## Influencing the Budget

The budget is one of the strongest indicators of a city's priorities. 88% of Vancouver's budget comes from residents through taxes, parking permits, and program fees. Whether or not you directly pay property taxes as a homeowner, indirectly as a renter, or work in the city, it's essential that the budget reflects your priorities too.

# Here are a few ways to make your voice heard:



#### **Online**

- Register for <u>Talk Vancouver</u> to receive engagement surveys from the city around budget season. The budget survey is usually available from August to September and asks a series of questions about your priorities for Vancouver's budget
- Sign up for <u>Shape Your City</u>, Vancouver's online engagement platform, to ask questions about the budget and comment on civic issues
- Follow the City of Vancouver on <u>social media</u> (plus each individual councillor!) to stay updated about the budget process

### By Phone or Writing

- <u>Write to city councillors and the mayor</u> using their contact form on the City of Vancouver's website
- <u>Email city councillors directly</u> through the email addresses provided on the City of Vancouver's website, or at budget@vancouver.ca
- Call 3-1-1, the city's general information line, especially during the budget engagement period in the fall to offer your thoughts or concerns

#### In Person

- Attend city council meetings to hear updates on city finances and the budget process
- Register to speak at City Hall and give your opinion on specific issues regarding the budget. You can expect the budget to be presented at a council meeting around November or December
- Connect with community organizations involved in municipal politics to amplify your impact



www.womentransformingcities.org

The work of WTC in Vancouver takes places on the stolen ancestral territories of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam Indian Band), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish Nation), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation). We acknowledge the leadership of Indigenous women for time immemorial, and seek to learn and unlearn our own colonial practices as we work in cities as sites of resistance.