



Tracy Samra, CAO and City Manager

I am pleased to present an overview of the accomplishments of the City of Nanaimo as we enter the 2018-2022 budget cycle, the final year of this Council's mandate.

Three years ago, our citizens voted for change at the City of Nanaimo, and there have been a number of significant changes in the past several years. Two years ago, I was tasked with overseeing an independent audit and review of City of Nanaimo's operations. Western Management Consultants completed a comprehensive overview of corporate processes, external agencies and departmental services. The Core Services Review Final Report contained more than 70 recommendations, aimed at improving how we do business. We have conducted targeted audits of key central services such as Purchasing & Procurement and Capital Projects Management. The strategic overhaul of these processes will yield considerable cost savings for the City by centralizing and standardizing how we plan, design, build and manage our capital assets. Planned reviews of Fleet Services and Facilities Management will result in even more efficiencies and overall cost savings.

2018 Priorities

- Strategic Capital Project and Initiatives
- Phased Development of the South Downtown Waterfront
- Governance Renewal
- Recreation, Culture, Sports and Tourism
- Public Safety
- Community Wellness

There is a lot of good news to report. Our Chief Financial Officer Report outlined the results of fiscal management measures implemented by the City starting in 2015. We have seen an overall decrease in annual property tax rates as a result of adopting modern financial policies. Notably, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities recognized our efforts with the Community Excellence Award for Best Practices, Excellence in Financial Stewardship at its Annual General Meeting this year.

Other strategic decisions by Council to institute competitive processes for their consideration has resulted in a new service provider for Vancouver Island Conference Centre with reported savings already, and synergies with the tourism and destination marketing sectors. We will see a new hotel built at 100 Gordon Street. Nanaimo Port Authority and Snuneymuxw First Nation have taken the lead on the final stages of a successful process to bring a passenger only ferry between Vancouver and Nanaimo. SFN reported higher attendance at Saysatsun/Newcastle Island after investment by the City in boat access and we are looking forward to supporting initiatives that promote tourism and community access to parks and recreation.

Over the last three years, the City, under the leadership of Council, has delivered on their 2016-2019 priorities.

I am sharing some of them here, from our Updated Strategic Plan.

Strategic Capital Project and Initiatives

- Investment in 1 Port Drive, access routes and master plan
- Beban Park Master Plan in progress
- Multi-year Plan for Waterfront Walkways, construction planned 2018
- Georgia Avenue Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge, construction planned 2018

Phased Development of the South Downtown Waterfront

- Successful completion of a competitive process for a foot passenger ferry service provider
- Design completed for extension of Front Street through 1 Port Drive
- Continued work with stakeholders on 1 Port Drive Master Plan
- Plan to design and construct portions of the Waterfront Walkway now

Governance Renewal

- Completed Core Services Review and commenced implementation of recommendations
- Adoption of new integrated Committee system to advise Council

Recreation, Culture, Sports and Tourism

- Investments in City's sports facilities with purchase of lands and construction of artificial turf at NDSS
- Planned investment in Beban Park Master Plan
- Successful partnering with Tourism Vancouver Island, Nanaimo Hospitality Association and Tourism Advisory Committee to deliver a destination marketing and tourism services
- Partnering with Snuneymuwx First Nation to programming community events and enhancements to Newcastle Island

Public Safety

- Increase to services levels by RCMP, increase of 3 positions
- Investment in new Fire Hall #1
- Public engagement on public safety and community wellness

Community Wellness

- Work started on developing an Affordable Housing Strategy
- Investments in Community Wellness

As you can see, the team at the City of Nanaimo has been extremely busy, implementing recommended changes and introducing new initiatives that will ensure the City stays on a financial course that makes sense for taxpayers,

and at the same time provides important infrastructure and services that will launch Nanaimo forward in a positive fashion for decades to come.