



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 24th, 2024

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** October 17th, 2024
From: Councillor Gardiner
Subject: 2025 Budget Considerations, Core Services and Programs – Public Engagement

BACKGROUND

In 2023, Victoria City Council was assisted in its budget deliberations by data from the **2023 Draft Budget/Core Services and Programs Public Engagement Summary**.

The community had been invited to provide feedback on the City's Draft 2023 Budget and the core services and programs that matter most to them over a span of two weeks. Public feedback was received through an online survey, emailed feedback and a public meeting held at Victoria City Hall. The online survey invited the community to rank the City's core services and programs that matter most to them.

The public engagement approach included outreach to Victoria residents and business operators, with targeted communications through stakeholder emails.

The 2023 engagement project was created and carried out by the City's Communications and Engagement department. The report was comprehensive, and the summary report added a reality check to Council's discussion and provided valuable input.

As Council begins budget discussions leading to the 2025 budget, it is timely to once again seek input from the public.

The purpose of this motion is to direct staff to create and implement an engagement program in the weeks ahead. The 2023 public engagement approach could form the basis of the program, with staff adding additional components deemed necessary to test the direction Council is taking.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council direct staff to create, implement and report out on a public engagement program to provide feedback on the City's Draft 2025 Budget and the City's core services and programs.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "C. Gardiner", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Councillor Gardiner