



BUDGET 2025

A Sustainable and Prosperous Future



BUDGET 2025 SPEECH

Presented by Councillor Ward Gosse

Good evening, Mayor Scott, Deputy Mayor Thorne-Gosse, fellow council members, staff, volunteers and all residents of the Town of Torbay. I am pleased to present our 2025 budget to you all this evening.

I would like to take a moment to reflect on a couple key initiatives for our community in 2024.

2024 IN REVIEW

Based on the past year, The Town of Torbay is well positioned for growth in the coming year and well into the future. Looking back over the past 12 months, we continue to see a large uptake in our community programs and events at Torbay Common and Torbay History House and Museum. We participated in “Celebrate 75” during Canada Day Weekend, saw an increase in attendees for A Time in Torbay, put off a fun filled summer camp that also featured a sports camp and had great turnouts in our programs year-round.

We anticipate a great turnout during our holiday events, some of which are already underway. Thank you to our staff and volunteers who continue to make our programs and events within our Town possible and to our residents who always come out to support their town.

We held several public engagement sessions on our new Municipal Plan to further support the ongoing work in our Municipal Plan Review through our Department of Planning and Development. This public input will help us develop policies and strategies to help guide the development and growth of our community in the years to come.

Our Department of Infrastructure and Public Works continued to ensure our roads and Town infrastructure were well maintained and oversaw the extension of sidewalks along Torbay Road in the area of the War Memorial.

We also restructured existing staff into a new Department of Economic Development, Tourism, History and Culture. This department has already begun groundwork for initiatives and projects to further support local businesses and grow our tourism reach within the Town.

These initiatives aid in our continued day-to-day operations to help build a healthy and sustainable future for our residents.

BUDGET 2025

As per legislation, all municipalities are required to present a balanced budget. We are committed in addressing needs within our community that will also serve as an investment into a sustainable future for the Town of Torbay. This year's budget aligns with the strategic plan of the Town and will see major investments in key areas that will have immediate impact towards the betterment of residents and the community as a whole.

2025 will see a total budget of \$12,952,769, allocating \$1,744,144 for capital expenditures and \$11,208,625 for operational costs.

The tax rate will see a small increase so that the Town can provide both core services to residents, and address residential needs that invest into the prosperity of the Town now and into the future. The residential property tax mil rate will increase from 7.6 mils to 7.7 mils and the commercial property tax rate will increase from 12.4 mils to 12.5 mils. There will be no increase in residential or commercial water tax.

Council will continue to offer the 12-month interest free payment plan for taxes, in addition to the 25% tax reduction for those in receipt of the Guaranteed Income Supplement and the 20% tax reduction for low-income individuals and families. The tax reductions will apply to the taxpayer's primary residence only.

Residents are encouraged to contact the Town Hall for more information regarding the application process to determine and confirm your eligibility.

MAJOR INVESTMENTS

As previously mentioned, the Town of Torbay is committed to carrying out major investments in the community in 2025. The biggest challenge remains our municipal water supply and the need for a source of potable water. The Town of Torbay requires water to support development, to be prosperous, to be sustainable and to minimize the tax burden on residents in the future.

To address this basic and pivotal necessity there will be an allocation of approximately \$7 million to a new water treatment plant in North Pond.

The Town will continue to work with the provincial and federal government to bring Great Pond on as a source of a second water supply. Growth brings increased revenues to cover the costs of municipal operations.

Another area in which the Town is making significant investment is in our roads and related infrastructure, the level of work required at this time to keep our roads safe and in good driving condition is significant. That is why there will be an allocation of approximately \$1.1 million for road construction and road repairs throughout the Town. This work will commence in the Spring and Summer of 2025 and continue into our Fall.

INFRASTRUCTURE & PUBLIC WORKS

Our Infrastructure and Public Works department plays a vital role in providing core services and necessities within the Town of Torbay. In addition to the \$1.1 million investment in our roadways, the Town will commit \$550,000 towards the replacement of heavy equipment to support snow clearing operations and road accessibility; this will include a new loader and a backhoe. Our newly installed Salt Storage Shed at our depot will also help save the Town thousands of dollars towards salt and sand used during the winter and spring. This will ensure safe driving conditions for years to come while lessening our ecological footprint and preserving the environmental surrounding.

Our Infrastructure and Public Works staff will continue to monitor our 5 zone water meters that were installed in 2023 at the Tyndal Drive Pumphouse, Thorne's Lane Pumphouse, Marine Drive, Indian Meal Line and Convent Lane. A waste water treatment study will also be conducted in 2025 to aid the Town in finding different options for efficient sewage disposal.

RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Department of Recreation and Community Services is on the frontlines of providing community programs and events to our residents year-round. Budget 2025 will see a total budget of \$458,727 for programming, activities and events. Our staff will continue to provide residents and their families with high quality programming and events that will attract all ages. Our walking and hiking trails also serve as a major attraction for both residents and visitors alike. There are two sections of the East Coast Trail that follow along our coastline and our municipal trails capture the very best of our natural environment.

The Town also completed 850 meters of new trail installation on the Western Island Pond Brook Trail from Forest River Road East to the Kevin Parsons Highway and Indian Meal Line Intersection. As part of the trail construction, an existing trail was enhanced for safer accessibility for off-road vehicles along portions of the trail.

The Town of Torbay will continue its investment on our local trails by allocating \$200,000 in new trail development so that residents and visitors can continue to enjoy the outdoors and a healthy lifestyle.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Planning and Development plays a major role in any municipality for both preservation and growth. Budget 2025 will see an allocation of \$250,047 towards Planning and Zoning within the Town.

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) with funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada's Community Based Climate Action Program, partnered with the Town of Torbay to conduct assessments on 40 wetlands within the municipality. Through these assessments, the value of the functions and benefits provided by Torbay's wetlands were established and Council amended its engineering guidelines implementing conditions for construction in proximity to wetlands. There will be additional opportunities for public engagement with the Town's Department of Planning and Development in early 2025.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM, HISTORY & CULTURE

Our newly structured Department of Economic Development, Tourism, History and Culture has initiated projects and initiatives that will continue to help support local businesses while also developing foundational pieces to further increase Torbay's presence in provincial and national tourism.

The Town's newly named tourism brand "Experience Torbay" will continue to grow and will help promote the best of what Torbay has to offer to residents and visitors alike. Tourism plays a crucial role economically and culturally, visitors bring in money by buying and supporting our many local businesses and gain life experiences in learning about the history and culture of the Town.

Under our Marketing and Communications, the Town has committed \$25,000 in developing a new website.

This will positively increase the image and brand of the Town while providing a more accessible and user-friendly platform for residents and the public to access information from the Town and engage with staff and council.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

The Town of Torbay will continue to invest in its protective services to increase resident and community safety. The Torbay Volunteer Fire Department is heavily involved in and around the community, and while a major focus is on emergency response, the department is also heavily engaged in the community through Fire Prevention Week, fundraisers and Department tours for community groups.

The Town has allocated \$553,603 for Fire Protection to ensure that the Torbay Volunteer Fire Department is able to continue carrying out its work as safely and timely as possible.

In addition, the Town of Torbay, in partnership with the Town of Portugal Cove St. Phillip's, have brought Municipal Enforcement Officers back into our communities. The Town will allocate \$100,000 towards Municipal Enforcement in 2025 to ensure our Officers are able to continue their work within our community to support our residents in the most efficient way possible.

SUMMARY

A strong municipal budget provides numerous benefits, enabling a municipality to operate efficiently, maintain infrastructure, and improve the quality of life for its residents. Budget 2025 is built with those goals in mind and will further help in the sustainability and prosperity of the Town. We are taking major steps in addressing our municipal water supply for our residents and local businesses, carry out community wide road repairs and construction, grow our tourism reach so that additional money is coming into our Town, and continue to provide high quality municipal services to our residents through all of our departments.

The prices of groceries, goods and services remain high, as has the cost of doing business with the cost of labour and materials increasing to match the cost of living. This budget was crafted after many hours of hard work from both staff and council, while being guided by the importance of public trust and accountability.

We are confident that the major initiatives within this budget will serve as a return on investment for the Town and its residents, and will continue to support efforts of providing our residents an affordable and quality way of life for years to come.

MOTIONS FOR ADOPTION

I ask my fellow councillors for their support as I present the required motions for the adoption of Budget 2025:

1 - That the 2025 total budget for the Town of Torbay in the amount of \$12,952,769 be adopted. The breakdown is \$11,208,625 for operating and \$1,744,144 for capital.

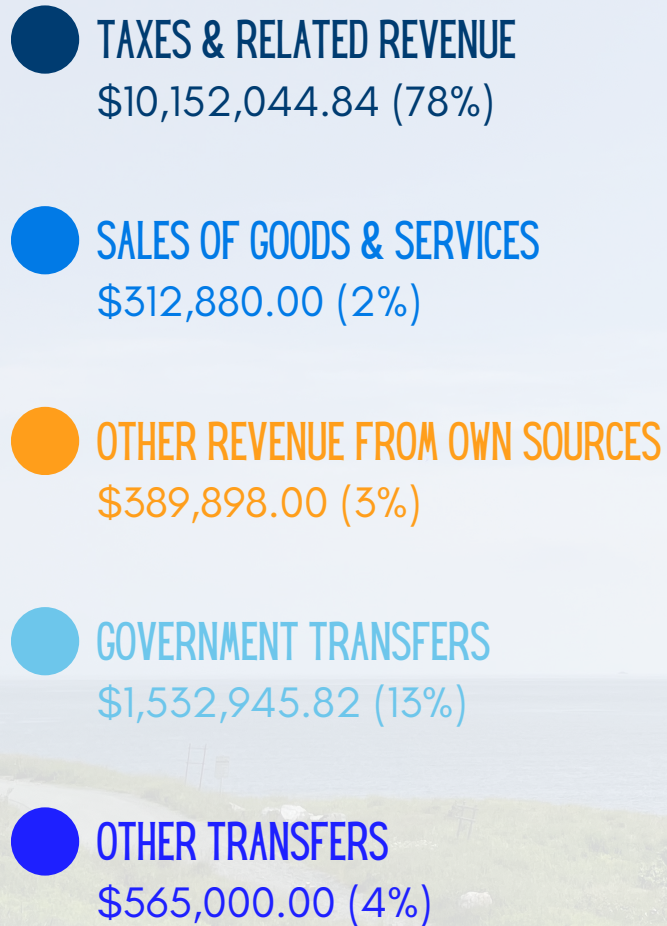
2 - That the Town of Torbay adopt the tax and fee structure schedule for 2025 as presented.

Thank you.



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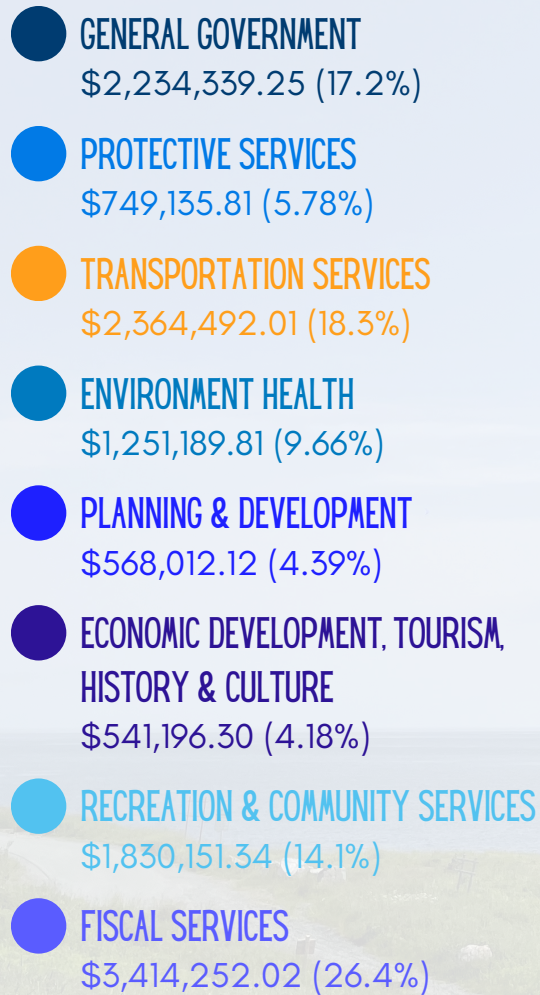
REVENUE BREAKDOWN



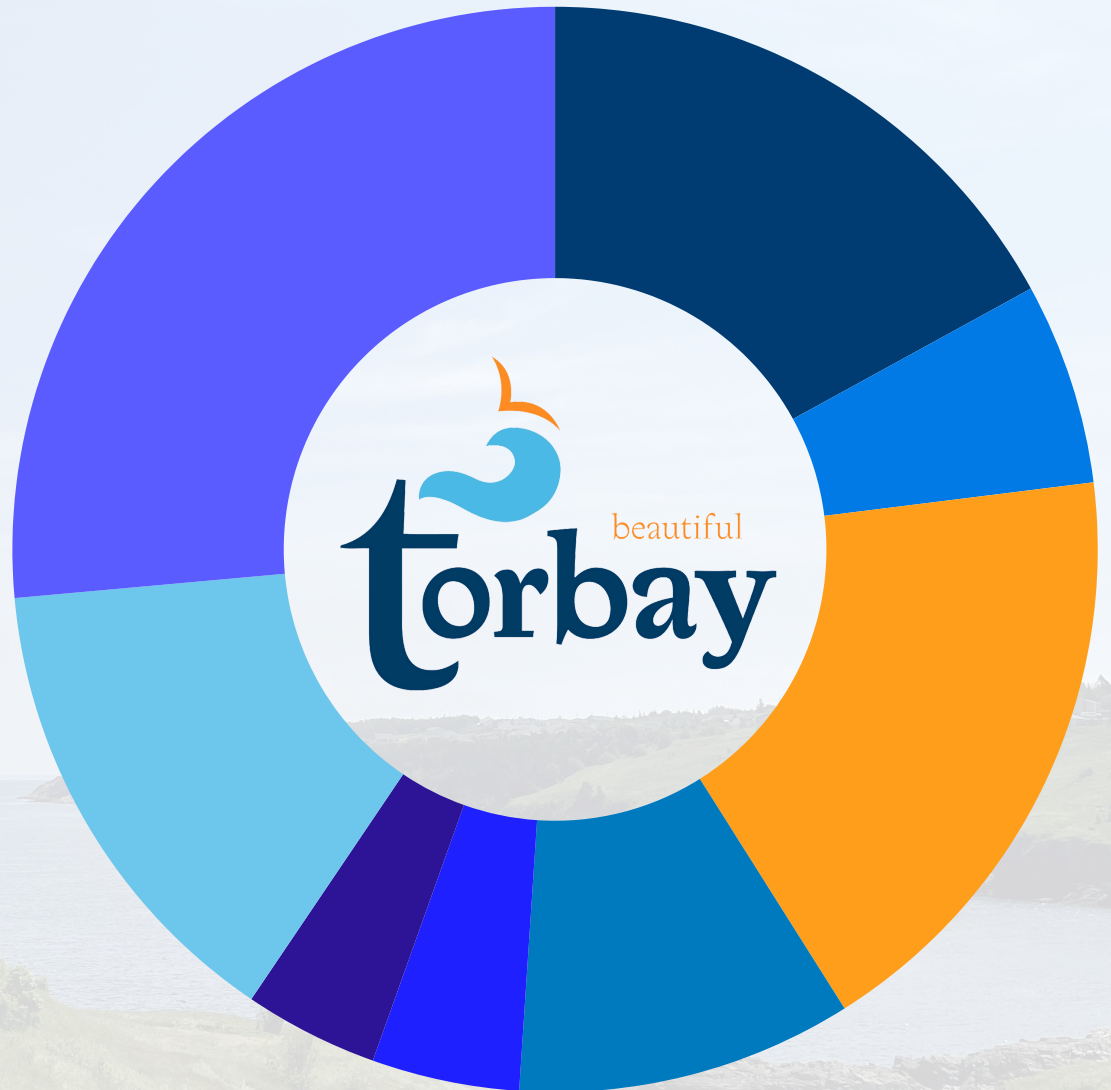
TOTAL \$12,952,768.66

BUDGET 2025

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN



TOTAL \$12,952,768.66



THANK YOU

Residents

The Town of Torbay would like to thank you, our residents, for your input and presence in the process of presenting our 2025 budget.

We had record responses in our resident survey and great discussions and presentations in our public consultations.

We are confident that the major initiatives within this budget will serve as a return on investment for the Town and its residents, and will continue to support efforts of providing our residents an affordable and quality way of life for years to come.

