house is in order.

Getting others to change their own behaviours, however, must also be a budget priority. Consider, for example, that people who drive electric vehicles pay the same parking rates as those who drive the biggest gas-guzzling pickup trucks and SUVs. How absurd! Living downtown, I see the morning stream of single-occupant vehicles every day, the vast majority of them fossil fuel-powered. Why should they change their behaviours when they are tacitly approved by the City? There is no congestion charge, no differentiated rates of parking payment, nothing to signal to these people that what they are doing is wrong. Since the City needs revenue, why not double the parking rates for fossil fuel-powered vehicles and make parking free for electric vehicles? That wouldn't even require any infrastructure change, the City could do it tomorrow and actually make more money, money paid by people who live elsewhere and therefore aren't even City voters or taxpayers.

That extra revenue would help with new spending initiatives to help others transition to clean technologies. Consider food trucks, for example. There shouldn't be any food trucks - and this includes the craft services vehicles for the motion picture industry - that run fossil fuel-powered generators for their electricity. Those that are not already using grid power or some other form of carbon-neutral electricity should be required to switch, but the City should consider whether it wishes to provide financial assistance for that. And what about Modo, the car-sharing co-op; it doesn't have a single electric vehicle in downtown Victoria, so its members have to go to Esquimalt or Vic West if they want one. Wouldn't the City like to assist Modo in changing that situation? And those people who still wake me up with gas-powered leaf blowers, shouldn't the City be telling them they can't use those devices, and maybe giving them a \$20 coupon they can redeem at any store within City limits to buy electric leaf blowers instead?

Frankly, the City just doesn't seem to take its responsibility for climate change mitigation very seriously. It's still approving towers that are over the ten-storey maximum, for example, and signalling every day, in almost every way, that it's still content with "business as usual". If 2021 taught us anything, it's that when it comes to climate change, "business as usual" is - literally - killing British Columbians. If you're not okay with that, then please amend this budget to do something about it.

Sincerely,

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 21, 2021 11:03 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Victoria City Council, Mayor, and City Staff,

I am writing to you with my feedback on the 2022 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria. Below I will discuss six key points that need to be addressed: housing, the Victoria police department, accessibility, bylaw, public engagement, and free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples.

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I am calling on city council to allocate the budget to concrete and expedited housing solutions that tangibly address the urgent nature of the housing crisis, rather than prioritizing landlords and developers.

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I am calling on city council to allocate the money for police “crowd management” to support community created solutions that promote safety, care, harm reduction, and anti-oppression at events and demonstrations.

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allocated to relevant services, such as food justice and housing, this would decrease the need for shelters in parks.

I am calling on city council to allocate the funding, that would be used to remove shelters, instead towards long-term housing solutions for those who currently have no choice but to shelter in public spaces.

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The lək'wəḡən peoples should have informed consent for all projects occurring on their unceded territory. Despite statements made by the Mayor and Council about "decolonizing practices", city council continues to have final say even after consultation with the nations. This is in direct violation of the rights of lək'wəḡən peoples Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. How will the city mayor and council address this violation of rights? Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a specific right that pertains to Indigenous peoples and is recognised in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It allows them to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories. Once they have given their consent, they can withdraw it at any stage. Furthermore, FPIC enables them to negotiate the conditions under which the project will be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated. This is also embedded within the universal right to self-determination.

I am calling on city council to address this violation of rights and to move forward by respecting local Indigenous nations' Free, Prior, and Informed Consent on city decision-making processes that occur on their unceded territory.

I urge you to listen to these points made and the needs of the community. We have the opportunity to address inequity in our city and create a thriving community for all who live here. Your responsibility as city employees is to make decisions informed by what the public wants and the public is asking you to divest funding from unnecessary punitive measures and use those funds to create secure housing, food security, and increased equitable public engagement in city affairs.

Sincerely,

S. 22



I respectfully acknowledge that my place of work is within the ancestral, unsundered, and unceded lands of the Songhees, Esquimalt, and WSANEC Nations.

## Dale Vanelli

---

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 21, 2021 9:37 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback  
**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Hi there,

I'm writing because I am very concerned about the proposed police increase in our budget. I understand some businesses are concerned, but it seems to me we are simply treating symptoms of a problem, not the cause. There is no where I have ever heard of that has been made a better, safer, happier society with a bigger police presence.

Our city desperately needs affordable homes, social programming and mental health support. Many folks do not feel comfortable with police, and for very good reason. Putting more money into police is not in the best interest of the community, and it frustrates me that cities keep on turning to police even though cities who have put money into other solutions have seen great success.

I very much hope that funds will be allocated in ways that will actually help the community. I have great support for the tax system, but I hate having my money go towards the bloated paycheques of officers who are not making my community a better, kinder or safer place.

Thank you for reading,

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 20, 2021 9:12 PM  
**To:** Engagement; Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew (Councillor); Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca  
**Subject:** Feedback on Victoria Budget 2022  
**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Elected Officials and the Victoria/Esquimalt Police Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 6% budget increase in the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) budget that is financed partly by cutting funds to sustainable planning and community development and arts, culture and events. Instead, I am demanding that the VicPD budget be permanently frozen against increase so that municipal resources can be more appropriately allocated to communities most in need and communities who have been historically, and continue to be underfunded and ignored.

It is appalling that Victoria's governing bodies continually allocate a greater percentage of the municipal budget to the VicPD than any other municipal function. I believe a budget decrease is the only appropriate action at this time given the following:

1. COVID-19 has shifted priorities and exposed areas of public interest that are underfunded and underserved by the City of Victoria
2. As a result of the fiscal challenges related to COVID-19, municipalities across Canada are either freezing or decreasing their police budgets
3. Chief Del Manak's salary is over a quarter of a million of dollars while public servants earn fractions of that (an amount that allows people to barely have a livelihood because of inflating housing, food, gas etc.)
4. Police criminalize minorities and defund and abolish movement that gain support nationally and internationally

I am calling upon you, and all our elected officials, to decrease the VIC PD budget and immediately begin meaningful action to divest resources from the Victoria police department and invest in citizen-directed areas.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. Instead, it continues to oppress, harass and target community members (Indigenous, black, people of colour, transgender, two-spirit, queer, people who use drugs, unhoused people, streetbased sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty Etc.) and puts their lives and wellbeing at risk

Instead of investing more resources in the Vic PD, the city of Victoria MUST prioritize and fund alternatives like climate crisis action projects, community outreach programs, decolonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social

work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice programs and all other vital community-based support systems. The time is now. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and center the experiences of BIPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering with, funding, listening and otherwise supporting community based organizations (instead of increasing the Vic PD budget)

I am calling on YOU to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engage with targeted groups to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Consider and reflect on these calls,

S. 22

This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.

## Dale Vanelli

---

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:**  
**To:** Engagement  
**Cc:** Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Stephen Andrew (Councillor); Sharmarke Dubow (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Sarah Potts (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Board@vicpd.ca; premier@gov.bc.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca; sgpspb@gov.bc.ca  
**Subject:** 2022 draft budget feedback  
**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

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Instead of investing even more resources in the VicPD, our city must prioritize and fund alternatives like community outreach programs, decolonial mental health services, housing initiatives, income security, harm reduction services, arts and cultural programs, anti-colonial forms of social work, conflict resolution services, transformative justice, and other vital community-based support systems. These initiatives must support our most targeted communities and centre the experiences of BIPOC folks in Victoria. This will require partnering

with, funding, and otherwise supporting community-based organizations, **instead of increasing the VicPD budget.**

I am calling on you to use your power to create a safer city for us all by freezing the VicPD budget and meaningfully engaging with targeted communities to determine how to work with them to meet their needs.

Yours sincerely,

S. 22

*This message, in full or in part, must not be forwarded to VicPD or any third party without the written consent of the sender. This includes the contact information of the sender.*

## Dale Vanelli

---

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 20, 2021 6:31 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** 2022 draft budget feedback  
  
**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

No "new development" annual grants for compensation (reparations). No gutting of the RBCM No more going out of your lane. No more four year terms. No more millions for bike lanes. No more painted crosswalks. No more insulting murals.

No more dictatorial leadership. No more Lisa Helps!!

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 20, 2021 3:57 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

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Some ways to consider doing this could be to: split the budget into sections and review each section by section, rather than once a year all at once. Or, if there will continue to be an annual budget review process, there should be more than one town hall meeting and these should be held at varying times of the day, to allow for people with varying schedules to attend. These measures should be accompanied by funded citizen task forces that operate year-round, as noted above, to ensure increased public consultation.

I am calling on city council to make engagement in municipal affairs, such as the annual city budget, more accessible for the community- so that all community members have an opportunity to *engage in, understand, and have a say* in municipal affairs.

6. Prior and Informed Consent with Indigenous Nations:

The ləkʷəŋən peoples should have informed consent for all projects occurring on their unceded territory. Despite statements made by the Mayor and Council about “decolonizing practices”, city council continues to have final say even after consultation with the nations. This is in direct violation of the rights of ləkʷəŋən peoples Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. How will the city mayor and council address this violation of rights?

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a specific right that pertains to Indigenous peoples and is recognised in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It allows them to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories. Once they have given their consent, they can withdraw it at any stage. Furthermore, FPIC enables them to negotiate the conditions under which the project will be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated. This is also embedded within the universal right to self-determination.

I am calling on city council to address this violation of rights and to move forward by respecting local Indigenous nations' Free, Prior, and Informed Consent on city decision-making processes that occur on their unceded territory.

I urge you to listen to these points made and the needs of the community. We have the opportunity to address inequity in our city and create a thriving community for all who live here. Your responsibility as city employees is to make decisions informed by what the public wants and the public is asking you to divest funding from unnecessary punitive measures and use those funds to create secure housing, food security, and increased equitable public engagement in city affairs.

Sincerely,

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

---

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 20, 2021 3:34 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** 2022 Draft Budget Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Hi there,

I am emailing you with concerns over how you've chosen to divide the budget for 2022. VicPD budget increases 5.4%, with Chief Del Manak getting a 3% salary increase, bringing his base salary at **\$257,782.12**. This is an outlandish number, and is completely unnecessary. This salary is currently **higher than the Premier of BC!** Why is this, when the community has been calling for defunding the police? Chief Del Manak will be making more than half of all the money allocated to neighbourhoods. Our community deserves better than that.

Meanwhile, you've **DECREASED** Sustainable Planning and Development (when that has been one of the *highest demands* from our community), you've decreased Parks & Recreation, Arts & Culture, and Neighbourhoods. You are siphoning money from our wonderful community to line the pockets of a police force that has time and time again proven our health and safety are NOT in their best interest. From circulating video footage of 20+ VicPD violently arresting peaceful indigenous youth at a **memorial service** to their participation in anti vax movements, the people deserve better. Perhaps an internal review from a third party on police spending is in order, because 20+ police officers stalking ~4-5 indigenous youth seems like a sorely inefficient use of taxpayer money.

Continuing to pour resources into "bandaid" solutions like policing instead of the system root causes of what produces more crime, is simply **bad economics** and we DEMAND you to be more *intelligent* and to think more critically when serving the public.

Let me remind you who pays your salary. It's certainly not Chief Del Manak and his force.

***If you could please explain to me the economic, safety, and community benefits to increasing spending against the public's will on an inefficient police force? No matter your political stance, your budget is simply bad math, is ignorant to today's culture, and is a great guarantee for consistent public dissent.***

S. 22

Sent with [Shift](#)

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 20, 2021 2:45 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

hello

I have read the 'accessible' version of the budget proposals. However, not being an accountant or financial professional my feedback can only be on the basis of reactions that may seem naive or ignorant in terms of how relevant they are.

Nevertheless . . . I have some general comments.

A lot of the figures do not add up to me so I am not really starting from a firm basis but - ...

it's stated that the budget is for 97 million, but clearly the projected expenditures add up to far more than that ..?

terms are used which don't have any clear meaning -- eg. an amount allocated for 'fiscal' spending. I thought it was all fiscal.

Less is allocated for by law officers than for this year and yet people have been asking for more to be spent to enforce by laws

What is 'active transportation '? Bus services? (414 million)

What are Facilities? ( \$37 million)

Some categories don't have a dollar figure attached to them like the spending on grants, arts, etc. Why not?

I haven't been able to find the survey - have to register or put in a password or something and my email or password won't work even when i try to start from

scratch. if you can send me an accessible link to the survey I will fill it in by Tuesday.

However, I did listen in on the town hall meeting and agree with some of the speakers, especially ones who voiced objections to the proposition that money should be paid as some sort of levy to First nations out of city taxes. If this is favoured in principle by councillors - except sensible Jeff Young- it should be a provincial matter Whatever use the land has been put to also benefits the First Nations who , I assume, have not contributed to any of its development. And they don't all agree whose land is whose anyway. If this principle were carried to its logical conclusion every Pict or Scot or Druid should still be compensated in UK by the Romans, the French, etc etc. for ever (with back pay) None of the council has been authorised in any context- including election proposals - to do this. I would be interested to see what the verdict is if this issue is brought up in the next election - which it should be.

So, this is all i can do at the moment and I hope those who have the financial expertise I lack will give some good comments re the budget so that some of the things that seem to gobble up money are examined more carefully in future.

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

---

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 20, 2021 2:22 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** ATTN: 2022 Draft Budget Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Hello,

As an active community member and someone who lives in the City of Victoria, I am absolutely against the increase in money allocated for the Victoria Police Department. To me, this proposal is a disgusting use of public resources and an insult to the people who live here. The Vic PD have proven time and time again that they stoke distrust, make already marginalized peoples even more unsafe, cannot effectively or humanely respond to mental health challenges, and escalate crises. If the city truly values equity, diversity, inclusion, and reconciliation as more than a few pretty words, please act in accordance to those values. This means defunding the police and funding community programs and initiatives that actually bring people together, keep us safe, bolster individual and collective well-being, and prevent crime. I believe it is abhorrent that the council is planning on reducing funds to Sustainable Planning and Community Development and Arts, Culture, and Events to give Vic PD millions more. This proposal is greatly disappointing. Please create a budget with dignity, integrity, compassion, genuine consideration for the people in this city, and deep respect for the host Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

Regards,

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 19, 2021 6:10 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** City budget have your say.

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

I have a few things to say regarding how our city is bankrupting its residents. Number one, we cannot be the bank of last resort to fund the homeless people in this city. I suggest instead of providing them with all the necessities of life with no strings attached, you contact the Federal government and get them to house them at the naval base in Equimalt.

As for the mentally ill, we need to get them off the streets and off illicit drugs.

Bike lanes. What a mess. You have created grid lock within the city. Your lights do not work in sequence in the main arteries you can never drive more than 2 blocks before hitting a red light on Blanchard, Quadra and Cook Street. The amount of pollution from idling cars is a crime against nature. Worse, you now have dedicated bike lane arteries on Vancouver and yet almost every time I drive on Cook or Quadra, there are cyclists using up one lane and often not wearing a seat belt. I actually asked the chief of police about it and he admitted that the police are not enforcing bylaw infractions by cyclists. God forbid you make one infraction in a car.

Here is a solution. Seeing as Cook is now a major North South corridor, don't let cyclists on that street. They already have Vancouver and soon all of Richardson. Do you have any idea how hard it is to visit my mother who lives on Richmond between Oak Bay Ave and Richardson. When leaving the down town I am forced to use Fort Street (again lights are not in sequence) or all the way down to Fairfield Road. We used to be able to use Rockland Ave but that is now also blocked up. Try driving east on Fairfield road during rush hour. Between the two school zones and the traffic it triples your commute. I am almost willing to bet you can ride your bike along Richardson faster. Doesn't help if I need to bring my mother something from Thrifty Foods. But it certainly is not helping the environment and carbon footprint. Roads are arteries and the faster we travel, the less we pollute.

BTW, Can you please tell me which rocket scientist has ruined Quadra street for commuters? The intersection at Fairfield road is a disaster. Don't get me wrong the street was a death trap to cyclists and motorists with potholes the size of exploded land mines, but you have effectively brought Quadra Street down to a standstill.

Did it not occur to city staff that when Vancouver was blocked to motorists, south bound traffic into Fairfield will flow into Quadra and Cook....oh wait Cook is a complete fiasco. Dig it up, pave it over and then dig it up again. Brilliant.

As for your taxation policy, I would suggest that you stop your needless bike lane improvements and put money into necessary projects like the Crystal Pool. It is not rocket science. Close it down, bulldoze it and rebuild it on the same site. If there are cost overruns, deduct it from city counsellors.

That goes double for your idea of taxing businesses and residents and tithing funds to indigenous groups in Victoria. We are already paying Federal and Provincial tax dollars.

**NO MORE TAXES. NO MORE COMMITTEES ON WAYS TO PAY FOR THE SINS OF OUR FOREFATHERS.** It is a crime against history to rewrite it by white washing it and examining it through a lens in 2021 for acts committed 100 years ago.

Fix city hall. Cut the red tape for developers but hold their feet to the fire so that there is adequate parking in residences and on the street. Have you honestly looked at the number of cars on the side streets? Have you tried to drive down town and eat at a restaurant and find parking? Why would I go to a downtown movie where I have to pay for parking when it is free at Silver City?

My clients are afraid to come down town. Property taxes keep going up but I am not getting any benefit. Crime is going through the roof. Businesses are going bankrupt because the police are doing nothing.

Build a bigger jail or arrange to have criminals actually stay in jail longer than it takes the police to write up the report.

Do not allow campers back in Beacon Hill Park. Again talk to the Navy or the Feds and get them housed or put them on a bus and transport them back to the mainland.

Parks people are doing a great job. Toilets are clean and well serviced, off leash dog area is much safer with the fence system and bike path. But you need to fine and impound vehicles that are being parked and lived in. I am tired of smelling urine on Cook Street and Dallas Road.

Create and enforce bylaws for recreational homeless people. You have made it far too easy for people to come to Victoria, hang out and beg for money and use it to party with alcohol and drugs.

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## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 19, 2021 5:03 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

### Annual grant to First Nations in 2022 Budget:

I was disappointed and yes, angry to find out the the City Of Victoria tried an end run around the tax payers of Victoria, by proposing and voting on using taxpayers money to provide an annual grant to the Songhees & Esquimalt first nations. Apparently, the tax payers were the only ones not in the loop on this discussion. Consultation did not happen as promised. As a result, we are left in a no-win situation. Say "No" to the proposal, and we will be accused of not embracing "Truth & Reconciliation". Say "Yes" and we have set another precedent in this city, that will be another nail in the coffin of Amalgamation, since the other municipalities are smart enough to figure out where this is heading.

Why is it that Indigenous & Non-indigenous leaders alike, are intent on reinforcing the fact that First Nations are victims and that they are unable of taking care of themselves. My indigenous friends are tired of leaders reinforcing the fact that they are victims, and as a result, have noted that the negativity inflicted on them at every turn has affected their mental health. They are feeling like victims and are suffering from depression as a result. Reiterate the assumption that all indigenous people are victims and are entitled to be upset, and it becomes self-fulfilling prophecy.

Patronizing our friends is driving a wedge between them and non-indigenous Canadians. Reconciliation is pushed farther down the path as a result.

### Elder in residence:

So what is the job description and deliverables for this position. Will there be a review to see the effectiveness of this appointment? All through my working life, I have been required to perform and accomplish results. Is there any oversight on this? How is this elder chosen? Which nation decides and who in that nation? Why aren't the representatives of the City Family doing this already? There are representatives of the First Nations in the "family". We already pay for an indigenous "Artist in residence". What is this person doing? Surely this isn't a full time job.

It may seem that my feedback centres around First Nations, but when I thought we were moving away from singling out a single group based on religion, ethnicity, religion sex etc. as a special interest group getting special treatment. I believe we are all the same and that is what we should be striving for.

Regards,

S. 22

Resident & taxpayer of Victoria

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 19, 2021 4:46 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

FYI

**From:** Victoria Mayor and Council  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 11:20 AM  
**To:** S. 22  
**Subject:** Re: grant for first nations

Dear S. 22

Thank you for your email, it has been shared with Mayor and Council.

The 2022 Draft Financial Plan (City Budget) was introduced at the October 21, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Now, the community is invited to share their priorities for the draft budget through a detailed survey, email feedback and by participating in a Virtual Budget Town Hall. Have your say here: [2022 Draft Budget | Have Your Say \(victoria.ca\)](https://www.victoria.ca/2022-Draft-Budget-Feedback).

**Note:** if you want your email included in the formal process, please:

Share your feedback by emailing [engage@victoria.ca](mailto:engage@victoria.ca) with "Draft Budget 2022 Feedback" in the subject line by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, November 23.

Sincerely,

**Lucas de Amaral**  
Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People.

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 8, 2021 7:29 AM

**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>

**Subject:** grant for first nations

I would like to comment on your proposal for an annual grant for the Songhees and Esquimalt first nations.

I think this is wrong.

I think it is wrong to single out two first nations people for a grant. You can't have every municipality doing something different. That's not fair.

The only government that can deal with these issues, equitably, is the federal government.

I believe you should continue tackling the homeless issue as your top priority. There are more and more people back on the street sleeping in doorways and tents. If this is not addressed, with the weather getting colder and wetter this is going to cause more deaths. These people are human beings and should receive care as human beings.

Victoria resident,  
S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 19, 2021 3:50 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Victoria City Council, Mayor, and City Staff,

I know that this isn't the only email that you're going to receive containing the same main points. I'm not sending this email to be redundant, but because I think that the points broken down and outlined by five of my community members that follow this intro statement are important and concern issues that are not properly addressed in the survey or the budget proposal. Please consider these points seriously.

I am writing to you with my feedback on the 2022 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria. Below I will discuss six key points that need to be addressed: housing, the Victoria police department, accessibility, bylaw, public engagement, and free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples.

Housing:

Currently, the city of Victoria is experiencing a housing crisis, and there is a lack of affordable and expedited housing options available that meet the needs of unhoused and insecurely housed people. However, the current plans reflected in the proposed city budget outline an intent to incentivize developers and landlords, rather than prioritize the housing process for renters. There needs to be more concrete and expedited housing solutions. In the budget it is stated that there are \$120 million of funds from all three levels of government that will be used to create affordable low end market housing and housing for "chronically homeless people", however, it is not stated where and when these temporary supportive housing or "low-income apartments" are being built. For instance, in the budget Pandora housing construction does not begin until 2024. Housing solutions need to be created tangibly, and immediately to address the lack of housing.

I am calling on city council to allocate the budget to concrete and expedited housing solutions that tangibly address the urgent nature of the housing crisis, rather than prioritizing landlords and developers.

Victoria Police Department:

In the budget an increase is proposed for crowd management and patrolling in response to larger scale organized demonstrations. This money is prioritizing the policing of events, rather than community care supports present at these events. Rather than budgeting for police patrol at events, it would be important to consider how this money can be put into the community to reflect the demands of demonstrators. For example, the proposed budget increase for "crowd management" and patrolling could be used for community created/supported solutions ie. a community crisis response team that is trained in de-escalation, trauma-informed, and anti-oppressive tactics.

I am calling on city council to allocate the money for police “crowd management” to support community created solutions that promote safety, care, harm reduction, and anti-oppression at events and demonstrations.

#### Accessibility:

The budget outlines many projects regarding accessibility. However, it is impossible to determine what accessibility needs are needed without consultation with those who experience disabilities and/or have varying needs. Consultation with these voices is not noted in the proposed budget, and without these voices being at the forefront of the conversation, decisions made will further contribute to ableist architecture and program development. Consulting populations with relevant lived experience helps to maintain accessibility of projects.

I am calling on city council to welcome communities with lived experience into decision making regarding accessibility and to make decisions directly informed by their needs.

#### Bylaw:

Within the proposed budget, a large portion of bylaw services is dedicated to patrolling parks and taking down illegal shelters (ie. taking down shelters of those who are tenting in the park because they do not have housing). Rather than the budget being allocated to bylaw services to patrol parks and to remove “illegal” sheltering, this money should be funneled into long term housing solutions and anti-poverty measures, such as comprehensive healthcare, food justice supports and more. If budgets intended for patrolling and tearing down sheltering were allocated to relevant services, such as food justice and housing, this would decrease the need for shelters in parks.

I am calling on city council to allocate the funding, that would be used to remove shelters, instead towards long-term housing solutions for those who currently have no choice but to shelter in public spaces.

#### Public Engagement

The Community Wellness and Peer Informed Task Force and Citizen’s Assembly have both been terminated due to completing their assigned tasks. We need these groups, or similar community participatory task forces, with new project focuses to remain funded in 2022 and beyond to allow for increased community engagement/consultation. The winding down of both of these groups means less funding and fewer pathways for equitable community engagement and consultation. It is vital for these initiatives to continue on with new project focuses, to ensure that the community is included in decision making. Alongside this, measures should be taken to make the budget review process more accessible to all folks in the community. The annual city budget is quite a dense, large, and inaccessible project. With its size and jargon, it can be quite difficult to access/understand for many who do not have the time or capacity to thoroughly read and understand the document. There needs to be tangible solutions created that make engaging in this document more accessible. Many people simply do not have the spare time and capacity to engage in municipal affairs. City council needs to ensure that folks from all walks of life are providing their input for the city’s decision-making processes.

Some ways to consider doing this could be to: split the budget into sections and review each section by section, rather than once a year all at once. Or, if there will continue to be an annual budget review process, there should be more than one town hall meeting and these should be held at varying times of the day, to allow for people with varying schedules to attend. These measures should be accompanied by funded citizen task forces that operate year-round, as noted above, to ensure increased public consultation.

I am calling on city council to make engagement in municipal affairs, such as the annual city budget, more accessible for the community- so that all community members have an opportunity to engage in, understand, and have a say in municipal affairs.

Prior and Informed Consent with Indigenous Nations:

The ɫəkʷəŋən peoples should have informed consent for all projects occurring on their unceded territory. Despite statements made by the Mayor and Council about “decolonizing practices”, city council continues to have final say even after consultation with the nations.

This is in direct violation of the rights of ɫəkʷəŋən peoples Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. How will the city mayor and council address this violation of rights?

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a specific right that pertains to Indigenous peoples and is recognised in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It allows them to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories. Once they have given their consent, they can withdraw it at any stage. Furthermore, FPIC enables them to negotiate the conditions under which the project will be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated. This is also embedded within the universal right to self-determination.

I am calling on city council to address this violation of rights and to move forward by respecting local Indigenous nations' Free, Prior, and Informed Consent on city decision-making processes that occur on their unceded territory.

I urge you to listen to these points made and the needs of the community. We have the opportunity to address inequity in our city and create a thriving community for all who live here. Your responsibility as city employees is to make decisions informed by what the public wants and the public is asking you to divest funding from unnecessary punitive measures and use those funds to create secure housing, food security, and increased equitable public engagement in city affairs.

Sincerely,

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** Sean Guist <sean@intrepidtheatre.com>  
**Sent:** November 19, 2021 11:58 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft budget 2022 feedback

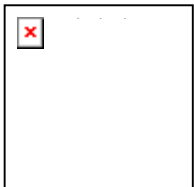
**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Hello Mayor, Council and City staff:

I am writing in support of increasing the funding to the City of Victoria Arts & Culture Infrastructure Program. This program was a welcome addition this year, and this proposed increase will ensure that arts & culture spaces and live performance venues have funding to improve their use, accessibility, equipment, and infrastructure needs. Intrepid Theatre received an inaugural grant, and this helps us refinish the floors in our two theatre spaces, making them more accessible, modern and easier to sanitize between users. We look forward to the continuaron of this program, it is a much needed piece of funding to ensure that our region's arts venues and spaces can continue to be outfitted with modern equipment, have infrastructure funding and can be a driving force in the city's economy and a welcome home for artists and audiences.

Thank you,  
Sean

--



**Sean Guist | Co-Artistic & Marketing Director**

*Pronouns: he/him*

**Intrepid Theatre Company**

2-1609 Blanshard St. Victoria, BC V8W 2J5

250-383-2663

[intrepidtheatre.com](http://intrepidtheatre.com)

**Home of:** OUTstages | UNO Fest | Victoria Fringe Festival | Metro Studio | Intrepid Studio

*Intrepid Theatre respects and gives thanks that we are located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Lekwungen People, now known as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.*

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 19, 2021 10:10 AM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Dear Victoria City Council, Mayor, and City Staff,

I am writing to you with my feedback on the 2022 Draft Budget for the City of Victoria. Below I will discuss six key points that need to be addressed: housing, the Victoria police department, accessibility, bylaw, public engagement, and free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples.

1. **Housing:** Currently, the city of Victoria is experiencing a housing crisis, and there is a lack of affordable and expedited housing options available that meet the needs of unhoused and insecurely housed people. However, the current plans reflected in the proposed city budget outline an intent to incentivize developers and landlords, rather than prioritize the housing process for renters. There needs to be more concrete and expedited housing solutions. In the budget it is stated that there are \$120 million of funds from all three levels of government that will be used to create affordable low end market housing and housing for “chronically homeless people”, however, it is not stated where and when these temporary supportive housing or “low-income apartments” are being built. For instance, in the budget Pandora housing construction does not begin until 2024. Housing solutions need to be created tangibly, and immediately to address the lack of housing.

**I am calling on city council to allocate the budget to *concrete* and *expedited* housing solutions that tangibly address the urgent nature of the housing crisis, rather than prioritizing landlords and developers.**

2. **Victoria Police Department:** In the budget an increase is proposed for crowd management and patrolling in response to larger scale organized demonstrations. This money is prioritizing the policing of events, rather than community care supports present at these events. Rather than budgeting for police patrol at events, it would be important to consider how this money can be put into the community to reflect the demands of demonstrators. For example, the proposed budget increase for “crowd management” and patrolling could be used for community created/supported solutions ie. a community crisis response team that is trained in de-escalation, trauma-informed, and anti-oppressive tactics. **Victoria's police do not make me feel safer in the community.**

**I am calling on city council to allocate the money for police “crowd management” to support community-created solutions that promote safety, care, harm reduction, and anti-oppression at events and demonstrations.**

3. **Accessibility:** The budget outlines many projects regarding accessibility. However, it is impossible to determine what accessibility needs are needed without consultation with those who experience disabilities and/or have varying needs. Consultation with these voices is not noted in the proposed budget, and without these voices being at the forefront of the conversation, decisions made will further contribute to ableist architecture and program development. Consulting populations with relevant lived experience helps to maintain accessibility of projects.



**I am calling on city council to welcome communities with lived experience into decision making regarding accessibility and to make decisions directly informed by their needs.**

4. **Bylaw:** Within the proposed budget, a large portion of bylaw services is dedicated to patrolling parks and taking down illegal shelters (ie. taking down shelters of those who are tenting in the park because they do not have housing). Rather than the budget being allocated to bylaw services to patrol parks and to remove “illegal” sheltering, this money should be funneled into long term housing solutions and anti-poverty measures, such as comprehensive healthcare, food justice supports and more. If budgets intended for patrolling and tearing down sheltering were allocated to relevant services, such as food justice and housing, this would decrease the need for shelters in parks. **The enforcement of bylaws do not make me feel safer in my community**

**I am calling on city council to allocate the funding, that would be used to remove shelters, instead towards long-term housing solutions for those who currently have no choice but to shelter in public spaces.**

5. **Public Engagement:** The Community Wellness and Peer Informed Task Force and Citizen’s Assembly have both been terminated due to completing their assigned tasks. We need these groups, or similar community participatory task forces, with new project focuses to remain funded in 2022 and beyond to allow for increased community engagement/consultation. The winding down of both of these groups means less funding and fewer pathways for equitable community engagement and consultation. It is vital for these initiatives to continue on with new project focuses, to ensure that the community is included in decision making. Alongside this, measures should be taken to make the budget review process more accessible to all folks in the community. The annual city budget is quite a dense, large, and inaccessible project. With its size and jargon, it can be quite difficult to access/understand for many who do not have the time or capacity to thoroughly read and understand the document. There needs to be tangible solutions created that make engaging in this document more accessible. Many people simply do not have the spare time and capacity to engage in municipal affairs. City council needs to ensure that folks from all walks of life are providing their input for the city’s decision-making processes. Some ways to consider doing this could be to: split the budget into sections and review each section by section, rather than once a year all at once. Or, if there will continue to be an annual budget review process, there should be more than one town hall meeting and these should be held at varying times of the day, to allow for people with varying schedules to attend. These measures should be accompanied by funded citizen task forces that operate year-round, as noted above, to ensure increased public consultation.

**I am calling on city council to make engagement in municipal affairs, such as the annual city budget, more accessible for the community- so that all community members have an opportunity to *engage in, understand, and have a say* in municipal affairs.**

6. **Prior and Informed Consent with Indigenous Nations:** The ɫəkwəŋən peoples should have informed consent for all projects occurring on their unceded territory. Despite statements made by the Mayor and Council about “decolonizing practices”, city council continues to have final say even after consultation with the nations. This is in direct violation of the rights of ɫəkwəŋən peoples Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. How will the city mayor and council address this violation of rights? Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a specific right that pertains to Indigenous peoples and is recognised in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It allows them to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories. Once they have given their consent, they can withdraw it at any stage. Furthermore, FPIC enables them to negotiate the conditions under which the project will be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated. This is also embedded within the universal right to self-determination.

**I am calling on city council to address this violation of rights and to move forward by respecting local Indigenous nations' Free, Prior, and Informed Consent on city decision-making processes that occur on their unceded territory.**

I urge you to listen to these points made and the needs of the community. We have the opportunity to address inequity in our city and create a thriving community for all who live here. Your responsibility as city employees is to make decisions informed by what the public wants and the public is asking you to divest funding from unnecessary punitive measures and use those funds to create secure housing, food security, and increased equitable public engagement in city affairs.

Sincerely,

S. 22

paying property taxes at S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 18, 2021 10:16 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Draft Budget 2022 Feedback

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Hello,

I am writing as requested in the note below:

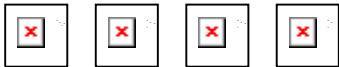
**Note:** if you want your email included in the formal process, please:

Share your feedback by emailing [engage@victoria.ca](mailto:engage@victoria.ca) with "Draft Budget 2022 Feedback" in the subject line by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, November 23.

Sincerely,

### Lucas de Amaral

Correspondence Coordinator  
Mayor's Office  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People.

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 6, 2021 4:31 PM  
**To:** Victoria Mayor and Council <[mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca)>  
**Subject:** Support for contribution to Songhees and Esquimalt

Dear Mayor and Council,

I wholeheartedly support this initiative. In fact, we recently considered taking it on as a campaign at the environmental NGO where I work, but I didn't think it would have a snowball's chance. I'm impressed to see council considering such a bold move.

As I suspect many will disagree with the proposal, I would like to add a suggestion that might sit better with the naysayers. Give ratepayers an option on their tax assessment each year to give an additional 10% of their property tax to Esquimalt and Songhees as a charitable gift. Both nations are qualified donees with Revenue Canada, so ratepayers would be able to get a tax credit towards their federal taxes. This might ease the burden and would also make it easy for reconciliation-minded Victorians to make a contribution even though they likely aren't subject to much "new revenue" property tax.

Very happy to see this come before council - this is one resident of Vic West who is in favour!

Yours,  
S. 22

<https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/victoria-council-mulls-giving-annual-grant-to-first-nations-based-on-tax-revenue-4731004>

S. 22

<\>

Sent from [ProtonMail](#), Swiss-based encrypted email. I got tired of [ad companies reading my email](#) to sell me stuff.

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 18, 2021 7:09 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Victoria's 2022 Budget

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

I am not a resident of Victoria. I live in Saanich. However, I love Victoria, care about the city and enjoy its shops, restaurants, bars, parks, theatres, waterfront, etc. I was born here and consider Victoria "my city".

I have read a brief summary of the 2022 Budget Council is proposing and agree with more money for policing. Many CRD residents will not go downtown as they feel unsafe. I myself will not go downtown alone after dark. This was never a concern to me before now.

I **do not** support allocating a portion of Victoria's property taxes to pay indigenous nations for the buildings that stand on their property within Victoria as a means of Reconciliation. This is going too far and is a slippery slope. Surely far better use of your tax dollars can be found that would benefit all that come into Victoria to work, shop or play.

S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 18, 2021 5:12 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Budget

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

do not distribute tax from new building to First Nations We need it for infrastructure. Cross walks side walks which all  
nee repairs to mak the city safe  
S. 22

## Dale Vanelli

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** November 13, 2021 4:42 PM  
**To:** Engagement  
**Subject:** Please Help Shelterless Individuals

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

Hello,

I am writing as a volunteer S. 22 I have only been volunteering S. 22, in the clothing room. Individuals coming into the clothing room are sometimes in distress, I have heard some of their traumas. Sometimes they are high on substances, I heard from a worker, S. 22 that there is an overdose once every few days. Others have seen their family members dead and are talking outloud constantly in an attempt to clear the trauma. I've also heard that shelters are closed during the day, which I do not understand, S. 22

S. 22 I find it hard to understand why the government can't pay extra outreach staff to stay in the shelters so individuals who have lost their homes and are dealing with traumas can rest.

S. 22 While living with my parents I have barely been able to save enough, and I have been saving for almost a year. When I first applied my mind was in such a state that I found the application very challenging, it is NOT easy enough for someone S. 22 to receive government support! So I am disgusted that those with even more trauma are expected to be left on the street trying to save enough money to reestablish their lives, it is asking too much, they deserve more government support.

From my own experience I know that traumas are incredibly hard to manage. I was a high achiever and I now find reading websites extremely challenging, let alone understanding instructions about how to receive financial support. When I was expected to go into potential places of employment and tell them I am applying for financial support S. 22 when I had no money to have a working phone AND NO MONEY for transportation, after a landlady with the same last name as the murderer (S. 22 filed to keep my damage deposit for giving notice on the 1st instead of the 31st, S. 22. And now, after so much of the COVID19 EI FUNDING has been funneled up straight to the landlords and building owners, who are everyone who is low income's problem, it is a challenge not feeling very upset.

The government MUST do SOMETHING. One person every couple of days is dying of overdose/suicide, it is the government's responsibility to do something. These individuals have been treated so poorly that it sickens me.

The outreach workers S. 22 quit often, so if the government cares to keep low income individuals alive, something has to be done to make financial assistance when someone first asks more accessible, and to take the power away from greedy landlords who feel entitled to ruin the lives of tenants by expecting what they charge in rent.

I want to help, this is the only way I know how.

I am also working on getting the menu S. 22 CHANGED, as they are serving animal products. Non-vegan=inability to care enough about the lives of vulnerable animals.

Sincerely,

S. 22





FAIRFIELD GONZALES  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
the place to connect

Mayor and Council  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 1P6

October 5, 2021

Dear Mayor and Council,

**Re: Proposed FGCA Board priorities for input to City of Victoria 2022 Financial Plan**

On behalf of the board of Directors of FGCA, I am pleased to submit for your consideration a list of priority inputs into the City of Victoria's 2022 Financial Plan.

Our Neighbourhood Improvement Committee and Executive Director sought and received input from parent council members at Sir James Douglas and Margaret Jenkins Schools, and the wider community through our social media channels.

The list may be longer than some other neighbourhoods have provided in the past, due to the population and size of Fairfield Gonzales.

**Transportation Priorities for the Fairfield Gonzales Neighbourhood for 2022 Financial Plan**

1. Pedestrian-controlled crosswalk signal at Chandler & Richmond.
2. Upgrade the crosswalk at Fairfield and Linden to a higher level of pedestrian safety (e.g. flashing light).
3. Pedestrian-controlled crosswalk signal at the intersection of Irving & Fairfield or at Richmond & Fairfield.
4. Fairfield and Moss Intersection improvements - such as:
  - a. replacing pedestrian "beg button" with automatic pedestrian crossing on every signal, or pedestrian diagonal crossing (aka scramble)
  - b. have no pedestrian movement during vehicle green light phases, allowing for vehicles to turn with less danger of conflict and less delay.
5. Work with residents to install speed humps on streets experiencing high levels of non-local cut-through traffic ("rat running), particularly in proximity to schools.
6. Revisit/consider crosswalk improvements as the Richardson project progresses (at Lillian & Fairfield, at Foul Bay & Fairfield).



1330 FAIRFIELD RD. VICTORIA, BC V8S 5J1

Tel. 250.382.4604 Fax 250.382.4613

[www.fairfieldcommunity.ca](http://www.fairfieldcommunity.ca)

[place@fairfieldcommunity.ca](mailto:place@fairfieldcommunity.ca)

**Park and Greenspace Priorities for the Fairfield Gonzales Neighbourhood for 2022 Financial Plan**

1. Work with residents to undertake a Park Review for the Fairfield Gonzales neighbourhood, with adequate resources, for the purpose of: (1) improving access to parks in under-served areas with larger populations; and (2) creating additional off-leash areas.
2. Park improvements: Playground and amenities (basketball courts fixed, new playground equipment/water features for kids), covered picnic areas.

**Other Important Items for Fairfield Gonzales Neighbourhood for 2022 Financial Plan, and for future years**

- Cook St: changes to slow traffic south of Fairfield, and expand pedestrian space.
- Crosswalk at the bottom of Richmond Ave, where it meets Crescent.
- Pedestrian activated button on Fairfield & Kipling.
- Speed bumps along Linden - or crosswalks at a minimum.
- Move some of the pick-up and drop-off (certain grades?) for Margaret Jenkins school from Fairfield to Chandler.
- Close the northbound lane at corner of Cornwall and Fairfield, and same at Harbinger and Fairfield, Linden, Arnold and other streets drivers cut through.
- Changes on May street to calm traffic and improve safety for the many children and adults walking North-South on the streets that intersect with May.
- The small plaza at Moss and Oscar St should be redeveloped into a gathering hub for people on foot and bike.
- Upgrade basketball court and hoop at Hollywood Park.
- If "continue to allow street parking on both sides of the residential streets off Fairfield (Cornwall, Harbinger, Linden), make them one way".

Many thanks for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Don Monsour, President  
[president@fairfieldcommunity.ca](mailto:president@fairfieldcommunity.ca)



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North Park Neighbourhood Association  
PO Box 661  
#185-911 Yates Street  
Victoria, BC, V8V 4Y9  
[www.npna.ca](http://www.npna.ca)

Date: November 1, 2021

Re: 2022 Budget considerations from the North Park Neighbourhood Association

## 1) Funding to Support a Re-envisioning Process for Royal Athletic Park

On [July 8, 2021 Committee of the Whole](#) meeting Council unanimously passed the following motion relating to Royal Athletic Park:

*“Staff to report back on the implications of amending Recreation Fee Bylaw No.06-056 to allow community groups to book Royal Athletic Park at low or no cost and or **a re-envisioning of how RAP can be opened for public use** following findings of the 1996 Local Area Plan and the example of community based recreation programs held by city staff and the North Park Neighbourhood Association in 2020 and 2021.”*

We request that Council dedicate funding from the 2022 budget to support a re-envisioning of how RAP can be opened for public use. This request builds on the recommendations put forward in the 1996 Local Area Plan, listed below. Keeping in mind the very real limits of Staff resources and the importance of this project, the NPNA requests that we be granted the opportunity to perform the early stages of this engagement. Funding for this process will be used to host charrettes, consult with designers, social planners, and other professionals, to gather information regarding community needs, priorities, and feasibility of options for the City to realise the full potential of this incredible asset. The NPNA will then present options and implications back to Council and City staff for their consideration.

The North Park [1996 Local Area Plan](#) states that

- “The City is to explore strategies to make Royal Athletic Park more available to free community use when not programmed for use as a stadium” (objective 8.4, pg. 27).
- It also states that “Royal Athletic, Park, being a regional facility and not open-free to the public, is not considered an asset to the neighbourhood...Royal Athletic Stadium could be



made much more friendly to the neighbourhood by providing direct access or at least visual access to portions of the site when not in use for organized activity.”

- And finally, “There are many regional recreational facilities in North Park area that serve the entire City but do not necessarily provide programs for the neighbourhood.”

## 2) Funding for City Staff to amend Bylaw, and to open RAP for Free Community Programming in 2022

We request that the City allocate funds for Staff to report back on the implications and an associated budget to amend the [Recreation Fee Bylaw No.06-056](#) to allow community groups to book Royal Athletic Park at low or no cost - as outlined in the July 8, 2021 motion unanimously approved by Council.

We acknowledge that making changes to bylaws takes time. While the re-envisioning of RAP and changes to the [Recreation Fee Bylaw No.06-056](#) are taking place, the NPNA requests that Council award a grant of up to \$12,637.66 to the North Park Neighborhood Association to fund the cost of hosting Association programs at Royal Athletic Park in 2022.

In 2020 and 2021, the NPNA hosted a wide range of free community programming at RAP. This has included a monthly pop-up market (2020, 2021), free all ages summer programs and activities (2020, 2021) and a new Multicultural Festival in collaboration with cultural groups and representatives from the Masjid Al-Iman Mosque. This funding request would allow us to continue offering the monthly market, quarterly Multicultural Festival, and another summer of free all ages programming at RAP while the re-envisioning process and bylaw amendments are in progress.

<i>Based on rate of \$91.57/hour</i>		
North Park monthly pop up markets	5 hours/market x 12 months = 60 hours	\$5,495.20
Free community programming (soccer, art workshops)	6 hours/week x 9 weeks (July and August 2022) = 54 hours	\$4,944.78
Multicultural Festival	6 hours/festival x 4 festivals = 24 hours	\$2,197.68
	Total:	\$12,637.66



Additional letters submitted to the City of Victoria about community access to Royal Athletic Park:

- May 2021: [Proposed Community Use at Royal Athletic Park \(June-August 2021\)](#)
- June 2021: [NPNA letter to Mayor and Council regarding staff report](#)

Applicable sections from the [Welcoming City Strategy](#)

- Government leadership:
  - 1.1 City Council to implement comprehensive Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism policies aimed at changing systemic practices and processes across local government and agencies.
- Civic Engagement:
  - 3.2 The City to host or support an annual Welcoming Event for newcomers to promote and celebrate the social, economic, and cultural benefits and contributions that newcomers bring to the city and welcome those who came within the previous year.
    - *(potential extension of the Multicultural Festivals started by the Masjid Al-Iman Mosque and NPNA in July, October, and December 2021)*
  - 3.3 The City to develop a grant program that brings long-time residents and newcomers together annually to co-develop and co-deliver a community project such as adding picnic tables to a gathering space, creating a community public art project, restoring, or upgrading a playground, etc.
    - *(include newcomers in the re-envisioning plan for RAP)*
- Connected Communities:
  - 4.1 The City and community partner organizations to develop and deliver social connection programs, events and activities for newcomer youth and young adults.
  - 4.2 The City and community partner organizations to create regular opportunities (programs, activities, or events) for newcomers and longtime residents to share stories and life experiences.

Relevant questions from Step 1 of the [Interim Equity Decision Making Tool](#)

- Step 1: Will the project have adverse impacts on one or more equity seeking groups?
  - 1.a. Would the Project result in any Victoria citizens or residents being left behind?
  - 1.b. What groups may already be disadvantaged in the City context? (people without vehicles, neighbourhoods with a high concentration of shelters, low income neighbourhoods, people with disabilities; refugees, others)
  - 1.c. Does the Project impact the interests of disadvantaged groups in Victoria?



- 1.d. Will the Project make a service or facility difficult or impossible to access for some?
- 1.e. Will the Project create or exacerbate a distinction between groups in the City e.g. with regard to access to services and facilities?
- 1.f. Has engagement with a potentially adversely impacted group informed the analysis of potential impacts?

Applicable sections from the [2019-2022 Strategic Plan](#)

- Health, Well-Being and a Welcoming City
  - Measurable outcome: Increase in availability of free recreation options
  - Measurable outcome: Increase in people accessing nature
  - Action 19: Identify and remove barriers to make Victoria accessible and apply a barrier-free lens to all decisions we make to ensure we're not creating new barriers
- Climate Leadership and Environmental Stewardship
  - Action 17: Initiate a Parks and Open Spaces Acquisition Strategy to identify priorities for parkland acquisition that align with Official Community Plan, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan, and other approved City plans
- Strong, Liveable Neighbourhoods
  - Measurable outcome: Increase in the amount of green space in neighbourhoods
  - Action 18: Support neighbourhood placemaking initiatives

### 3) Direct Award Base Grant (Staffing)

In January 2020, the [NPNA together with the DRA made a request](#) to receive the \$75,000 direct award base grant that is provided to neighbourhood associations that operate community centres. This request was not forwarded to council for discussion, however, in 2021 Council approved a pilot program awarding \$20,000 for a community coordinator to neighbourhood associations that do not have community centres. This has been an appreciated measure towards acknowledging the role played by neighbourhood associations that do not have the privilege of operating community centres (yet) but still provide services, activities, and programs that benefit the community.

In North Park, the community coordinator pilot funding has been successful, and therefore should be expanded upon. For the last two years, the NPNA has been operating on a “distributed community centre” model making use of existing spaces in the neighbourhood. Such as Royal Athletic Park for the year round [market](#) and summertime community programming, the fellowship hall at First Met for the [weekly grocery hamper program](#), and Vancouver Street for a grant funded “[pop up community centre](#).” The \$20,000 community coordinator grant has contributed to the



staffing costs associated with serving the North Park community, however, we renew our request to receive the full \$75,000 direct award base grant that is awarded to neighbourhoods with community centres. This will not eliminate the need for the NPNA to seek additional grant funding from non-City of Victoria funders, however, it will be an important step towards establishing sustainable staff funding for the North Park Neighbourhood Association in advance of the community centre project that is currently underway.

Sincerely,

North Park Neighbourhood Association Board

[board@npna.ca](mailto:board@npna.ca)

Sarah Murray, executive director

613-888-2106

[executivedirector@npna.ca](mailto:executivedirector@npna.ca)

October 25, 2021

Mayor Lisa Helps and Council  
Victoria City Hall  
1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

**Re. Continued and increased support for Victoria Police Department Budget**

Dear Mayor and Council,

We the undersigned are writing to advocate for continued and increased support being approved for the upcoming Victoria Police Department budget. We feel we are in a state of public safety crisis and are asking Council to make an essential investment in the safety and vitality of our City, to ensure our police are adequately resourced to do the job we all need them to do.

Public safety is critical to all residents, families, workers, social service providers, business owners, their staff, customers and clients. It's a basic need for all citizens to feel they are not in danger.

We request that clear value be placed on the VicPD Budget proposal, which we understand includes adding civilian mental health support professionals along with additional police officers. Management of public safety has long been underfunded and understaffed resulting in our current unsafe environment.

We also believe that VicPD — far from criminalizing mental health, addictions and homelessness — actively seeks to protect our most vulnerable, street-involved citizens — especially from the very real criminals who prey on them.

The status quo is not a safe option and funding must be approved to best and appropriately manage this crisis

Sincerely,



Bruce Williams  
CEO,  
Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce



Jeff Bray,  
Executive Director,  
Downtown Victoria Business Association



100-852 Fort St. Victoria British Columbia V8W 1H8  
Phone: 250-383-7191 Fax: 250-385-3552 [www.victoriachamber.ca](http://www.victoriachamber.ca)

**THE  
CHAMBER.**  
GREATER VICTORIA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Julian Daly  
CEO,  
Our Place Society



Jane Butler McGregor,  
CEO,  
Victoria Conservatory of Music



Paul Nursey  
President,  
Destination Greater Victoria



October 27, 2021

Mayor Lisa Helps and Council  
Victoria City Hall  
1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

**Re. Continued and increased support for Victoria Police Department Budget**

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to advocate for continued and increased support being approved for the upcoming Victoria Police Department budget. We are in a state of public safety crisis and are asking Council to make an essential investment in the safety and vitality of our City, to ensure our police are adequately resourced to do the job we all need them to do.

Public safety is critical to all residents, families, workers, social service providers, business owners, their staff, customers and clients. It's a basic need for all citizens to feel they are not in danger. We continue to hear from our customers that they at times do not feel safe which has a huge impact on our business and guest satisfaction.

We request that clear value be placed on the VicPD Budget proposal, which we understand includes additional police officers. Management of public safety has long been underfunded and understaffed resulting in our current unsafe environment.

We also believe that VicPD actively seeks to protect our most vulnerable, street-involved citizens — especially from the very real criminals who prey on them.

The status quo is not a safe option and funding must be approved to best and appropriately manage this crisis.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'K Hughes'.

Kimberley Hughes  
General Manager

**Delta Victoria Ocean Pointe**  
100 Harbour Road  
Victoria, BC V9A 0G1  
[Marriott.com/YYJVO](http://Marriott.com/YYJVO)