

## **Thinking Longer Term for Municipal Budgeting**

### **Summary**

That the City of Kamloops develop a long term (three to five year) strategy for budget planning along with a ten-year maintenance and expansion of capital infrastructure plan.

### **Business Issue**

The continued growth and health of the Kamloops business community is contingent on the availability of infrastructure and services to facilitate growth, as well as cost certainty in property/business tax obligations. It is important that the City of Kamloops take a long-term approach to development and funding of infrastructure, to provide continuity and security to the business community.

### **Background**

Strategic long-term planning in business is vital for its success. Without thinking into the future, a business just reacts to current market conditions. This short-term thinking can lead to unrealized revenues and unfunded expenditures. It is important that a Municipality also takes this long-term planning and budget approach.

Municipalities, including the City of Kamloops, hold assets that incur costs over time. This includes infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water, sewer and buildings. It is imperative that the City of Kamloops commits to developing an assets management program to address the long-term maintenance requirements of the City's assets and to anticipate requirements for financing and funding of new capital purchases.

By doing this, businesses and residents will have time to plan for tax changes and know what plans are budgeted for at the Municipal level. This understanding will, in turn, allow business to plan and forecast for their future.

### **Recommendation**

That the Municipal Government of Kamloops:

- 1) Create and maintain a long-term (10+ years) assets management program to address the long-term maintenance requirements of the City's assets.
- 2) Focus on a longer budgeting forecast that includes projects in years 2-5 of the City's 5-year plan.

Submitted by the Business Advocacy Committee