



# TaxTALK

## 2016 Budget Consultation Survey

### Hello and Welcome to TaxTALK!

Do you want to have a say in where your tax dollars are spent? Do you know what services the City provides and what the real costs are? In 2016 what should our priorities be \_\_\_\_\_? Housing? Transportation? Local Economy? Should the services we provide be increased / decreased or stay the same?

### Council is inviting YOU to Fill in the Blanks!

Here is your opportunity to speak your mind! Council is asking you to help determine the priorities for 2016 to find the right balance between investing in quality, sustainable public services while keeping tax rates affordable.

Please complete this short survey that will inform Council of what you think the priorities should be for the **2016 Budget and Strategic Plan**. The survey should only take 5-10 minutes to complete.

The survey is completely confidential (no names or other personally identifying information are requested). The City of Fernie will not collect, use, or disclose personal information using SurveyMonkey. Please be aware however that IP addresses are collected by SurveyMonkey itself, and these IP addresses and other information collected may be stored on SurveyMonkey's servers located outside of Canada.

Should you have any concerns regarding the use of SurveyMonkey, you are encouraged to submit a paper copy of this survey available at City Hall, Fernie Heritage Library, Fernie Aquatic Centre or available to download at [www.fernie.ca](http://www.fernie.ca).

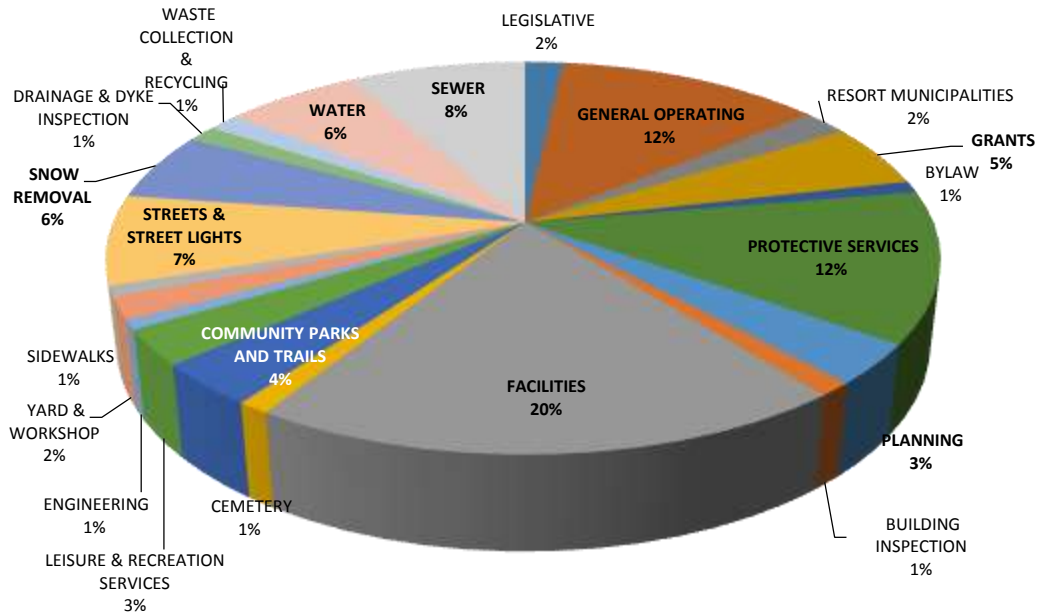
Survey closes ~~December 4, 2015~~. **EXTENDED TO DECEMBER 12, 2015!!**

Thank you for your participation!

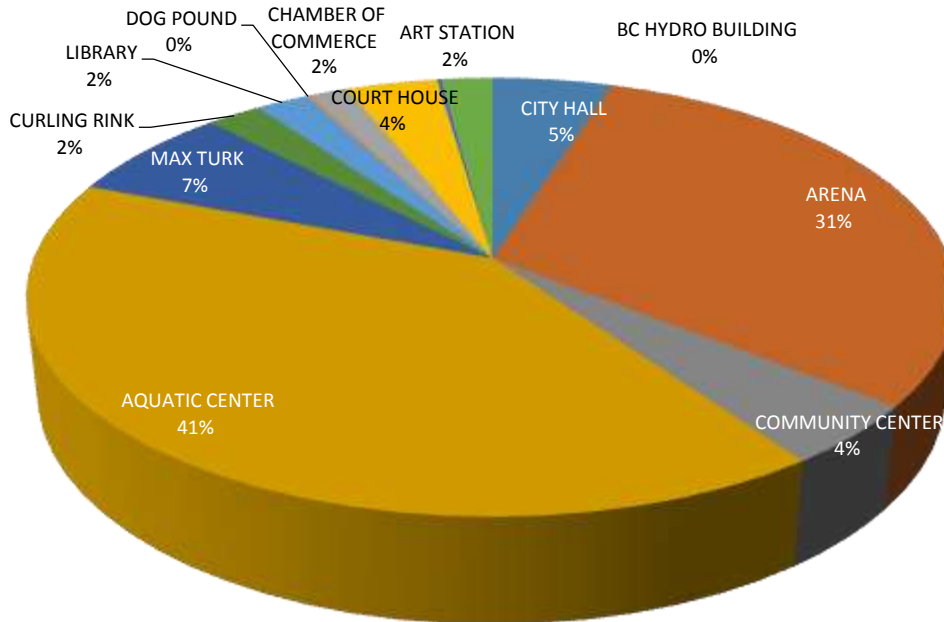
Mayor and Council  
City of Fernie

### TaxTALK – A Little Bit of History Before we Begin – 2015 Budget Breakdown

#### THE CITY OF FERNIE 2015 BUDGET OPERATING EXPENDITURES



#### THE CITY OF FERNIE 2015 BUDGET FACILITIES BREAKDOWN - OPERATING EXPENDITURES





### TaxTALK PART 1 Service Level Standards and Sustainable Service Delivery

**SERVICE LEVEL STANDARD** is our commitment to a level of performance that can be expected under normal circumstances. When we set service level standards we consider many factors including staff & equipment resources, costs and public expectations.

**SUSTAINABLE SERVICE DELIVERY** ensures that current public services, and the way we carry them out, do not have a negative impact on Fernie's ability to meet public service needs in the future. This requires measuring the benefits against the long term social, economic and environmental costs.

Q1. The following are activities or services provided by the City of Fernie. **Of the services listed below please choose five services that you think should be Council's top priorities for 2016?** *(Please choose only five services from the list below with your 1<sup>st</sup> priority being most important).*

Services (please choose five only from the following list)	1 <sup>st</sup> Priority	2 <sup>nd</sup> Priority	3 <sup>rd</sup> Priority	4 <sup>th</sup> Priority	5 <sup>th</sup> Priority
Bylaw Enforcement					
Fire & Emergency Services					
Road & Sidewalk Maintenance & Improvements					
Snow Removal					
Garbage & Recycling Collection					
Sports Field Maintenance & Improvements					
Parks and Trails Maintenance & Improvements					
Recreation Programs & Services					
Municipal Facilities Maintenance					
Sanitary Sewer System Maintenance					
Water Supply & Distribution Maintenance					
Water Quality Management					
Stormwater Management					
Land Use Planning					
Cemetery Maintenance					

Q2. Of the activities and services listed in Question 1 what services (if any) do you feel should be increased or decreased?

Increased: \_\_\_\_\_ Decreased: \_\_\_\_\_

Q3. There is a direct connection between taxes collected and the service levels provided to the community. Council is working to find the right balance between ensuring sustainable service delivery, quality of service and maintaining tax rates at an affordable level.

If the costs to maintain services at their current levels increase, which one of the following is your preferred option to fund the increased cost?

	Preferred Option (please choose one)
No tax increase with potential cuts to services.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tax increase and with no cuts to services.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tax increase with potential cuts to services.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q4. If the City were to implement a mandatory Bear Proof Garbage Bin program for all residents how do you think the City should fund the program?

- Increase taxes
  Require homeowners to purchase their own bins  
 Decrease other services
  Don't know  
 Increase fees for residential garbage collection

### TaxTALK - PART 2 Asset Management

With the responsibility of a Municipality to ensure sustainable service delivery to its residents far into the future, long-term **Asset Management** is an on-going concern. Municipalities strive to provide satisfactory **Sustainable Service Delivery** by maximizing benefits while minimizing risks and costs to acquire, operate, maintain and replace these assets.

The City of Fernie has an extensive list of infrastructure (assets) including: parks, trails, community facilities, sidewalks, roads, and flood protection works such as dikes, water and sewer mains.

In Fernie, as in many communities across Canada, our infrastructure is aging and requires additional investment to fund a backlog of deferred repairs and construction referred to as **Infrastructure Deficit**.

Our primary challenge in confronting the Infrastructure Deficit is sourcing sufficient funds to undertake much needed repairs or replacement.



**Q5. How do you think the City should fund our Infrastructure Deficit?**

- Increase in taxation
- Increase in user fees
- Reduce the number of City owned facilities
- Reduction in service levels
- Don't know

Other (please specify)

**Q6. The City owns a large number of aging facilities that contribute to our Infrastructure Deficit. These facilities require significant investment in order to maintain them in good operating condition. Of all the facilities listed below please choose five facilities that you feel offer the greatest value to the citizens of Fernie and therefore should take priority for funding? (Please choose only five facilities from the list below with your 1<sup>st</sup> choice having the greatest value).**

Please choose only five facilities from the list below.	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice	3 <sup>rd</sup> Choice	4 <sup>th</sup> Choice	5 <sup>th</sup> Choice
Fernie City Hall					
Fernie Fire Hall					
Fernie Court House					
Fernie Aquatic Centre					
Fernie Memorial Arena					
Fernie Centennial Community Centre					
Chamber of Commerce / Visitor Centre					
Senior Citizen Drop In Centre					
Fernie Heritage Library					
Fernie Arts Station					
Fernie Curling Club					
Max Turyk Community Centre					
Fernie Museum					
Park Facilities (playgrounds, ball diamonds)					
Public Works Facilities					



### TaxTALK - PART 3 Strategic Planning

Council's Strategic Plan for 2015 identified the following Corporate Goals:

1. Fostering and supporting business and economic diversity.
2. Increase and improve communications and public engagement.
3. Increase corporate and public safety.
4. Upgrade and maintain aging infrastructure & facilities.
5. Identify appropriate Service Levels.
6. Strengthen the City of Fernie Organization.

Our Strategic Plan aligns with the community's long-term vision of Fernie stated in our Official Community Plan (OCP): Ensure Economic Viability; Enrich Community Life; and Protect the Environment. Our OCP sets out policies to improve Quality of Life and guide decision-making so we can achieve our vision.

**Q7. The following are policy areas in our OCP. Please choose three policy areas you feel Council should focus on to guide strategic planning in 2016?** (Please choose only three policy areas from the list below with your 1<sup>st</sup> choice being the most important).

Policy Areas	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice	3 <sup>rd</sup> Choice
Housing			
Heritage Conservation & Restoration			
Neighborhood Planning			
Transportation Systems			
Local Economy			
Community Health & Safety			
Community Life, Arts & Culture			
Natural Environment			
Energy & Infrastructure			
Community & Regional Collaboration			
Managing Development			





### Demographics

We ask these questions in order to gauge how representative our survey sample is of the total population of Fernie. No personally-identifying information is collected.

Q10. Are you a resident of Fernie?  Yes  No

Q11. Which of the following age categories are you in?

Under 20  21-29  30-39  40-49  50-59  60-69  Over 70

Q12. Do you own or rent your home?  Own  Rent

Q13. What industry do you work in?

<input type="checkbox"/> Education Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction/Trades	<input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Care or Social Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Government
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Service Industry (Food/Accommodation)
<input type="checkbox"/> Finance & Real Estate	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired
<input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale Trade	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Resource Based Industry	





# TaxTALK 2016 Budget Consultation Survey

TaxTALK – Thank you for your valuable contributions to this process!

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

This information will help guide budget discussions and strategic planning for 2016 and we need and value the input of all of Fernie's citizens.

Please encourage your family and friends to take part and join the TaxTALK! Stay tuned for more Talk in the near future!

Mayor and Council  
City of Fernie

*Thank You!*