

## NEWS RELEASE

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### City to host budget focused "eTown Hall" November 23rd

*Residents encouraged to participate*

#### Summary

Nanaimo residents wishing to discuss the City's 2016 budget process can now do so by participating in an upcoming eTown Hall meeting scheduled for November 23rd. The meeting follows the tradition of tabling a topic for discussion between Council members and the public but, unlike conventional town hall meetings, Nanaimo's eTown Hall format enables wider involvement by allowing participants to submit questions via Twitter, Facebook, webform, phone call, as well as in person.

The eTown Hall will commence at 6:00 p.m. during the scheduled Committee of the Whole Meeting. The eTown Hall will run for one hour. If demand is high, an additional 30 minutes will be allocated.

*Strategic Link:* Taking Responsibility to be an excellent municipal government - exploring opportunities for Town Hall Meetings.

#### Key Points

- The November 23rd eTown Hall meeting will focus on the City's annual budget. Residents are encouraged to review available budget information prior to the meeting beginning.
- The City's annual budget process is completed over a period of several months. The November 23rd eTown Hall meeting is being held near the start of the process to ensure comments and questions from residents are identified early.

#### Quotes

"2015 marks the third year in a row that Nanaimo's eTown Hall meeting has been used to discuss the City's budget. As with past events, Council encourages as many residents as possible to participate by using one of the many options available to them."

Bill McKay  
Mayor  
City of Nanaimo

#### Quick Facts

- The City of Nanaimo's eTown Hall meeting format provides greater community involvement by diversifying the methods by which the public can participate... and where they participate.
- To date, the City of Nanaimo has held three eTown Hall meetings. The first meeting, held in March of 2013, was awarded Bronze for Innovation Management by the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC).

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