



BUDGET 2026

Accountability & Sustainability



BUDGET 2026 SPEECH

Presented by Councillor Tony Pollard

Good evening, Mayor Scott, Deputy Mayor Tapper, fellow council members, staff, volunteers and all residents of the Town of Torbay. I am pleased to present our 2026 budget to you all this evening.

I would like to take a moment to reflect on a couple key initiatives for our community in 2025.

2025 IN REVIEW

Over the Winter, we received federal funding to aid in addressing both our housing and water needs in Torbay. We continue to see a large uptake in our community programs and events at Torbay Common and Torbay History House. We've had great numbers at our holiday events and our Torbay Festival of Trees so far this year despite the constant change in weather conditions. 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.

Over the Summer, our staff developed and launched the new Town of Torbay website. Our new site provides increased accessibility to information and updates from within the Town for residents, we look forward to continuing to build on these opportunities in 2026.

One of the biggest moments we experienced as a Town this year was our municipal election. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the previous council for their work and contributions around the table for the betterment of the community.

Our newly elected council has already begun working hard with staff to address the needs of you: our residents.

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As per legislation, all municipalities are required to present a balanced budget. Our newly elected council along with staff are committed to reviewing all areas of operations to ensure we are providing quality service as cost-efficiently as possible. As the cost of living and doing business remains high, we will continue to review and find opportunities for savings and efficiencies that minimizes the tax burden on residents and businesses. This year, we received tremendous feedback and input from our residents, businesses, and community groups through both our budget survey and consultations. Council and staff thank you all for providing us with your input throughout this process.

2026 will see a total budget of \$12,274,147, allocating \$548,609 for capital expenditures and \$11,725,538 for operational costs.

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. At the same time, we need to ensure our resources and operating expenses continue to be used both efficiently and in the best interest of the Town.

I am pleased to say the residential property tax mil rate will remain at 7.7 mils, and the commercial property tax rate will remain at 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.

The Town will also now be accepting Visa and MasterCard payments for tax balances paid in full on or before March 31, 2026. A service charge of 2% will be applied to all Visa and MasterCard payments to offset bank processing fees. Residents are encouraged to contact the Town Hall for more information regarding the application process to determine and confirm your eligibility.

MAJOR INVESTMENTS

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. We thank residents for doing their part this year throughout our water ban and boil order as we endured extreme dry conditions and a significant water shortage in North Pond. Although the water levels continue to rise in North Pond, the Town will still pump water from Whiteways Pond into North Pond. Without this additional supply, we cannot guarantee a reliable water source throughout the winter months; this work is expected to take a few weeks to complete.

The Town of Torbay will use the \$26.8 million in federal funding announced in March to build a water supply, treatment and distribution system. This funding will help support the development of Great Pond as a municipal water supply and increase our capacity of potable drinking water. It will include the construction of a water intake and water treatment facility, as well as a fishway to maintain flows for fish passage.

Council will continue our efforts to advocate for the residents who are impacted by the PFAS contamination. The Town will continue to seek additional investments in our water supply and work with the provincial and federal government. Additionally, we will allocate \$60,000 to update our current ground water study. 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. Council will also increase its budget allocation for road and maintenance repairs to \$250,000 in Budget 2026; this will be a \$25,000 increase from the previous budget.

For the first time in 15 years, the Jack Byrne Regional Sport and Entertainment Centre will receive a subsidy from the Town. The Jack Byrne Regional Sport and Entertainment Centre has been self-sustaining for over a decade and a half – a remarkable achievement. As per the request of the Jack Byrne Regional Sport and Entertainment Centre to the owning partners, the Town will allocate \$56,000 to subsidize the operating costs of the building.

The Department of Recreation and Community Services is on the frontlines of providing community programs and events to our residents year-round. Our staff will continue to provide residents and their families with high quality programming and events that will attract all ages.

The Town will increase the number of children and youth in our Summer Day Camp and decrease the weekly registration fee from \$195 to \$170; we will also be offering a full time 5-day Sports Camp.

As a result of a review of our summer programming and camps, we have made adjustments and restructured how they are administered. This will result in a 12.5% cost savings for participants while increasing the number of participants at 33% while offering the same quality of camp our participants have come to enjoy.

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.

The Town has also introduced an Inclusion and Accessibility Committee in an effort to build more inclusiveness. Our goal is to ensure we have programming and opportunities in our Town for everyone.

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a two-story house with a light-colored exterior and a dark roof. The house has a prominent front porch with white railings. In the foreground, there is a lush garden with various plants and flowers, including some purple and yellow blooms. The overall scene is set in a residential area with trees and foliage visible in the background.

Planning and Development plays a major role in any municipality for both preservation and growth.

Budget 2026 will see an allocation of \$659,781 towards Planning and Zoning within the Town.

In February, the federal government through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has given \$2.1 million to the Town of Torbay to help accelerate the growth of housing and will work with builders and developers to aid the construction of 113 new dwelling units in the Town over a defined timeline of 3 years.

The Town looks forward to working with builders, developers, and the community to identify development opportunities through our Housing Incentive Program and meet housing needs that ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for Torbay.

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 Torbay Volunteer Fire Department went above and beyond, as they always do, this past Summer in their fire suppression efforts and community aid to our neighbouring communities who experienced mass devastation from raging wildfires. We are forever thankful for everything our fire department does for both our residents and the community at large.

Understanding the needs of our Fire Department, the Town has allocated \$847,000 in protective services to ensure that the Torbay Volunteer Fire Department is able to continue carrying out its work as safely and timely as possible; this is a 17% increase from last year's budget of \$630,000.

The Town will invest in new equipment to enhance fire safety operations and procedures and hire on a full-time Fire Chief. A dedicated fire chief ensures consistent leadership and oversight of fire and emergency services. With this comes improvements to response times, coordination, and readiness for fires, medical calls, and disasters.

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 2026 is built with those goals in mind.

We will continue to address our municipal water supply for our residents and local businesses and continue to provide high quality municipal services to our residents through all of our departments. 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 from residents.

MOTIONS FOR ADOPTION

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

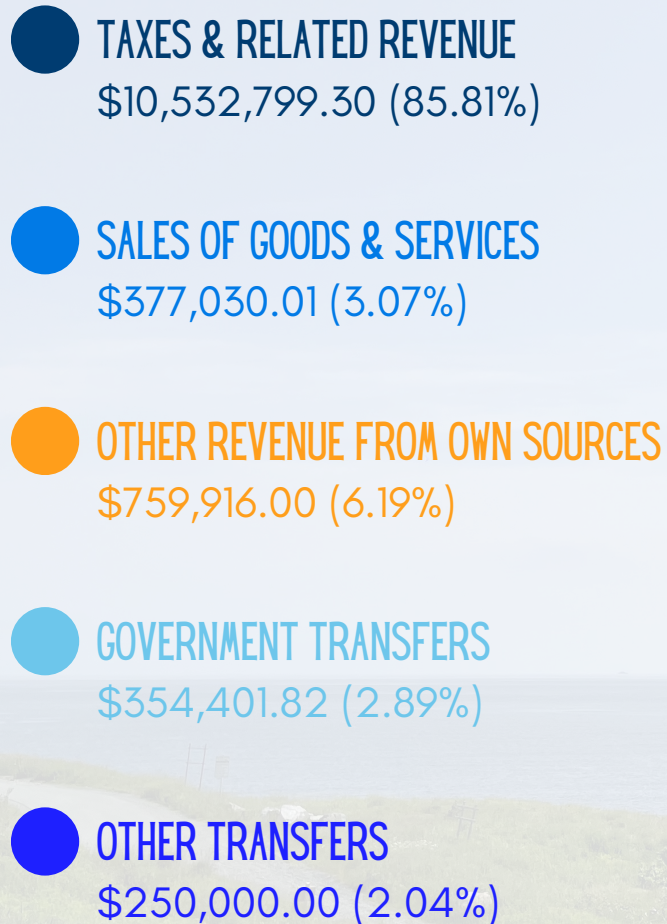
1 - That the 2026 total budget for the Town of Torbay in the amount of \$12,274,147 be adopted. The breakdown is \$11,725,538 for operating and \$548,609 for capital.

2 - That the Town of Torbay adopt the tax and fee structure schedule for 2026 as presented.

Thank you.

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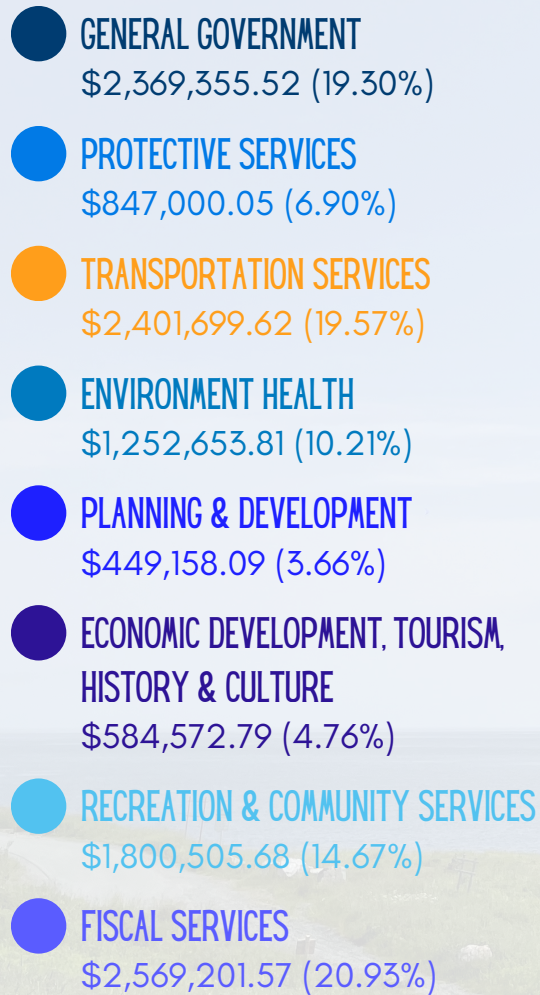
REVENUE BREAKDOWN



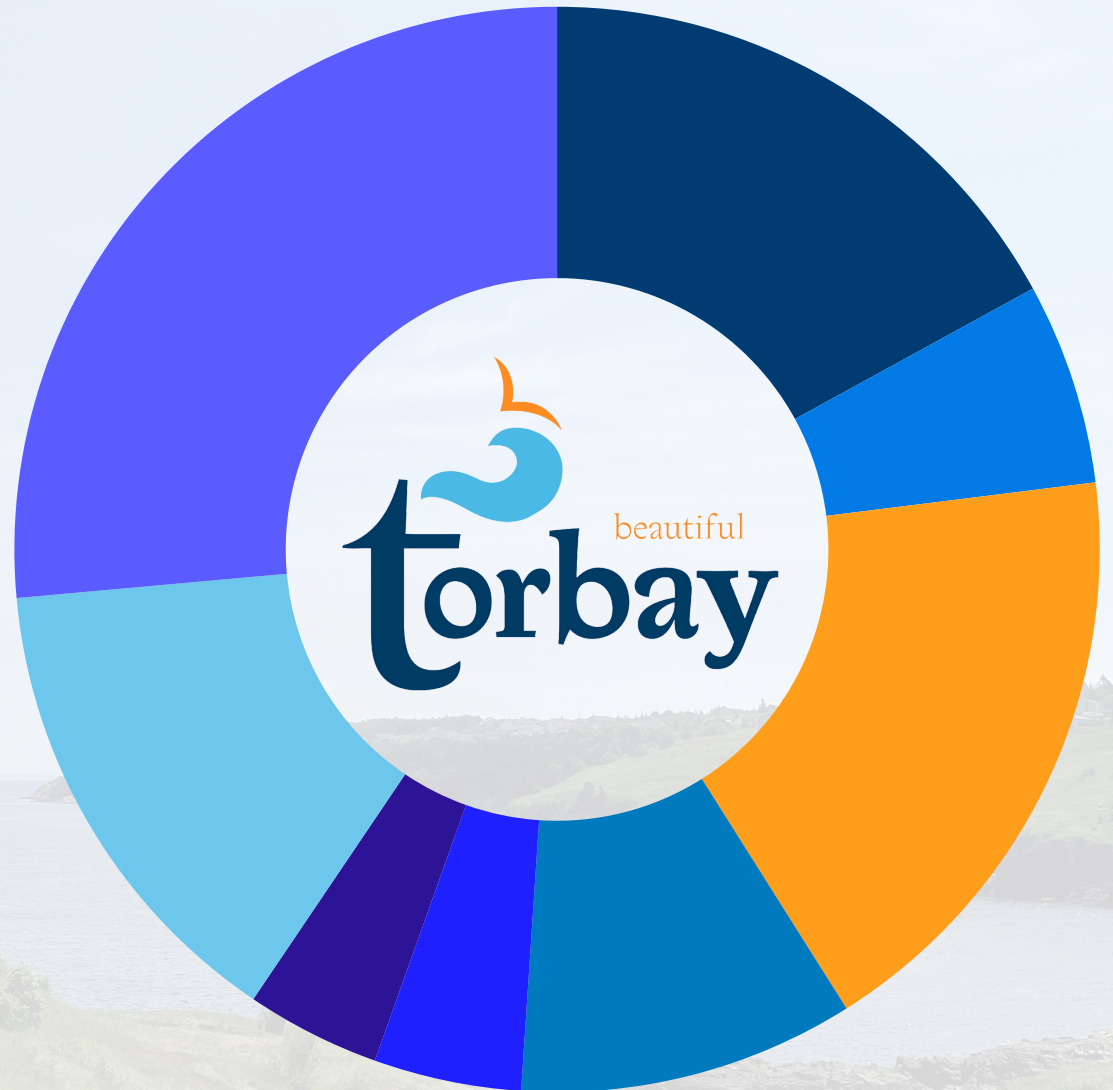
TOTAL \$12,274,147.13

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EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN



TOTAL 12,274,147.13



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Survey Analysis



TOTAL RESPONDENTS

5.32% BETWEEN 18 - 24

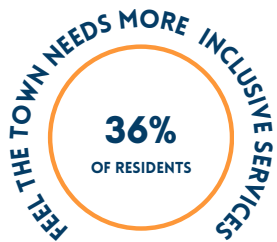
11.35% BETWEEN 25 - 34

21.28% BETWEEN 35 - 44

29.08% BETWEEN 45 - 54

17.38% BETWEEN 55 - 64

15.6% 65+



TOP PRIORITIES FOR RESIDENTS IN BUDGET 2026



Water (32%)



Roads & Sidewalk
Infrastructure (12%)



Property Taxation
(12%)



Cost Management (7%)



Public Safety &
Emergency
Services (6%)



Business
Development (4%)



Recreation & Sports
Facilities (6%)



Municipal Service
Evaluation (5%)



Housing (4%)



Environmental
Conservation &
Public Spaces (4%)



Recreational Program
Activities (5%)



Community & Public
Services (1%)

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 2026 budget.

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

We are confident that the major investments within this budget will continue to support efforts of providing our residents a quality way of life for years to come.

