

I attended the Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting on the budget, appreciated the details provided. I understand the challenges of the many priorities and issues, and the fact that many costs are beyond the control of the city.

My recommendation is that you consider using the private sector on some projects and services to take advantage of cost sharing and the expertise / resources that business can contribute. There are certain projects and services that the private sector can provide more cost effectively than the city / provincial./ federal government. While people may say that we need to retain the government to provide " free public services", there is no such thing as " free services", government depends on taxes and user fees paid by the taxpayer, so if it can be done more efficiently by the private sector, or public / private partnerships, then everyone benefits and taxes can be kept within reasonable limits.

I would be happy to have a further conversation,

regards,

Roger Hicks