

REPORT TO: Mayor and Members of Council

PREPARED BY: Nandini Syed, CAO/Director of Finance (Treasurer)

DEPARTMENT: Administration & Finance

DIVISION: Administration

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, April-03-19

SUBJECT: Administration & Finance Monthly update – April 2019

RECOMMENDATION

Be it resolved that Council receives the Administration Monthly update – April 2019 Report, as information only.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Administration and Finance Monthly update for the month of April 2019 provides highlights from 2019 Federal Budget.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Leadership: To Create a Positive, Open Organizational Culture With Open, Respectful and Responsible Leadership

Engages: To Encourage Community Participation That Helps Residents Feel Welcomed, Informed and Engaged By Providing Timely and Relevant Communication To Everyone

BACKGROUND

The Administration & Finance monthly report provides Council an up to date portrait of both operational and capital activities within the department. The report aims to highlight upcoming legislative and industry specific changes. Monthly reporting from staff in general creates a positive, open organization culture where information of day to day municipal operation can easily be accessible. In addition to Council, such reports keep our ratepayers and various municipal partners well informed, thereby adhering to our

continued commitment to providing timely and relevant communication to our stakeholders.

DISCUSSION

2019 Federal Budget:

1. Municipal Highlights

- a. Reaffirmation of the \$180B for the Investing in Canada Plan, announced in 2016, over 12 years to build infrastructure in communities across Canada. This amount includes \$81.2B of additional investment in the first and second phase of the Investing in Canada Plan. Work is underway to accelerate Investing in Canada Plan projects, including improved federal reporting that more clearly outlines when federal funds will go to recipients (pp. 74-78).
- b. New infrastructure funding for local communities through a municipal top up of a one-time transfer of \$2.2B through the federal Gas Tax Fund. This transfer is to address eligible short-term priorities in municipalities and First Nations communities (p. 80).
- c. \$60M in 2018/2019 in FCM's Municipal Asset Management Capacity Fund, which helps small communities gain skills and training on how to inventory, grow and maintain infrastructure assets over 5 years (p. 84).

2. Housing

- a. Reaching Home, \$2.2B program to prevent and reduce homelessness to launch on Apr 1, 2019 (p. 31)
- b. Introduction of the CMHC First-Time Home Buyer Incentive, which will provide up to \$1.25B over three years to eligible home buyers. Qualified first-time home buyers to be offered a 10% shared equity mortgage for a newly constructed home or a 5% shared equity mortgage for an existing home. The buyer would repay the Incentive, for example at re-sale, rather than through ongoing monthly payments, to lower homebuyers' borrowing costs (p. 23).

3. Employment Benefits

- a. \$1.7B over five years and \$586.5M per year ongoing for the new Canada Training Benefit. (p. 37)

4. Environment and Climate Change

- a. Legislation to be introduced to allow proceeds from the carbon pricing regulatory charge (part of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change) to be directed to municipalities, universities, small-medium sized businesses, hospitals, schools, colleges, non-profits, and Indigenous communities (p. 86).

5. Energy

- a. \$1.01B to increase energy efficiency in residential, commercial and multi-unit buildings, delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) through the Green Municipal Fund. The funds will be allocated to 3 initiatives: Collaboration on Community Action \$350M, Community EcoEfficiency Acceleration \$300M, and Sustainable Affordable Housing Innovation \$300M (p. 84).

6. Zero-Emission Vehicles

- a. 100% zero-emission vehicles target for 2040 (p. 81).
- b. \$130M to Natural Resources Canada over 5 years to deploy new recharging and refueling stations in workplaces, public parking spots, commercial and multi-residential buildings, and remote locations (p. 82).
- c. \$5M to support automakers make zero-emission vehicles (p. 82).
- d. \$300M to encourage Canadians to buy zero emission vehicles (purchase incentive up to \$5000) (pp. 81-82).
- e. To encourage businesses' adopting zero-emission vehicles, these vehicles will be eligible for a full tax write-off in the year they are put to use (p. 82).

7. Broadband Connectivity

- a. \$1.7B in new and targeted initiatives that support universal high-speed internet in rural, remote and northern communities, including: establishment of a new national high-speed internet program, The Universal Broadband Fund; top-up of the Connect to Innovate program to secure low-latency Low Earth Orbit satellite capacity; and up to \$11.5M for two Statistics Canada surveys to measure household access and use of the internet and business online behavior (p. 97).

8. Canada Food Policy

- a. \$50M over five years, starting in 2019/20, in support for a Local Food Infrastructure Fund, which supports infrastructure for local food projects including food banks, farmers' markets, and other community-driven projects (p. 163).
- b. \$100M from the Strategic Innovation Fund to support agri-food value added production in Canada (p. 163)

FINANCIAL

Not Applicable

ATTACHMENT

None

Prepared By: Nandini Syed, CAO/Director of Finance(Treasurer)