



## Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON  
3400 – 30<sup>th</sup> Street  
Vernon, BC  
V1T 5E6

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: December 01, 2017

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### **Council Endorses 2018-2022 City Budget**

Council completed detailed reviews of the proposed 2018 budget at their public meetings of November 29 and 30. Council made numerous changes before endorsing the 2018-2022 City Budget. Council cut the originally proposed tax increase of 7.47% down to 5.04%.

The property tax increase includes tax funding for 7 RCMP officers (6 new officers) at a projected cost of \$1.2 million and the continuance of the 1.9% increase for Infrastructure repair. In 2018 the City takes over responsibility of several sub-regional parks that will result in a taxation shift from the RDNO to the City. While the 5.04% includes the new cost of operating sub-regional parks, City taxpayers will see a decrease in the RDNO requisition equivalent to approximately 1% for a net combined property tax increase of 3.98%.

Major capital projects approved for 2018 include reconstruction of portions of 30<sup>th</sup> Street and 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, airport improvements, building infrastructure projects, storm and sanitary rehabilitation and numerous road maintenance projects.

Council also committed to spending \$1.9 million from reserves on two items: a new ladder truck for Fire Services in the amount of \$1,400,000 and improvements to the Camp Hurlburt park property in the amount of \$500,000.

Public access to Okanagan Lake will be improved through the development of four (4) lake access points and the development of a new lakeshore park.

Council's clear focus was on public safety while city infrastructure; including roads, public buildings and parks, is adequately maintained.