

2023

ATTACHMENT C

# Emailed Feedback



**From:** [Kegan McFadden, VAC](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** 2023 Budget  
**Date:** February 23, 2023 2:04:52 PM

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer a community non-profit response to the proposed budget for 2023.

The Victoria Arts Council (established 1968) directly supports between 200-300 local artists annually through a diverse program that includes community satellite venues with five branches of the GVPL (and another one set to be initiated this year). We are certainly in favour of the increase to the Library budget as proposed.

I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage the Participatory Budgeting, Arts Infrastructure Grants, as well as the Strategic Initiatives Grant. The VAC accessed each of those programs in 2021-2022 and with that support, we were able to create a vibrant public artwork as well as continue to deliver our educational and outreach programming which is met by an estimated audience of one million people annually. I would encourage the Mayor & Council to continue to invest in community, support arts infrastructure, and ensure that the strategic initiatives align with a creative city.

Thank you,  
Kegan McFadden

--

Kegan McFadden  
Executive Director  
Victoria Arts Council  
Traditional Territories of lək'wəŋən Speaking Peoples  
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)

**From:** Personal Privacy  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** 2023 City Budget - AirBnB's  
**Date:** March 2, 2023 4:58:13 PM

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I strongly recommend Council raise the cost of permits for temporary vacation units (Airbnb's). These units provide little benefit to the City: they compete with hotels (which pay business taxes and employ people) and, more importantly, take valuable units out of the housing market. If these units become less profitable to operate, some of them may be returned to the housing market reducing the housing crisis. Plus fines for non-licensed units should be increased as a greater incentive to be licensed. And the funds raised could go to better policing the requirement for a permit, to reduce the number of the non-licensed units. And any excess may help reduce general budget pressures.

Respectfully,  
Personal Privacy

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** 2023 Draft Budget  
**Date:** February 22, 2023 11:31:40 PM

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By raising taxes raises rents and the cost of housing.

**From:** [Reid James](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** 2023 Draft Budget  
**Date:** February 25, 2023 1:54:50 PM

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Dear City of Victoria,

With high inflation comes tough decisions. In no particular order, these items could be reduced, postponed or eliminated:

Increases:

6.7% Council

19% Communication and Engagement

50% Climate action – we all agree that we need to do our part but a 50% increase in very challenging times?

40% People and Culture

Stadacona Park revitalization - \$261K

EV infrastructure - \$2.6M –

Bike lanes - \$250K

BC Transit youth fares - \$475K

Dallas Road Park - \$628K

There has to be at least \$2-3M in savings here or give it to the Victoria Police Department crack down on all the crime in downtown Victoria.

Thank you for your attention.

Kind regards,

**Reid James**

General Manager

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**From:** [Your Friend With A Truck](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External; Mayor and Councillor All Candidates Meeting](#)  
**Subject:** 2023  
**Date:** February 22, 2023 8:19:08 AM

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#### City budget

There should be 0 tax rate hike , as our property assessments went up . The Last Mayor and council wasted so much money ,The current Mayor Marianne Alto gave her native band 200,000 in surplus money to which she sits on the board of directors . The money you wasted on the Crystal Pool is unreal .The Crystal building is past it's due date and should be torn down and rebuilt on it's current site. The hotels should be reverted back to Hotels . Our place should be closed down this buisness is nothing more than disrupted to the city and Pandora ,Ave and the downtown core. As for Harris Green the parking should be at least 1 parking for each unit built not 1 per 8 units built.This Mayor and council has driven the companies out of Victoria by allowing the homeless to run this city which is a reason you need more money 160,00 to have homeless clean up Pandora is not working . I have had nothing but problems with BCAA Evo cars parking along Tolmie up to 11 at one time ,They don't have a buisness license in Saanich ,but are renting cars to Saanich residents ,I put in a complaint with Parking and Buisness licensing On Aug31 ,2022 and have heard nothing back from them. I have waited ten years to have my driveway fixed due to damage The CITY OF VITORIA owned Cherry Tree

Lyall Atkinson  
3182 Yew,St  
Victoria B,C  
V8X 1M9  
250 381 8984  
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** Budget  
**Date:** March 2, 2023 2:28:38 PM

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Hello Council,

Thank you for serving.

I think a 6.7% budget increase shows tremendous lack of respect for the taxpayers of Victoria. Remember tax increases are cumulative. The goal inflation rate is 2% for Canada so that should be the maximum increase if you are at all interested in fighting inflation. Probably high inflation allows you to collect more money for new projects. I would like to know how much more money you are collecting than you did fifteen years ago and what you are spending it on compared to fifteen years ago. Many housing units have been built in those years and yet our property taxes have continued to increase at more than the cost of living annually. I guess the more information the taxpayer has the more we will complain.

Instead of the first proposed rate increase I suggest you cut the budget and/or staff by nine percent. These are serious times. I don't know your staff but how many are proven business people who know how to survive tough times. Business people cannot just go to the taxpayer for more money. Please show some empathy for the residents of Victoria.

Victoria is in a bad way these days. Homeless people are lashing out and need solutions to what is happening in Canada. Real brainstorming by our leaders is called for and should be top of mind.

These messages should go directly to Council and NOT be summarized by staff. Staff do not make the decision yet it seems Council goes on staff recommendations at all decisions. Staff are not elected and should not have sway regarding the taxpayer that pays their paycheck.

I am hoping the new Council will listen to Victoria citizens rather than developers. We have been led down the garden path in recent years. I am sure there is plenty of fluff in the budget to cut without affecting a needed increase in the police budget.

All the best.  
Sent from my iPad.

[Personal Privacy](#)

## Cassandra Hadley

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**From:** Personal Privacy  
**Sent:** March 2, 2023 2:38 PM  
**To:** Engagement-External  
**Subject:** 2023 City Budget consultations

**Categories:** Tracked To Dynamics 365

I very strongly recommend council increase revenue and address climate change issues by **charging for residential parking permits** similar to the City of Vancouver. Charging for parking permits in residential areas would also address some of the concerns about street congestion in the more “suburban” areas where more infill housing will be built under the missing middle policy, plus it will alleviate to a small extent the differential between the suburban residents and downtown residents who get no preferential residential parking and have to pay for street parking. And if charged for parking perhaps fewer people would own and operate cars and increase the use of transit, biking or walking, thereby reducing climate impacts and support a better transit system. And it may help reduce the projected increase in property taxes.

Respectfully,  
Personal Privacy

Mayor and Council members:

Victoria council has a long agenda of issues that need to be addressed by council in this budget. I wish to comment on two that tend to be given less media coverage but are still very important for the livelihood of the city and the lifestyle that the residents have come to expect.

Police:

The one issue that needs to be addressed and only comes to the fore when the media make it a 'cause célèbre is the downtown. The issues are well known as are some of the solutions. The one that tends to be ignored is having police 'walk the beat' in the downtown core. The value of this measure is that the police will get to know those who frequent the area as well as those who live in the downtown core. This knowledge and the building of relationships promotes a sense of ownership of and responsibility for the city by residents and police alike and would go a long to solving the current issues of violence and property damage.

This deployment of foot patrol officers should be a critical criteria for the police budget.

Transportation:

We are all aware of the increased traffic congestion in the city core, arterial roads and highways. Expensive and extensive parking rate increases as well as reduced new condominium parking spaces are on the table as a means to alleviate this problem. However, solving this issue requires a more positive approach. Public transportation is the key issue. It must become easily accessible from all areas and at all times. Victoria and the suburbs are growing into a large metropolis which require the institution of an affordable, accessible and convenient transit system.

Bus routes need extensions not only in distance but also frequency and time of operation. Night buses, direct bus links to the airport, and perhaps a free zone downtown bus route should be instituted. For longer commutes there is a potential rail link that sits unused. Anyone who drives the 'Colwood crawl' realizes that new overpasses are not the answer. Rapid light rail, as used in most cities, is essential for getting cars off the road and moving people quickly and efficiently. The city needs to promote and support rapid transit as well as encouraging the surrounding municipalities, the provincial government and even the federal government for support.

The longer alternative rapid transit is delayed the more it will cost in money, traffic congestion and frustration.

Thank you for your attention

Personal Privacy

Victoria. Personal Privacy

**From:** Personal Privacy  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** Budget priorities  
**Date:** February 22, 2023 5:23:53 PM

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1. Increase fire and bylaw enforcement.

Take back our parks from homeless encampments!

3. Approve of Infrastructure/road improvements as per budget draft

Do not approve of any missing or middle housing funding

Cheers Personal Privacy

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** Budget submission  
**Date:** February 25, 2023 4:28:17 PM

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Hi. I had two thoughts:

1. The policy of the city is to hold the budget increase to inflation which is about 7%. Inflation is measured as the Consumer Price Index. It is made up of goods and services that consumers typically purchase like; housing, alcohol and tobacco, health, insurance, clothing and footwear, education, telecommunications and some others.

Except for telecommunications and insurance, I would suggest that the City purchases none of the items making up the CPI.

So why is the CPI a measure of the global City budget increase? Seems a bit odd. Perhaps the City should base its budget increase on what it actually purchases like concrete and legal services, etc.

2. I assume the people making up the budget are City staff and would be the beneficiaries of making a decision that say, salaries should go up 9%.

I would think in this age of guarding against bias and conflicts of interest, the City would take steps to ensure staff would not be recommending a salary increase that they would receive!

Perhaps give the City Budget Staff a pre-budget annual raise of 2% and then see what they recommend.

Respectfully submitted,

[Personal Privacy](#)

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** Budget  
**Date:** February 28, 2023 10:22:50 PM

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I just completed the survey. It is not well designed. People can't have opinions on everything. Forcing people to rank ten activities does not make sense. Not everybody uses all the services. Some are essential, others are nice to have. In inflationary times, essentials should be the priority.

Making the city, particularly downtown, safe and inviting is probably THE priority. Whether this requires increased policing or better bylaw enforcement or both is for experts to decide.

Infrastructure replacement and maintenance for utilities and transportation should not be neglected.

Transportation, safety, accessibility and environment are not necessarily separate issues. For example, synchronizing traffic lights on Douglas and Blanshard would decrease emissions and improve vehicle flow. Pedestrian cycles would be safer. Shrubbery invaded safewalks make them inaccessible to people with mobility issues. Street lights could be oriented towards sidewalks rather than streets, making them safer for pedestrians at night. This would reduce tripping hazards and, maybe, random attacks.

There should be better coordination between departments. Sewer repairs, bike lanes, and other utility work should be coordinated to avoid traffic continual disruption over extended periods of time.

[Personal Privacy](#)

**From:** Personal  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budger Input  
**Date:** March 6, 2023 8:26:49 AM

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## PUBLIC SAFETY FIRST

I used to go downtown every other day since I live so close.

Now I go downtown about 1 time per month.

I try to change all business and shopping to anywhere but downtown.

Between parking and a concern that I might lose the lottery and run into a lunatic, I just avoid downtown.

Parking is a lost cause but maybe you can do something about public safety?

As a property taxpayer I want a city that manages money and doesn't spend it on crosswalks and more bureaucracy and endless new positions and departments.

Yes, I am an old white man so feel free to just disregard this email and do what you are going to do anyway.

Thanks

Personal

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City budget  
**Date:** February 25, 2023 9:04:19 PM

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I fully support the Budget line for Topaz Park Pickleball courts in the 2023 budget for \$350,000 to be included and approved by the City

**From:** Personal Priv  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget downtown parking  
**Date:** February 20, 2023 7:46:28 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I just read in the news an article regarding trying to offset tax increases by increasing parking rates.

I'm begging please don't. Parking downtown is already way too expensive.

For those of us who work downtown and can't take alternate transportation it is already eating our budget alive.

At \$300 - \$400 a month to park to work it is a lot to come out of a paycheck that is already taxed, inflation taken, union increases, CPP increases, Medical increases, tax increases, etc etc, not to mention food increases, gas tax increases, gas increases, etc etc, it never ends, add in property tax increases where does it stop.

Shopping downtown is already diminishing due to lack of parking and travelling downtown nightmares with the road changes. Businesses are hurting and closing because shopping downtown is frustrating and expensive.

I think the majority of downtown shopping is done by either those that live close by or those that work in the downtown core. The impact of which was felt when people were working from home due to COVID. A lot of business was lost.

As someone who has to work right downtown, I have no choice but to pay for parking in a parkade, I can't bike I live too far away and am not able to physically. I can't take a bus, they don't travel to where I live or on a schedule conducive to my work schedule or living commitments. I have health issues and physical disabilities which limit my options and require me to drive and park in the core. I have family obligations that also require the necessity of a car for spur of the moment needs to provide care for elderly parents. It already is crippling me financially please don't use parking as the means to fix your budgets. Find alternatives or if people want to live downtown, then let them pay for it.

The new multimillion dollar condos are tax free, change that policy and tax them even at a minimum to make up your differences. If people can afford multimillion dollar homes, they can afford to pay the tax on them, why should the working stiff who is already struggling to support a family or just themselves, have to end up homeless in order to earn money and pay for council spending?

Stop hitting the over burdened worker and do something else, get creative.

You were elected to help the small business and downtown workers time to show you meant what you said.

Begging with everything I have....

Personal Privacy

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** February 18, 2023 8:45:27 PM

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I want to see more dollars earmarked for the maintenance of city streets in the budget. Blanshard and Douglas are OK, but most secondary roads are in really bad shape! That's what I consider a core service, along with sewers and water supply.

[Personal Privacy](#)

**From:** [Personal Priv](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Cc:** [Jeremy Caradonna \(Councillor\)](#); [Marg Gardiner \(Councillor\)](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** February 22, 2023 6:22:27 AM

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I started to complete the budget survey but stopped because I was being asked to rank core services — for example, to decide whether police or fire was more important, and whether sewers or water were more important. The answer is they are all important and it is impossible to rank. I'm fine with ranking services that are not core, but I got increasingly uncomfortable with ranking core services and decided I didn't want to continue with a flawed survey.

I have two comments on the budget:

1. I noted the massive increase to People and Culture — from \$2.3M in 2021, to \$3M in 2022, and a further increase to \$4.2M in 2023, a \$1.2M increase over 2022, and almost double what it was in 2021. Surely the City can function on at least the existing budget for People and Culture. It seems like this is an area that could be reduced.
2. I believe that the Police and Bylaw requests should be met so that everyone can be safe and so that we can retain the local shops and businesses in Victoria rather than them all fleeing to malls in the suburbs, and I would support increasing enforcement of short term rental bylaws to free up more housing in the City.

Sincerely,

[Personal Privacy](#)

**From:** Personal Privacy  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** city budget  
**Date:** February 23, 2023 10:17:50 AM

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Dear folks at City Hall,

We are property owners at **Personal Privacy**, but are not residents of Victoria, BC, although we spend a considerable amount of time and money in Victoria. I wish to focus my concern on how recycling is performed for recyclable materials. We note that pickup of recyclables is an excruciating process for all concerned in Victoria. Pickup of partly sorted recyclables in “blue box” containers that are open to the weather, plus paper filled “Blue bags” requiring a considerable amount of manual labor to load into recycling trucks during pickup is not ideal. Commonly, blue boxes are simply not picked up and overturned boxes issue forth a debris field of litter!

We are residents of **Personal Privacy** where all recyclables are picked up in Blue Bins, like Victoria’s grey and green bins. Why this can not be done in Victoria is odd, to say the least. Perhaps, some part of the “budget” can be directed towards cleaning up this mess with a better method of recycling, like most other cities have managed to do.

**Personal Privacy**

**From:** Personal Privacy  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** CITY BUDGET  
**Date:** February 22, 2023 10:05:35 PM

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HI , I LIVE AT **Personal Privacy** IN VICTORIA  
Here are my suggestions for the City Budget:

1. More policing money to fight the increase in crime.
2. Add more parking spaces in the city for cars.
3. Widen the roads so traffic can move faster.
4. Cut the budget for "non -essential" expenses.

**Personal Privacy**

Resident of Victoria

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** February 22, 2023 9:08:39 PM

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Not sure if this revenue generating idea has been thought of, but my recommendation would be to establish an annual bike licensing fee (similar to a dog license fee).

The CRD reports that 706,241 bike journeys were made in 2022 just where the Galloping Goose and Harbour Road cross paths in Vic West. Assuming 75% of these journeys are commuters where they are making multiple trips on the same bike - there would still be over 175,000 single bikes using Victoria bike paths that taxpayers have paid millions for.

If these 175,000 bike owners were charged a small \$20 annual license fee, the City would realize \$3.5 million in new revenues annually.

Speaking as a regular user of the bike lanes, and in conversation with other bikers, this would be a digestible alternative to raising property taxes 9%.

Thanks for your consideration

[Personal Privacy](#)

**From:** Personal Privacy  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** February 22, 2023 6:39:31 PM

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These are the issues that are of the utmost importance to me.

1. Withdrawing from the UN 2030 agenda. We did not vote for this, we do not want to be part of the new colonial Great Reset being promoted by King Charles III and Klaus Schwab.

This was all WEF shill Lisa Helps' doing and this current city council must undo all the damage she has wrought upon our city. This is a corrupt Technofascist agenda that will destroy our city. So...you have your work cut out for you eliminating everything she touched and signed on behalf of the city.

If you city councillors are so opposed to colonialism how is it you support King Charles III and his Great Reset/Climate Crisis/UN agenda? Or are you simply not making the connection? Explain.

2. Change the status of the City of Victoria. No corporation status -- this supplants the natural order of cities as entities of the province.

3. Quit cherry-picking citizen feedback. Nowhere has this been more evident than the rushed approval of Missing Middle (more One World Government agenda UN 2030 agenda criminality) and the Harris/Yates development. We don't need any more development in Fairfield. Island is fully done over. This whole issue is a smokescreen to bring in more foreign workers who will be compliant with tyrannical mandates by Trudeau and the complicit provincial government while refusing to rehire health care workers. It also fits into this Technofascist Smart Cities agenda which has everything to do with totalitarian turnkey control and absolutely nothing to do with democracy, respect for citizen engagement and healthy communities.

4. Return to paper ballots for elections. Ditch the voting machines. I was shocked to see there was no recount for close counts. I was also highly suspicious of the overly inflated vote numbers for trustees compared to the last election.

5. Stay in your lane. I don't want to hear any more about the total Inappropriate Content Davos Climate Crisis propaganda or have ANY funding dedicated to that.

6. Hiring freeze. Salaries are too high for City of Victoria staff. Too much nepotism and creation of new roles that are not necessary. Hire on merit, education and skills not on so-called "diversity".

7. No to Global Shapers. This is a WEF agenda that favours the 1% of the world under the guise of "progressive" thought. Lots of flowery language but rest assured, the plan is a One World Government Technocratic slavery. Ban any city council members who have participated in this from any contact with any global shaper "hub" or any attendance/communication with this organization or its astro-turf entities.

8. Open up the roads in Beacon Hill Park. You lost. Quit discriminating against the disabled

and open up the roads!!!

Personal Privacy

Personal Privacy

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** February 23, 2023 11:41:09 AM

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Given the difficulties a budget increase of this size creates for many residents and business  
The budget should be vigorously curtailed.

Many of the initiatives initiatives can be spread over two or three years

Infrastructure:

Delete the \$3.25 mil for multimodal corridors. Roll out over the next decade

Reduce by 50% the \$350,000. Traffic Calm schools only

Delete the \$250,000k for cycling infrastructure. Enough has been spent in recent years.

Reduce by 50%. for traffic shelters – improve accessibility issues only.

Reduce by 50% the \$550.00 for cross walks and roll out the balance over 2 - 3 years.

Reduce by 50% the \$400,000 for street lighting and roll out the balance over 2 - 3 years.

Reduce by 50 % the \$550,000. For new traffic signals and lighting and roll out balance over 2 years

Reduce by 50% the \$85,000 sidewalks budget and address accessibility issues only.

Climate Action:

Reduce the \$2,600,000 EV Charging budget by 50 % and roll out balance over 2-3 years

Delete the \$200,000 for new waste bins. Roll out over 2 – 3 years

Delete the \$450,000 free bus passes. Difficult, but perhaps a non obtrusive means test is required.

Parks:

Delete the \$628,000 Dallas Road Concept Plan. It can wait a year.

Reduce by 50% the \$871,000 the replacement infrastructure plan. Roll out over time

Arts and culture:

Delete the projection to animate. Delay to a future year.

Reserves:

It is notable that there is a significant amount of reserves for housing but NOTHING for park acquisition.

As we house more and more people in multi-storey buildings we must address access to outdoor area's.

Some of the \$102,000,000. of transfers should be allocated to park acquisition. We have many families going

Into multi -unit low, mid and high rises living. Near by parks and playgrounds will be essential for young

Families.

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[Personal Privacy](#)

**From:** Personal Privac  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** February 22, 2023 4:42:59 PM

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My feedback on the 2023 Draft Budget and City core services and programs that matter to me most:

#1 meet the funding requests of the Victoria Police Department - not a scaled version of it, the entire request.

#2 drop any funding for net new bike lanes and other initiatives that benefit only a small segment of the population, instead directing that money towards social services to help mitigate the rampant drug use, untenable living conditions, and general disorder at the addict and unhoused levels of society.

#3 direct money to bring life back to Victoria, which is a shadow of its former self. Direct funds to revitalize the core, provide business incentives and securities to do business downtown. Put the bricks back together.

#4 stop spending budget on lawsuits that could have been settled through mitigation. Look for sensible solutions before spending tax payer money on appeals, such as Beacon Hill park.

Do better. This council has so far proved they aren't capable of providing effective leadership that gains the trust and support of victoria residents. Again, do better, it's not a difficult job if you collaborate and think outside your own personal agendas.

Lifetime Victorian and a shamed citizen in describing what this city has become.

Personal Privac

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** February 22, 2023 3:27:55 PM

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Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I am writing to request that the City increase the budgetary allocation for measures aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

I would draw your attention to two passages in the "Draft Financial Plan", the first of which is at page 85:

In 2018, Council approved the Climate Leadership Plan goal for all City buildings to be renewably powered by 2050.

Three years after that target was set in 2018, the 2021 heat dome killed 619 people in British Columbia. This event made the severity and urgency of the Climate Emergency undeniable, and demanded a re-evaluation of climate change strategies and measures that had been previously adopted. Given that, the 2050 target for phasing out the powering of City building by fossil fuels is insufficiently ambitious, and would result in a transition that would occur much too slowly. I urge you to allocate additional funds specifically for achieving this transition at a faster rate. There are any number of measures that could be undertaken if funds were available.

The second passage to which I would draw your attention is at page 104, namely the target that "by 2030, renewable energy power 30 per cent of passenger vehicles registered in Victoria and 100 per cent of passenger vehicles are renewably powered by 2050." Again, this target is too modest. As you will know, one aspect of the Government of Canada's strategy is that 60% of new cars sold nation-wide be ZEVs by 2030, so a goal that only 30% of new vehicles in Victoria be ZEVs by that date is far from ambitious. Given that Victoria probably already has the highest adoption rate for electric vehicles in Canada, it seems likely that the City's current goal is likely to be overtaken by changing consumer preferences if it is unchanged, even without any governmental incentivization. Since the Province of British Columbia is aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 40 per cent of 2007 levels by 2030, a corresponding target for Victoria would be that **60%** of passenger vehicles be renewably powered by 2030.

One measure for pursuing that goal would be to increase the number of DC fast chargers. The current plan is to install only 7 DC fast chargers during the 2026-2030

period ("City of Victoria Electric Vehicle and Electric Mobility Strategy", p. 22). As someone who signs out an electric car from Modo whenever I need to travel up-Island or to the mainland, I can say that chargers other than DC fast chargers now seem terribly slow, and I expect that demand for these chargers will grow at a faster rate than the City may have previously foreseen.

Thank you for giving these suggestions your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Personal Privacy**

Victoria, BC **Personal Privacy**

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** February 22, 2023 6:34:46 PM

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To Mayor and Council,

A little lesson in basic economics:

If you do not want inflation of 8% then you, as government need to control your spending and not think that you can raise your budget by 8% because that is the rate of inflation.

It is the height of hypocrisy when the Government comes out and blames inflation for their increases in spending when they are the ones creating inflationary policies. Its circular and you need to understand it.

Show some real leadership and control your spending. How about a budget that is less than last year!! What a creative and forward thinking idea that would be.

[Personal Privacy](#)

Taxpayer - which means YOU are spending my money...

**From:** [Melanie Murray](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** February 23, 2023 1:48:03 PM

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Hello

I have an idea of how to raise funds to contribute to our taxes.

Like charging for dog licenses, why doesn't the city charge an annual license for bicycles? At approximately 175,000 bikes per year x a \$30 license fee this is over \$5 million in revenue. Personal Privacy

I think it is fair especially to help pay for the bike lanes that we have created throughout the city.

Bikes that have paid their insurance could have a sticker or something on it to show that they have paid.

Thank you.

Melanie Murray

Personal Privacy

Victoria, BC

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**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City budget  
**Date:** February 23, 2023 1:21:33 PM

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Please proceed with all new pickleball court funding including Topaz park.

Thank you

[Personal Privacy](#)

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Cheers

[Personal Privacy](#)

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** February 23, 2023 1:35:28 PM

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To Mayor and Council,

As you undertake the 2023 budget process, I understand public input is valued.

I am writing to ensure the line item for 11 pickleball courts at Topaz Park remains included. This is the fastest growing sport in Victoria, and indeed North America. The City of Victoria and surrounding municipalities have fallen far behind other communities in British Columbia in meeting the needs of this burgeoning sport. This central location would be a superb asset to the community providing healthy exercise for all ages, including seniors, though pickleball continues to grow in popularity with a younger demographic, especially at the tournament level.

Thank you for recognizing the health and community value of such a facility.

Sincerely,

[Personal Privacy](#)

Victoria, BC

[Personal Privacy](#)

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** February 23, 2023 2:08:45 PM  
**Importance:** High

---

Good Afternoon,

I am contacting you regarding the 2023 draft budget. I urge you to use fiscal restraint as responsible stewards of the collective funds of the residents of Victoria. As you are well aware, goods and services have increased in price across the board, which means, less in everybody's pockets to dispose of as they please. Businesses and families budgets alike have gotten tighter. As symbolic representatives of these diverse entities, I urge you to follow their lead and trim the proverbial fat.

For example, you ought to consider lowering NOT raising taxes: 6.96% is a START not an END. Taxes increase price inflation because they make everything they touch more expensive. E.g. Increased property taxes make housing more expensive as homeowners have to pay it. As such an immediately actionable improvement in housing affordability would be to cut property taxes.

There are numerous other ways you can reduce your spending and therefore justify reducing your revenue i.e. taxes on residents. Some examples include:

- collecting unpaid parking fines (as opposed to increasing the cost of parking in an already hurting and parking-starved downtown core)
- avoiding increased spending in nice but not necessary services such as "People and Culture," "Communications and Engagement" etc.

Ask yourselves the question: what is necessary for a city to function? I recognize that you want it to thrive and spend lots to make it the best but if roads are unnavigable due to potholes/degrading pavement or if people don't feel safe going downtown, the best artwork and culture isn't going to overcome those obstacles.

We're in an economic downturn. This is a time to trim the proverbial fat and save the tax base as much as possible so that individuals can get through these difficult times a little easier. A penny untaxed is a penny an individual or family can use toward energy or food so they can live. I don't think that's too much to ask.

Sincerely,

[Personal Privacy](#)

**From:** Personal Privacy  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** February 23, 2023 3:21:00 PM

---

Good afternoon. I wanted to provide the following feedback on the 'proposed City Budget for 2023. I am a homeowner taxpayer in the city.

There are a number of large increases proposed in the budget where there does not appear to be an explanation as to why the increase is so high. I am looking for additional information on the following budget items.

- Communication and Engagement 19.28% increase. What is the breakdown of these items?
- Legal 28.19% increase. Why is this increase projected so high? Is there lots of litigation underway that we need to know about?
- People and Culture 38.22% increase. What is the breakdown of the increase?
- Corporate 19.15% increase. What is the breakdown of the increase?

An item that appears to be missing is what has the city done to ensure due diligence of its core services to ensure the internal tightening of the budget is complete. As per most businesses and personal budgets we look for internal efficiencies that will result in cost savings or containment.

Has council run the economic numbers of potential business closure and lost tax revenue if business leave Victoria due to safety or parking concerns of consumers?

Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions.

Personal Privacy

**From:** Personal F  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City budget  
**Date:** February 23, 2023 3:38:06 PM

---

I believe that the pay of more senior levels ( Management and certain IT staff) have risen too high. Benchmarking should be done against the BC provincial government pay levels and compensation frozen until such time that the Provincial equivalents have been matched.

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** February 24, 2023 10:16:16 AM

---

As a very active tennis player please take steps to improve Topaz Park with stand alone pickleball courts. There is a lot of friction between tennis and pickleball players and it's not going away. Pickleball play is growing massively in the region and globally and it is time to act. A lot of pickleballers are older adults that vote and pay substantial property tax. It's just the right time and the right decision to create more pickleball only spaces.

[Personal Privacy](#)

Tennis enthusiast.

Sent from the iPhone of [Personal Privacy](#)

**From:** Personal Privacy  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** February 23, 2023 8:27:04 PM

---

To Whom it may Concern

I would like the budget line for Topaz Park in 2023 for \$350,000 to be included and approved.

Sincerely

Personal Privacy

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** February 26, 2023 9:17:04 PM

---

The city could save a lot of money on it's bike lane construction if it were to do as what Saanich does with it's bike lane implementation. Save a ton of money up front and when it needs to be tweaked or outright changed the costs would be far less then the route that the city of Victoria has taken.

Regards,  
[Personal Privacy](#)

**From:** Pers  
**To:** [Victoria Mayor and Council](#); [Councillors](#); [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** February 25, 2023 12:04:33 PM

---

All I can say is **"WHY ARE YOU WASTING OUR TIME, CITY RESOURCES AND TAX \$\$\$ EVEN ASKING THIS WHEN ALL BUT 3 OF YOU DO NOT CARE ABOUT WHAT RESIDENTS ACTUALLY THINK AND FEEL AND HAVE NO INTENTION OF CONSIDERING THEIR INPUT?"**

All you care about are your own ideologies and special interest groups (the ones that supported and funded your campaigns).

Shame on you. Please stop wasting our time and tax dollars on this lip service. You have no intention of listening to anyone who does not agree with you or your ideas (or who helped with your campaigns).

Why don't you just call, [Personal Privacy](#), Homes for Living, [Personal Privacy](#), etc, or have another coffee date with them, and they will tell you what to do?

Signed,

A very sad and disheartened resident.

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** February 25, 2023 2:32:15 AM

---

As a long-term resident of Victoria and an avid pickleballer, I support including and approving the budget line of \$350,000 for Topaz Park in 2023.

Securing courts to play weekly in Victoria is stressful and fortunately some nearby municipalities have had the foresight in past years to build more courts. It's time now for Victoria to step up to the plate and create more courts which will encourage healthy and active lifestyles for (primarily) Victoria seniors.

Thank you,

[Personal Privacy](#)

Victoria. [Personal Privacy](#)

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Chris Cutlan](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City budget  
**Date:** February 25, 2023 1:03:46 AM

---

Dear Mayor and Council

Please consider the line budget of \$350,000 for the Topaz park Pickleball courts to be approved and then constructed in 2023.

Pickleball, as you know is the fastest growing sport for us seniors and now even for youth and so putting in the courts would be a great asset to Victoria. Outdoor Pickleball can only be played away from residential homes and so we need this investment in our community parks.

Thank you,  
Krista Cutlan

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City budget , topaz , pickleball  
**Date:** February 25, 2023 11:17:55 AM

---

More pickleball courts are desperately needed.  
Please approve he go ahead plans for pickle ball courts at Topaz Park

[Personal Privacy](#)

from my iPad

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** February 17, 2023 5:05:37 PM

---

This email is in response to proposed ideas/feedback for the city's budget.

The idea of increasing rates for on-street parking and in parkades will cause more problems than it would solve due to public backlash and an increase in the already high levels of verbal abuse towards parking ambassadors. To solve this, there is a solution that would benefit both sides.

There is plenty of lost revenue due to people not paying parking tickets/fines and tickets being canceled for arbitrary reasons. Unlike almost everywhere else in North America, you do not have to pay off your tickets to get your car back after it gets towed and you don't have to pay off parking tickets to renew one's car insurance. This results in some people having mountains of tickets with no consequence. Change that process or add some form of real consequence to not paying parking tickets and you'll see an increase in revenue. Right now the only consequence to not paying a parking ticket is that one's credit score will take a hit. This doesn't matter if someone already has plenty of assets to their name where a credit score hit will not make any meaningful difference.

**From:** Personal Privacy  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** March 3, 2023 10:35:01 AM

---

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Personal Privacy  
**Subject:** Increase in VicPD Budget  
**Date:** March 3, 2023 at 9:42:23 AM PST  
**To:** mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca

Dear Mayor and Council:

I am writing from my home on Personal Privacy to say that my husband and I do not support an increase in the VicPD budget. Since relocating to Victoria Personal Privacy ago, the following have been our experiences with the VicPD:

### Personal Privacy

the VicPD were of no assistance whatsoever.

They were busy.

-When the convoy trucker's rolled into Victoria and menaced our community, the VicPD were nowhere to be seen during the initial weeks. The only time I saw them appear was to intervene on behalf (and in favour) of the convoy trucker's and ensure those Inappropriate Content people were free to continue their campaign of harassment and intimidation of local residents.

-Although I have rarely seen the VicPD on patrol in our community, I have witnessed the following: (1) three patrol cars following the only black person I have ever seen walking along the Dallas Road Waterfront Trail. I understand we are the last outpost of the Empire, but really; (2) police officers accompanying by-law officers evicting homeless people from Beacon Hill Park. Perhaps money spent on teams of social workers and psychiatric nurses might be a better investment of public funds; and (3) a police officer speaking to one of the only two homeless people who live openly in James Bay itself. Granted, this fellow has a habit of wielding an axe but unsurprisingly the situation remains unresolved.

-While I am pleased to say that our Chief Constable can always be relied upon to promptly reply to his email, I simply cannot think of any other positive feedback to offer.

Unless service improves, and policing priorities are re-ordered to focus on the needs of the residents whose property taxes fund the City and this particular department, I am not prepared to support any increase to the VicPD budget. The arrogance of the Police Service Board in refusing Council's request to reduce the size of the VicPD's budget ask only stiffens my resolve.

The days of police departments being a force unto themselves, and police service

boards serving as nothing more than paper tigers, must end.

Kind regards,

Personal Privacy

**From:** Personal Privacy  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** February 27, 2023 12:39:46 PM

---

Stop squeezing Vic Pd's budget. Give them what they want.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Personal Privacy  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** March 3, 2023 10:35:01 AM

---

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Personal Privacy  
**Subject:** Increase in VicPD Budget  
**Date:** March 3, 2023 at 9:42:23 AM PST  
**To:** mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca

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The days of police departments being a force unto themselves, and police service

boards serving as nothing more than paper tigers, must end.

Kind regards,

Personal Privacy

**From:** Personal Privacy  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** February 28, 2023 8:18:00 PM

---

Good Evening,

Both my husband and I have just filled out the **Have Your Say** SURVEY for the latest budget. Our interest was primarily in encouraging the support of Pickleball court facilities for the city.

However I found survey was surprisingly daunting. Having completed many surveys over the years, I was surprised to find a survey that forced you to enter some choice on every page. Requiring a survey responder to fill in 10 top priorities in a sequence for certain topics was puzzling. I'm sure like many people like myself just don't have enough knowledge to accurately and honestly do this task. It would also have been helpful to have had a final question which allowed for a comment.

I really appreciate that City does its best to involve the community in reviewing the budget asks, but perhaps a little more time should be spent on fine tuning the survey to allow responders to complete based on the knowledge and wishes that they can clearly identify.

By the way, we are also new residents in the community.

Regards,  
Personal Privacy

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** March 2, 2023 1:04:56 PM

---

Dear Mayor, Council and City Staff,

The number one priority for this city and the upcoming budget needs to be returning the City of Victoria to civility. The unhoused living on the street is not a preferred way to live for any person. Many are drug addicted or insane and need not be left to be victimized by criminal elements preying on them by selling the drugs to which they may be addicted or by robbing them of their few possessions or government assistance allowances.

Please work in concert with our public safety officials and senior levels of government to get the unhoused off the streets. Seniors live in fear of assaults, store owners live in fear of vandalism and theft and our public safety or emergency response teams don't know what they will encounter when called to assist.

Cutting the police budget will do no favour to anyone, so please give the police board what they ask for as the situation they find in the city is not of their making. Perhaps when the city becomes a more civil place, we will be able to spend less on public safety.

I am also in favour assistance to First Nations to make up for past injustice, but please spend the money in the City of Victoria. I would also like to see more substantial grants to First Nations people in our city as the token lip service of the past hardly makes a difference. The past is the past, but can we all join hands going forward by assisting indigenous owned business and arts projects?

Part of having more civility in our town is by providing recreation facilities for our young and not so young to use for self improvement. Smaller population centres have better recreation than we do, so we must not rely on private business to provide these facilities. Please fund, together with other levels of government, a new pool and fitness facility. The previous council fumbled this file badly.

The final thought I have is the state of our roads. The main routes in and out of our city are in deplorable condition as are the inner city streets. Money needs to be allocated to get at least the main arteries back to a condition that doesn't endanger cars or pedestrians. Our economy depends, in great part, to tourism and the condition of our roads is a first impression we can't ignore.

Thank you,

[Personal Privacy](#)

Victoria, BC  
[Personal Privacy](#)

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City budget  
**Date:** March 1, 2023 6:06:05 PM

---

The recently enhanced floating dock at Banfield Park on the Gorge is lovely and much appreciated. I write in support of a disability enhancement for the new dock so that the ability to get in and out of the water at that location is expanded to serve more people. In an aging demographic this has value to increasing numbers of people who are presently denied the opportunity to swim the Gorge Waters at Banfield Park.

At present, only reasonably strong and able-bodied people are physically capable of exiting the water on the floating dock via vertical ladders. Plenty of people are excluded by this standard. I well remember a young woman on the dock who couldn't go for a swim because her disability meant she could not exit the water on a ladder even though she could dive in. It's a good time to fix the situation.

I think something like a set of stairs with hand rails, attached to the dock, would serve the people who rely on the stairs installed at our public swimming pools. It would be grand if this access enhancement was in place before the outdoor swim season gets underway.

The Gorge offers the only sheltered water (non-oceanfront) for outdoor swimming in the city of Victoria, and Banfield Park is stunningly beautiful from the water. I appeal to your privilege and obligation to make it possible for more people to enjoy it.

Thank you for your consideration,  
[Personal Privacy](#)

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** CITY BUDGET 2023 / 2024  
**Date:** February 23, 2023 2:17:12 PM

---

Good afternoon and thank you again for allowing feedback to the proposed budget. This will be the 6th or 7th time I have offered my input. To date, all input to be more effective, efficient and less costly have been met with ZERO reply and less still in the way of changes to City operations.

I have been consistent in requests for.....  
a review of core services from all departments of the City. Asking the question, should the City be employing people OR providing services. *The provision of services can and should be done in the most cost effective way and most efficient way possible.*

in support of that statement I offer observations of private sector companies vs. city staff in areas of road milling & paving, horticulture, landscaping & lawn cutting, concrete forming and finishing. In all cases I have observed these areas and would offer the private sector wins the day in terms of efficiency and low cost.

I ask how can the City say they are getting value for dollar when city staff consistently take coffee breaks well in excess of 15 minutes, miles from their job site? This is a common observation, one which must be corrected.

Senior managers within your employ MUST constantly be looking at staffing costs, work done and time allowed for said work. Beginning to farm out work to the private sector and reducing staff will save time, costly pensions, and show the taxpayer (you remember us?) you truly wish to keep costs down and taxes low. CUPE will buck but they must and should compete for the work being offered.

Right now, Council talks out both sides of their face when they expect housing to be cheap to rent / own when the city tax burden on everyone rises consistently and considerably.

Thanks for letting me speak to this

[Personal Privacy](#)

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget 2023  
**Date:** February 23, 2023 1:20:14 PM

---

Dear Mayor and Council,

I read that you propose to increase house tax by a screaming nine percent. Nine percent is indefensible. Like many seniors on a fixed income I am horrified by your complete lack of awareness as to just how many people are struggling out here in the real world. How on earth do you think people can afford tax increases year after year. It is time to practice fiscal restraint and end frivolous expenses at the tax payers expense - such as poets and artists, murals on the roads and tax purchased city art to name but a few. Such things are not necessary to run the city efficiently and safely (which is your mandate) and should be considered "extras" in times of plenty. We are certainly not in times of plenty right now. How you can justify costs to build toilets that exceed the cost of an entire house build utterly defeats me.

Yours sincerely

[Personal Privacy](#)

Victoria

BC

[Personal Privacy](#)

**From:** Personal Privacy  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City budget question  
**Date:** February 17, 2023 4:58:23 PM

---

Hello,

Just noticing that the draft city budget document this year is significantly shorter and less detailed than previous city budget documents from recent years.

Is there a more detailed version of the budget available, which has a similar level of detail to past years? Or will there be a more detailed version produced and published later on?

Thanks, Personal Priv

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** City Budget  
**Date:** February 21, 2023 11:57:37 AM

---

As the City Budget is up 6.95% and the province only allows residential rent increases of 2% this year, I ask that Council drop any consideration for a rent registry and encourage the province to allow rent increases which at least match the City Budget increases. This would be more fair. Council should not put up taxes higher than allowable rent increases without destroying prospects for maintaining affordable rentals in the city. By increasing taxes by more than allowable rent increases you are forcing small landlords, who may be paying for their groceries with naught but rental income, to live more frugally each year and to subsidize tenants. This is cruel for senior landlords relying on rental income to survive. How can old rental buildings be maintained if expense costs increase with inflation, yet rents do not increase commensurately?

--

[Personal Privacy](#)

Victoria BC  
[Personal Privacy](#)

**From:** Personal Privacy  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** downtown  
**Date:** February 23, 2023 7:34:03 AM

---

Hello, what exactly is being done to increase security downtown, arresting and charging the vandals, and helping businesses. This city depends on small businesses and tourism, both of which are being wiped out. I have lived here for over 40 years and in the past few years I do not go downtown anymore for fear of being attacked, and this means I cannot support the businesses here. All I hear is people are talking about it, but doing nothing in reality.

Personal Privacy

**From:** [Michelle Harris](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** FW: FOLLOW-UP: Crystal Pool replacement - for City Budget engagement  
**Date:** February 27, 2023 2:16:31 PM

---

Please include this feedback.

---

**From:** manonelder@pacificcoast.net <manonelder@pacificcoast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2023 9:13 AM  
**To:** Michelle Harris <MHarris@victoria.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: FOLLOW-UP: Crystal Pool replacement

thank you, Michelle. . I care so much to keep the grounds public for all. Not for public housing. Not for another high rise. But to provide green space a, exercise and the ability to be in water in the city. please give this feedback to whom is deciding the fate.  
kindest regards  
Manon

On Monday 27/02/2023 at 4:57 pm, Michelle Harris wrote:

Hi Manon,

Thank you for your question.

City staff are working to revive the Crystal Pool replacement project.

More information will be available soon on [Have Your Say \(victoria.ca\)](#). Please check back there for updates.

Kindest Regards,  
Michelle

**Michelle Harris, APR**

Pronouns: She, Her, Hers  
Strategic Planning and Communications Advisor  
Communications and Engagement  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6  
T 250.361.0211 C 250.507.1056

[ Image ] [ Image ] [ Image ] [ Image ]

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

---

**From:** [manonelder@pacificcoast.net](#) <[manonelder@pacificcoast.net](#)>  
**Sent:** February 23, 2023 12:13 AM  
**To:** Engagement-External <[engage@victoria.ca](#)>  
**Subject:** Re: Have You Heard: Tell Us What Matters in Your City Budget

Could you please inform me as to the status of renovating the crystal pool? i would like to give an opinion on that.  
Otherwise Pandora is a disgrace to our beautiful city. The homeless have it as their permanent living quarters/  
thank you  
Manon

On Thursday 23/02/2023 at 12:28 am, City of Victoria Engagement wrote:

[ Image ]

[ Image ]

Hello there!

Snow may be in the forecast this week, but spring is right around the corner. It's a great time to cozy up and plan for the year ahead by telling us what City core services and programs matter to you most or checking out new opportunities and updates on community projects.

## **Current Engagement Opportunities**

[ Image ]

### **Have Your Say – 2023 Draft Budget**

You're invited to provide feedback on the 2023 Draft Budget and City core services and programs that matter to you most:

- Participate in a public meeting on **Thursday, February 23 at 6:30 p.m. at Victoria City Hall** in person, by calling in or sending a written submission and tuning in to the live webcast.
- Complete a short online survey by **11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 5.**
- Email [engage@victoria.ca](mailto:engage@victoria.ca) with "City Budget" in the subject line by **11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 5.**

All feedback collected will be summarized and shared with Council to help inform final budget decisions and will also be available on the City's website.

Learn more and complete the short online survey at [engage.victoria.ca](https://engage.victoria.ca).

## **Past Engagement Projects**

[ Image ]

### **Missing Middle Bylaw Adopted**

Last month, Council approved the bylaw amendments associated with the Missing Middle Housing Initiative. On an average lot where the newly approved zoning regulations apply, up to six homes may now be possible. Changes come into effect on Sunday, March 12, 2023. Thank you for providing input to help shape future housing in Victoria.

Learn more, including how to determine whether or not these regulations apply to your lot, at [engage.victoria.ca](https://engage.victoria.ca).

[ Image ]

### **Topaz Park Turf Opening March 2023**

Construction is nearly done on the [Topaz Park Turf!](#) Work is anticipated to be complete mid next month and be open to the public at the end of March. Thank you for feedback and helping shape Topaz Park design to make it fun, inclusive and safe for all to enjoy.

Stay-tuned for details about the opening event in March [here](#).

[ Image ]

### **AAA Cycling Network Update**

Construction of the Kimta E&N connector and the James Bay cycling routes are underway. Later this year, construction will start on Fort Street East and Gorge Road. Thank you to all residents and commuters who provided feedback through multiple phases of public engagement for the priority AAA cycling network. Stay tuned for future feedback opportunities to shape transportation infrastructure across the city.

Learn more at [engage.victoria.ca](https://engage.victoria.ca).

[ Image ]

### **Get Connected**

Looking for more ways to stay in touch? Sign up for our monthly [CONNECT e-newsletter](#) to stay up to date on City programs and initiatives.

Questions? You can reach us at [engage@victoria.ca](mailto:engage@victoria.ca) or by calling 250.361.0210.

You're receiving this email because you are a registered participant on Have Your Say.

Powered by [EngagementHQ](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

[ Image ]

**From:** Person:  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** Increase in parking revenue  
**Date:** February 18, 2023 3:37:04 PM

---

While the amount of increase for a vehicle is small, it is also an irritant that will also decrease people coming downtown to spend money. Unintended consequences always happen, and I am surprised that this was suggested. Downtown is on the verge of collapse and parking revenue should not increase or have the hours extended.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** Personal Privacy  
**To:** Engagement-External  
**Subject:** My Thoughts as a New Resident of Victoria  
**Date:** February 26, 2023 3:51:08 PM

---

Hello,

I would like to start by thanking you all for your public service. I know your job is hard, and there is much work to be done.

First off, I would like the 2023 budget line for Topaz Park to please include \$350,000 for the construction of 11 Pickleball Courts there. Please approve this. Pickleball is a rapidly growing sport in Victoria, enjoyed by all age levels and abilities. Many more people play Pickleball now than tennis, and Victoria has only 2, seasonal, temporary outdoor "courts" - which are not proper courts. ( Beacon Hill courts -which don't even have proper fencing) Having moved here from North Vancouver, which has at least 12 permanent year round outdoor courts, I find this surprising; as Victoria has much better weather than North Vancouver.

Another concern I have is that the city of Victoria has gotten quite "rough". I lived here <sup>Personal Privacy</sup>, and the city was much safer and more "genteel". The number of people living on the streets, and wondering around, sometimes abusing and scaring the general public, is shocking. <sup>Personal Privacy</sup> <sup>Personal Privacy</sup>, from <sup>Personal Privacy</sup>, and over that time I saw Victoria going downhill in some ways. However things have gotten much worse over the past 7 years.

I know several people in the Vancouver area who had considered moving here, but since Victoria has "slipped" they have changed their mind. Overall, the situation here appears to be even worse than in Vancouver, where it is more contained to one area of the city. The homeless and drug addict situation here, and the obvious lawlessness that is part of that problem, are obvious to anyone.

I know a man who did own a business and lived here; but about 3 years ago he moved his business and himself to Vancouver, saying it was because Victoria had gone downhill so badly. This was not a small business. Anyone I know who may still consider moving here from the Lower Mainland would move to the outskirts of Victoria, not the city itself, which is considered "sketchy". Hopefully the new program brought in by David Eby will help to improve things.

Last issue I have with Victoria: the development going on here is excessive, and aesthetically not compatible with the "old-fashioned charm" you describe in the City website. Coming from a region that is the most dense in the country, I am in favour of increased density for Victoria, but it has to be done very thoughtfully; the architecture of new developments needs to be more in line with the old architecture that is already here- most of the buildings going up are too "blocky", tall and fairly ugly.

This type of development is destroying this city.

<sup>Personal Privacy</sup>, the townhouses are in keeping with the look of this area, but there are also 2 big, blocky condo buildings stuffed into the same parcel of land. One condo building with the same aesthetic as the townhouses would have been much more appropriate. ( the townhouses and condo buildings are all part of one development)  
Victoria is becoming a mish-mash of oversized buildings- it's looking more and more like any other North American city instead of it's previous "Victorian" aesthetic. This is bad for tourism.  
Something like Craftsman style townhouses and Craftsman style 4-5 story condo buildings would suit the city much better. That is what was built at Quilchena Park ( Arbutus and 33rd) in Vancouver- please take a look for yourselves. That development fits in well with the neighbourhood.

Last word: I doubt that rampant building will make homes more affordable- I spent the last <sup>Perso</sup> years in Vancouver where massive amounts of condos have been built during that time- the prices only went up. I think rent-control is necessary.

You might also want to check out Ireland's Tidy Towns project from a few years back. Something like that may

inspire owners and renters in Victoria to take better care of their properties. It's still such a lovely city- I hate to see it becoming shabby.

Regards,

Personal Privacy

Victoria Residential Owner as of Personal Privacy

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** new revenues from a new group  
**Date:** February 18, 2023 9:40:21 AM

---

How about charging for licensing all bicycles on a yearly basis, thereby choosing a group other than automobile users to increase city revenue and having a “vehicle” to make operators of bicycles responsible for their driving?

Too “vexing”???

[Personal Privacy](#)

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** Pickleball courts at Topaz Park  
**Date:** February 24, 2023 1:08:53 PM

---

Please expedite approval for the budget to incorporate the construction of at least 11 Pickleball courts at the above noted site. The investment will be recouped many fold over when the site hosts major tournaments which will bring players to the Greater Victoria businesses.

The social and health benefits will be appreciated by the host of players who will utilize the courts. Consideration for inclement weather roofing cover would keep it's usage year round.

With respect,  
[Personal Privacy](#)

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** Pickleball courts  
**Date:** February 23, 2023 3:28:04 PM

---

Hello,

My most important priority this year is to make sure the pickleball courts at Topaz Park are funded and constructed ASAP.

Pickleball is a recreational activity that is enjoying explosive growth yet there are no dedicated (not temporary) courts in the whole city, as far as I know.

And this item would particularly impact the health and well being of the large senior population in Victoria.

Moving forward with this opportunity to construct pickleball courts should be a high priority for Victoria.

Sincerely,  
[Personal Privacy](#)

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** Please put Pickleball courts at topaz park  
**Date:** February 24, 2023 8:00:29 AM

---

[Personal Privacy](#)

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Your Friend With A Truck](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** RE: 2023  
**Date:** February 22, 2023 2:37:43 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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If this Mayor and council are anything like the last one's my opinion means nothing

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

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**From:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Sent:** February 22, 2023 2:35 PM  
**To:** [Your Friend With A Truck](#)  
**Subject:** RE: 2023

Good afternoon Lyall,

Thank you for your feedback on the 2023 Draft Budget. Your email will be included in the engagement summary that is presented to Council on March 16 to help inform their budget decisions. The meeting will be webcast live and archived.

Based on public input, this year's draft budget is shorter than in previous years to make it more user-friendly. There is no plan to provide a longer version.

For more information, visit: [engage.victoria.ca](https://engage.victoria.ca).

---

Communications and 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:** Your Friend With A Truck <yourfriendwithatruck@shaw.ca>  
**Sent:** February 22, 2023 8:19 AM  
**To:** Engagement-External <engage@victoria.ca>; Mayor and Councillor All Candidates Meeting <notifications@wixevents.com>  
**Subject:** 2023

City budget

There should be 0 tax rate hike , as our property assessments went up . The Last Mayor and council wasted so much money ,The current Mayor Marianne Alto gave her native band 200,000 in surplus money to which she sits on the board of directors . The money you wasted on the Crystal Pool is unreal .The Crystal building is past it's due date and should be torn down and rebuilt on it's current site. The hotels should be reverted back to Hotels . Our place should be closed down this business is nothing more than disrupted to the city and Pandora ,Ave and the downtown core. As for Harris Green the parking should be at least 1 parking for each unit built not 1 per 8 units built.This Mayor and council has driven the companies out of Victoria by allowing the homeless to run this city which is a reason you need more money 160,00 to have homeless clean up Pandora is not working . I have had nothing but problems with BCAA Evo cars parking along Tolmie up to 11 at one time ,They don't have a business license in Saanich ,but are renting cars to Saanich residents ,I put in a complaint with Parking and Business licensing On Aug31 ,2022 and have heard nothing back from them. I have waited ten years to have my driveway fixed due to damage The CITY OF VICTORIA owned Cherry Tree

Lyll Atkinson

3182 Yew,St

Victoria B,C

V8X 1M9

250 381 8984

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**To:** [Personal Privacy](#); [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** RE: city budget  
**Date:** February 23, 2023 12:51:45 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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### Communications and Engagement

City of Victoria

1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6



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---

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)

**Sent:** February 23, 2023 10:18 AM

**To:** Engagement-External <engage@victoria.ca>

**Subject:** city budget

Dear folks at City Hall,

We are property owners at [Personal Privacy](#), but are not residents of Victoria, BC, although we spend a considerable amount of time and money in Victoria. I wish to focus my concern on how recycling is performed for recyclable materials. We note that pickup of recyclables is an excruciating process for all concerned in Victoria. Pickup of partly sorted recyclables in “blue box” containers that are open to the weather, plus paper filled “Blue bags” requiring a considerable amount of manual labor to load into recycling trucks during pickup is not ideal. Commonly, blue boxes are simply not picked up and overturned boxes issue forth a debris field of litter!

We are residents of [Personal Privacy](#) where all recyclables are picked up in Blue Bins, like Victoria’s grey and green bins. Why this can not be done in Victoria is odd, to say the least. Perhaps, some part of the “budget” can be directed towards cleaning up this mess with a better method of recycling, like most other cities have managed to do.



**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Have You Heard: Tell Us What Matters in Your City Budget  
**Date:** February 24, 2023 10:53:16 AM

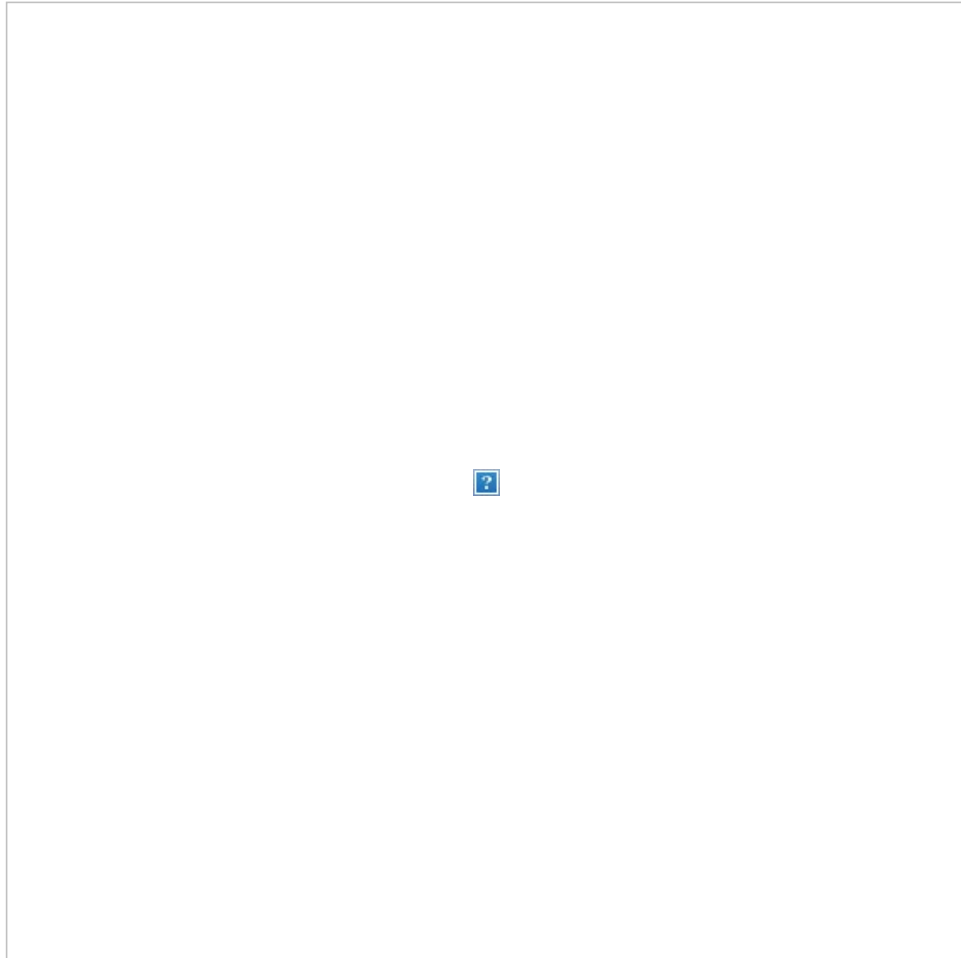
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I was out of the city at the time of the meeting. My concern is for a city-wide evacuation plan to be published in the Times Colonist and/or made available at City Hall to all residents.

I am concerned that with the changes to traffic patterns around the City that I would not be able to find my way to a safe location from my residence or any other location.

[Personal Privacy](#)

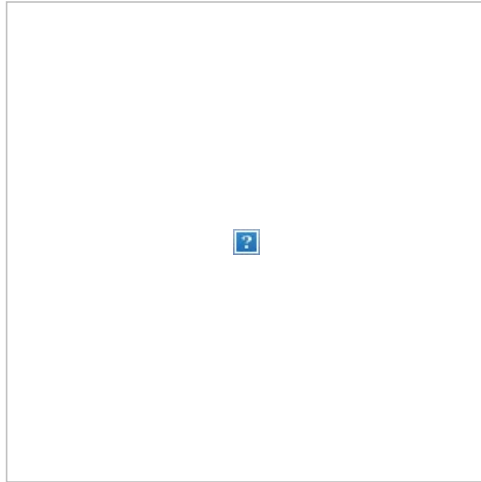
On 2023-02-22 4:25 p.m., City of Victoria Engagement wrote:



Hello there!

Snow may be in the forecast this week, but spring is right around the corner. It's a great time to cozy up and plan for the year ahead by telling us what City core services and programs matter to you most or checking out new opportunities and updates on community projects.

## Current Engagement Opportunities



### Have Your Say – 2023 Draft Budget

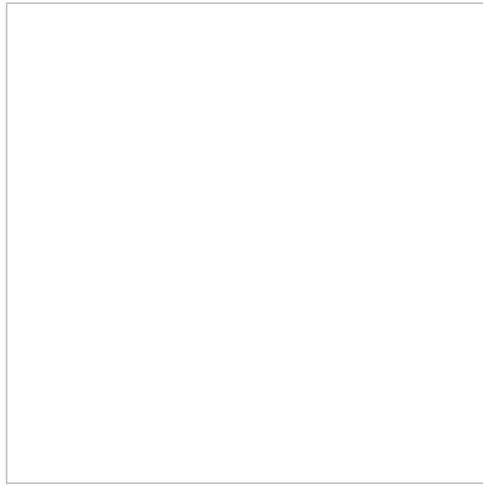
You're invited to provide feedback on the 2023 Draft Budget and City core services and programs that matter to you most:

- Participate in a public meeting on **Thursday, February 23 at 6:30 p.m. at Victoria City Hall** in person, by calling in or sending a written submission and tuning in to the live webcast.
- Complete a short online survey by **11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 5.**
- Email [engage@victoria.ca](mailto:engage@victoria.ca) with "City Budget" in the subject line by **11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 5.**

All feedback collected will be summarized and shared with Council to help inform final budget decisions and will also be available on the City's website.

Learn more and complete the short online survey at [engage.victoria.ca](https://engage.victoria.ca).

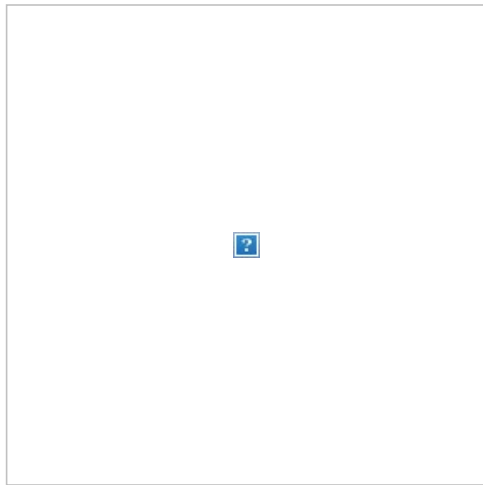
## Past Engagement Projects



### **Missing Middle Bylaw Adopted**

Last month, Council approved the bylaw amendments associated with the Missing Middle Housing Initiative. On an average lot where the newly approved zoning regulations apply, up to six homes may now be possible. Changes come into effect on Sunday, March 12, 2023. Thank you for providing input to help shape future housing in Victoria.

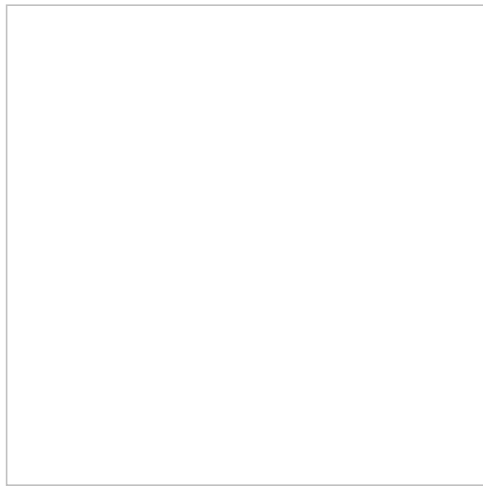
Learn more, including how to determine whether or not these regulations apply to your lot, at [engage.victoria.ca](https://engage.victoria.ca).



### **Topaz Park Turf Opening March 2023**

Construction is nearly done on the [Topaz Park Turf!](#) Work is anticipated to be complete mid next month and be open to the public at the end of March. Thank you for feedback and helping shape Topaz Park design to make it fun, inclusive and safe for all to enjoy.

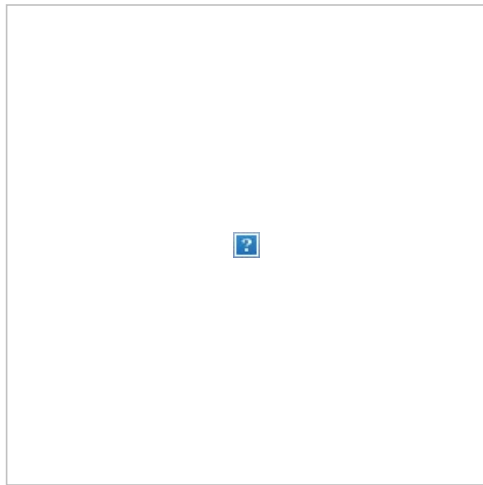
Stay-tuned for details about the opening event in March [here](#).



### **AAA Cycling Network Update**

Construction of the Kimta E&N connector and the James Bay cycling routes are underway. Later this year, construction will start on Fort Street East and Gorge Road. Thank you to all residents and commuters who provided feedback through multiple phases of public engagement for the priority AAA cycling network. Stay tuned for future feedback opportunities to shape transportation infrastructure across the city.

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### **Get Connected**

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You're receiving this email because you are a registered participant on Have Your Say.

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**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Have You Heard: Tell Us What Matters in Your City Budget  
**Date:** February 22, 2023 5:05:14 PM

---

Thank you for the email. What matters to me the most is crime and an astounding increase in open drug use I see daily in the core/historic area (near the Johnston St. bridge).

I work in the area, and it is absolutely WILD how much drug use is out in the open. I've seen two people die over the last couple of years, within a block of my office. People having very harsh reactions, yelling and screaming... every single day.

Something needs to be done. Personally, I think the best solution is to keep repeat offenders in jail where they can sober up/detox under medical supervision. Offer them services while safe and away from the public. Fueling them with drugs is not the answer in my humble opinion.

We need a council that is tough on crime and willing/able to clean up the city.

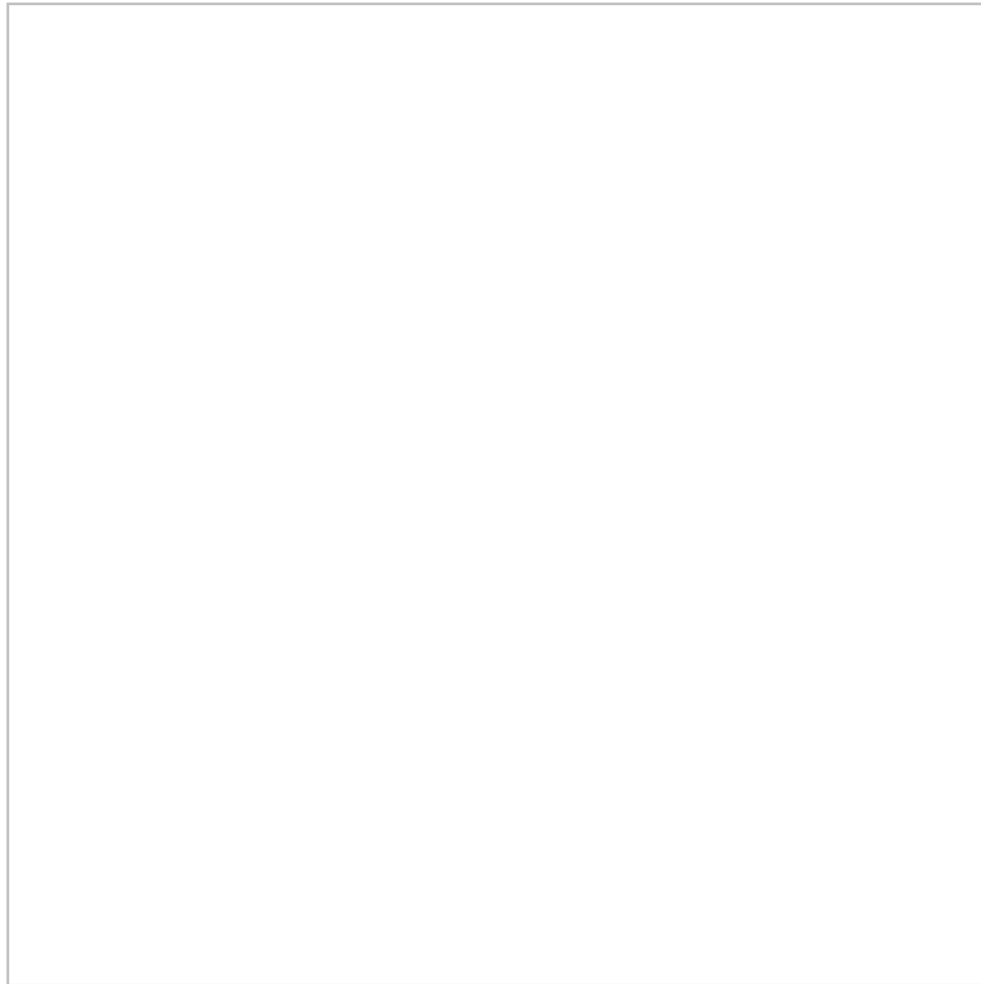
Just my two cents as someone who is in the core every day. I'm not alone here... all of my colleagues agree it has gotten out of control and can be quite scary.

Thanks again and have a nice day.

Personal P

On Wed, Feb 22, 2023 at 4:29 PM City of Victoria Engagement <[support@engagementhq.com](mailto:support@engagementhq.com)> wrote:

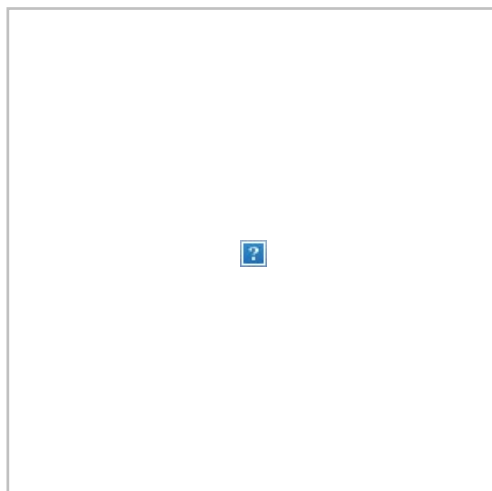




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### **Current Engagement Opportunities**



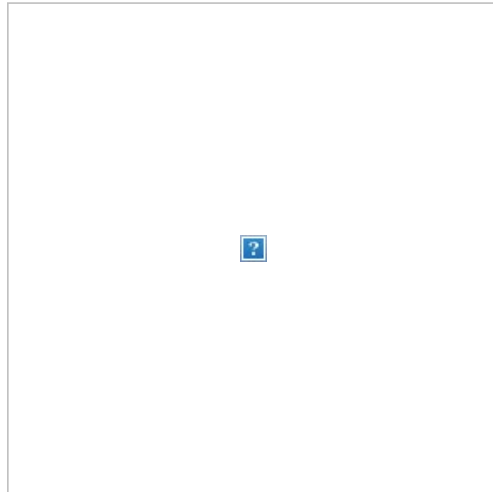
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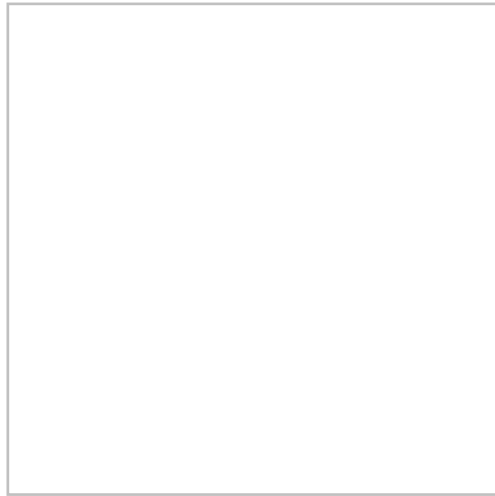
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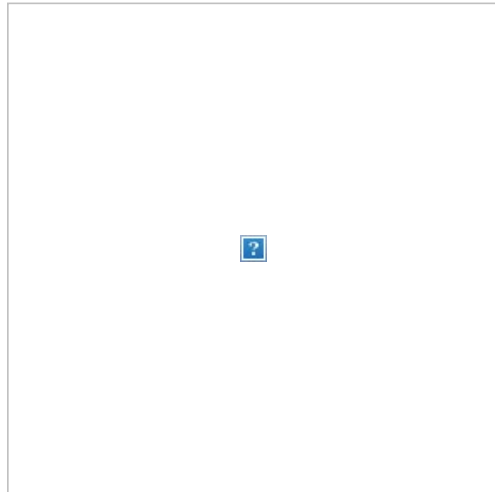
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**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** Short-term: Funding and direction for the Arts / Long-term: Cameron Bandshell refresh  
**Date:** February 22, 2023 6:58:36 PM

---

Good evening,

Thanks for providing this opportunity for input. I'm seeing 5.2 Million in the City's budget overview document, but unlike the descriptions of other sections, it's not clear if this is an increase or holding to the same commitment to the arts as in previous years. I encourage and support maintaining or increasing funding levels for your Festival Investment Grant and other arts funding programs.

Arts organizations have had a challenging 2022 with the end of COVID funding programs paired with cost escalations. It's likely this trend will continue, and municipal funding can help shore up the loss of the COVID streams in order to keep arts programming alive. Arts programming doesn't just benefit the community with arts and social experiences, but draws music tourism to the region with significant economic impacts for local businesses. What happened to Vancouver's folk festival is a possibility for any arts organization in the present economic climate, and now would be an excellent time for the City of Victoria to communicate how much it values the arts through a sustained or increased commitment to events and other projects in the community.

Helping establish a local venue for 200-300 people would also help fill the void left by the closures of Copper Owl, Logan's and most recently the Carlton Club. In the absence of these venues, it is tragic that the City Bylaw department decided it would be an appropriate time to take action to shut down "grey area" venues like The Powerhouse and The Smithie in the area north of Chinatown. Helping the live music sector find a temporary home for rehearsal space and small events, in a similar way that a home was found on Blanshard Street for visual art galleries and studios, would help out so many local artists and presenters.

For long-term planning, the City should look ahead to either a refresh of the Cameron Bandshell or explore the creation of a similar amphitheatre venue in another park or waterfront space. I fully understand the constraints of construction in Beacon Hill Park. If a new bandshell isn't possible at this time, the condition of the backstage area of the current structure needs some work (the green rooms are more like an aging arena's changeroom). The stage area could also use repainting, losing the "Stage in the Park" written across the back to allow for more modular use of the stage area and give it a more contemporary appeal.

I know the arts are but a small part of what the City does, and I appreciate all the work you're doing across all sectors to improve life for those of us living here. The arts and music scene here is an expressive part of our civic character, however, acting as a beacon for the region. While my budget policy here may be relatively singular, I hope it's something we all value equally.

Best Regards,

[Personal Privacy](#)

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** something that matters to us  
**Date:** February 27, 2023 12:12:20 PM

---

Victoria is “the City of Gardens” and thousands of visitors come anticipating colourful displays in not only parks, but along the downtown streets. We should be a beautiful town to visit. But the last city council seemed to neglect this in its focus on environment and social issues. Surely we can expand council’s vision to include beauty as well as those other important areas. Much of the park department’s efforts these past few years seems to have been diverted to growing vegetable starts, tending herb boxes on Blanshard street, and planting native plants in the library courtyard.

We don’t believe the title “City of Gardens” means lettuce, herbs, Oregon grapes, and dandelions.

[Personal Privacy](#)

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** Personal Privacy  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** survey  
**Date:** February 25, 2023 9:44:14 PM

---

hello, i have attempted numerous times to log in with no success and get the message 'invalid request'. so i will suggest that development of housing which includes neighbourhood walkability and integration of green spaces be a priority. as well, the overarching need for affordable housing needs to include places for children to play. unfortunately, my adult children and their family are moving back to Calgary though they have wonderful jobs here. they just cannot find housing despite having excellent income. i do want to see families be top of mind in our municipal budget. that includes daycare and healthcare availability. just think 'what are we giving to the next generation' when making decisions. this will always prove to be a reliable guide for persons, communities, and our environment.

thank you for all your work and efforts on behalf of Victorians.

sincerely, **Personal Privacy**

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Personal Privacy](#)  
**To:** [Engagement-External](#)  
**Subject:** Topaz Park  
**Date:** February 24, 2023 11:13:43 AM

---

Please approve Pickleball courts.

Sent from my iPhone