

Want to win $100?

We promise this won't take long!

Read this quick budget edition, fill out the short survey on the back cover (or scan the QR code to fill it out online, and you'll be **entered to win one of THREE $100 gift certificates** to a Creston business of your choice!

The Town of Creston budget affects the things you use every day! Roads, parks, sidewalks, fire services, water, sewer, and so much more. The Town has to make choices about where to spend money, and we want to know what matters most to YOU.

We're planning the 2027 budget, and your feedback will help Council understand what residents want and need. **You don't have to be a numbers person or a budget expert.** Just tell us what you think!

How to Enter

Fill out the quick survey on the back cover and return it to Town Hall by **December 11, 2026**:

Drop box: Street-level drop-box at 10th Ave. entrance.
In person: Box just inside Town Hall's front doors.
Mail: Town Hall, Box 1339, Creston, BC V0B 1G0
Online: Scan the QR code below. Easy peasy!

SCAN TO TAKE THE SURVEY ONLINE!

Let's take a look at last year's survey:

3,457 Surveys were mailed last year

140 Responses were received

Since the survey didn't get much attention, we ran a quick poll on social media to find out what would make more people want to participate. You gave us some great ideas, and we've made a few changes:

- More time to fill it out
- Keep it simple
- Make it quick
- Share the results
- Provide a QR code
- Make it phone friendly

Does your feedback matter?

Absolutely! Your responses are shared with Council for consideration. Last year:

73% **of respondents wanted to keep or expand Town programs and services.**

75% **would pay more, or maintain the current budget, to make that happen.**

Council heard that message and after careful consideration approved a budget increase for 2026 of **4.1%** to keep or expand programs and services.



"The election may be over, but staying involved in your community doesn't stop there. One of the best ways to have your voice heard is by sharing your thoughts on the Town's budget. I encourage everyone to take a few minutes to complete the survey and help us understand what matters most to you as we plan for 2027."
~ Mayor Dumas

What services do we provide?

Running a town takes a lot of people and a lot of different services. Here's a look at what each department does to keep Creston running, safe and growing.



PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Keeping our community safe.

Police, Fire Fescue, Emergency Management

- RCMP and policing
- Fire protection and fire prevention
- Medical first response
- Rescue services
- Emergency planning and disaster response
- Crime prevention and community safety

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Building it, fixing it and keeping it running.

Transportation, Facilities & IT, Public Works

- Road and sidewalk maintenance
- Snow removal and street sweeping
- Drinking water and water treatment
- Sewer systems and wastewater treatment
- Stormwater drainage
- Parks, playgrounds, and trails
- Public spaces and facilities maintenance
- Fleet, vehicles, and equipment
- Construction and infrastructure projects

FINANCE SERVICES

Managing the Town's money responsibly.

Financial services

- Annual budget preparation
- Property tax collection
- Utility billing and payments
- Accounts payable and receivable
- Payroll processing
- Financial reporting and audits
- Long-term financial planning
- Grant and funding administration
- Purchasing and procurement

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Helping Creston grow, develop and thrive.

Planning & Development, Parks, Trails & Sidewalks, Arts, Culture & Economic Investment, Public Safety Compliance

- Community and land-use planning
- Development applications and permits
- Building permits and inspections
- Business licences
- Bylaw enforcement
- Housing initiatives
- Economic development and business support
- Physician recruitment
- Community projects and partnerships
- Long-term community planning

CORPORATE SERVICES

Supporting Council and staff, providing customer service to residents, and keeping the community informed.

Corporate Services

- Council meeting and agenda support
- Municipal elections
- Human resources and recruitment
- Employee benefits and workplace safety
- Town communications and public information
- Website and social media
- Newsletters and public notices
- Records management
- Corporate policies and procedures
- Strategic planning support

Let's Talk about Inflation

43% **of last years survey respondents said they weren't aware of how inflation affects the Town.**

If it feels like everything costs more these days, you're not imagining it. Inflation affects all of us, and the Town of Creston is no exception. While we often notice inflation at the grocery store or gas pump, we can't forget that municipalities are feeling it too when they pay for goods and services. **Inflation doesn't mean we're doing more. Sometimes it simply costs more to do what we already do.**

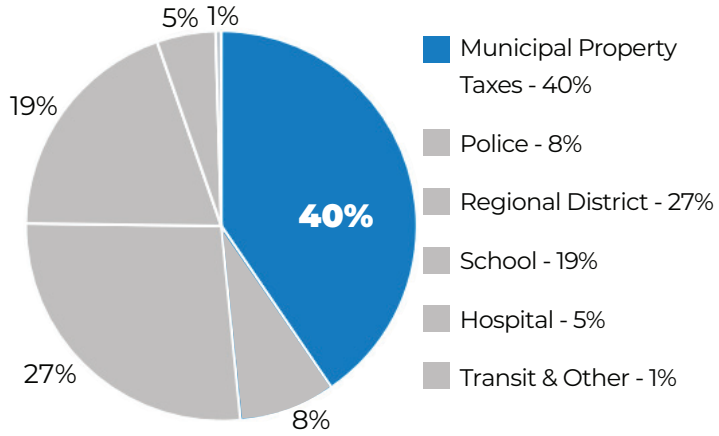
Curious how municipal inflation differs from your household inflation? Scan the QR code below to learn more, and also explore:

- The Town Budget & Five-Year Financial Plan
- The Annual Report & Statement of Financial Information
- Council Meetings, Agendas & Minutes
- Town Plans & Priorities

SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BUDGET

Your property tax bill doesn't all go to the Town!

Like other BC municipalities, Creston collects taxes on behalf of several organizations to fund their services. **In 2026, the Town controlled only 40% of your total property tax bill.** The rest went to other organizations:



CRESTON VALLEY
TOWN of CRESTON

PROPERTY TAX RECEIPT

What the average Creston home pays — and what it buys

AVERAGE HOME VALUE: $437,000

TOTAL ANNUAL BILL

Property tax	$3,861
Frontage tax	$322
TOTAL	**$4,183**

LESS: SENT TO OTHER AGENCIES

Collected by the Town and passed on in full.

Regional District (RDCK)	-$1,004
School	-$748
Hospital & Other	-$210
BCA, MFA & Other	-$17
Total sent to other agencies	-$1,979

MUNICIPAL TAX COLLECTED $1,882 / yr

WHAT YOUR MUNICIPAL TAX BUYS

	MONTHLY
Police	$43.65
Transportation	$23.45
Fire Rescue	$18.00
Facilities & IT	$17.37
Planning & Development	$10.60
Parks	$10.56
Financial Services	$8.49
Trails & Sidewalks	$7.79
Arts, Culture & Economic Investment	$5.60
Corporate Services	$5.22
Public Works	$3.07
Public Safety Compliance	$2.01
Emergency Management	$1.02
Municipal services	**$156.83**

THANK YOU FOR INVESTING IN CRESTON!

TOWN OF CRESTON TXN: 418763 DATE: NOV 13, 2026

Survey

Based on what you have learned from this newsletter...

Are there areas where you think the Town of Creston should be spending LESS? (check as many as you like)

- ☐ Police
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Fire Rescue
- ☐ Facilities & IT
- ☐ Planning & Development Services
- ☐ Parks
- ☐ Financial Services
- ☐ Trails & Sidewalks
- ☐ Arts, Culture & Economic Investment
- ☐ Corporate Services
- ☐ Public Works
- ☐ Public Safety Compliance
- ☐ Emergency Management

If you think the Town should be spending less, what do you hope the Town of Creston would do if it decreased investment in this/these areas?

- ☐ Reduce Services/Taxes
- ☐ Increase other services
- ☐ Pay down debt
- ☐ Save for future
- ☐ Other (please specify)_____

Are there areas where you think the Town of Creston should be spending MORE? (check as many as you like)

- ☐ Police
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Fire Rescue
- ☐ Facilities & IT
- ☐ Planning & Development Services
- ☐ Parks
- ☐ Financial Services
- ☐ Trails & Sidewalks
- ☐ Arts, Culture & Economic Investment
- ☐ Corporate Services
- ☐ Public Works
- ☐ Public Safety Compliance
- ☐ Emergency Management

Now that you've learned about all the services the Town provides, should the Town expand, maintain, or reduce the programs and services that it offers?

☐ Maintain ☐ Expand ☐ Reduce

Each year, the Town of Creston must submit a balanced budget, which is a legislative requirement. The Town must show that it will not spend more money than it is able to bring in. Based on your answer above, the Town has two primary methods of maintaining or increasing levels of service: property taxes and user fees. **Since the Town must balance its budget, how should programs and services be funded?**

- ☐ Increase user fees to expand services
- ☐ Increase user fees to maintain services
- ☐ Increase property taxes to maintain services
- ☐ Increase property taxes to expand services
- ☐ Reduce property taxes and/or user fees to reduce services

Would you support a property tax increase to build a better reserve for asset replacement?

Creston's roads, water pipes, sewer and buildings will all need replacing someday. It costs much more to replace these assets now compared to when they were first installed. How should the town prepare?

- ☐ Save gradually each year in reserves even if that means a small annual tax increase
- ☐ Borrow when replacements are needed and repay with interest
- ☐ Wait and deal with it when assets fail
- ☐ Not sure

If you wish to be entered in to win one of three $100 Gift Certificates to a Creston business of your choice, please provide your name and phone number or email address:

_____ _____

Have more to say? Feel free to include an additional sheet of paper with comments or feedback.