

————— **REVELSTOKE.** —————
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
EST. 1895

February 25, 2025

Mayor and Council City of Revelstoke
216 Mackenzie Avenue Revelstoke, BC V0E 2S0

Dear Mayor Sulz and Members of Council,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce, we appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the City's 2025 budget and commend the City for its efforts in increasing transparency and public engagement through initiatives such as Talk Revelstoke. The high level of participation in the budget survey demonstrates the community's interest in municipal financial planning, and we value the opportunity to contribute to this important process.

As the voice of the business community, the Chamber advocates for policies that support sustainable economic growth and fairness in taxation. Our Board has identified key recommendations regarding the City of Revelstoke's 2025 budget, which we respectfully submit for your consideration:

Balancing the Tax Burden Across Classes

The Chamber urges the City of Revelstoke to carefully evaluate the balance between tax classes, as the current burden disproportionately impacts the commercial sector (Class 6). We have captured years of data and attended multiple meetings with City staff to ensure our information is accurate. We encourage the City to develop and share an action plan outlining steps to achieve a more balanced tax distribution and address these inequities. We encourage a fair approach that ensures businesses remain viable while supporting the overall needs of the community.

Consideration of the Development Potential Relief - User Guide

We request that the City explores incorporating the Development Potential Relief guidelines in the 2026 budget. Providing relief in appropriate cases can enhance business sustainability and encourage economic development.

Clarity on New Development Tax Revenues

The Chamber requests that the City outline a clear plan for the allocation of unanticipated new development tax revenues that come in 2025. Transparency regarding how these funds are used will help the business community and residents understand the direct benefits of new development.

Improved Clarity on Tax Contributions

We would welcome collaboration with the City to enhance public understanding of municipal, regional, and school board tax contributions. By providing clearer explanations, businesses and residents can better comprehend where their tax dollars are allocated.

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While we acknowledge the City's efforts to improve public engagement and transparency regarding the 2025 budget, we must emphasize that the disproportionate tax burden on businesses remains a critical issue that requires immediate attention. Economic prosperity in

Revelstoke, in-part, depends on a fair and sustainable tax structure that does not place undue strain on the commercial sector. Without concrete action, the viability of many businesses will be at risk, potentially impacting local employment and investment. We strongly urge the City to prioritize this issue and take meaningful steps to address these inequities in a transparent and accountable manner.

We appreciate the City's ongoing commitment to engaging the business community and look forward to further collaboration on these matters. The Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce remains available to provide input and support solutions that foster economic stability and growth for our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Maggie Spizziri
President, Board of Directors
Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce
president@revelstokechamber.com