



NEWS RELEASE

Budget reflects the role of City government and responds to economic outlook

Abbotsford, March 9, 2009 – City Council has approved a 2009 budget that protects key City services and provides support to the areas that need it most, announced Mayor, George W. Peary today.

“The 2009 budget reflects the critical role that City government has in the protection of residents and provision of services,” said Peary. “We must protect the services that have the greatest impact on the quality of life in our city. This is especially important as the City works to meet the challenges of worldwide economic instability.”

The 2009 budget sees an overall increase of 5.5 per cent to addresses key areas including increased police services and the new Crime Reduction Task Force, and expansion of transit services. The City has taken steps to accommodate new and existing services by enacting a temporary City-wide hiring freeze, scaling back its capital program, and downsizing staff.

“The City of Abbotsford will continue to deliver the quality services which residents and businesses expect and will do so with the flexibility and compassion that the current economic situation demands,” said Abbotsford City Manager Frank Pizzuto. “The programs and services provided by the City demonstrate the value of public service to our community, and it is important that we continue to support them.”

The overall 5.5 per cent increase is comprised of an increase of 3.23 per cent for Police services, an increase of .28 per cent to support the Crime Reduction Task Force, and an increase of 1.99 per cent for other City services.

The average impact of the increase on residents is approximately \$89 for single family detached home owners, and \$47 for residents living in strata locations. More information can be found on the City of Abbotsford web site www.abbotsford.ca

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BACKGROUNDER ATTACHED – Budget Notes

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