

## City Budget Process 2015 What do you think? Let your Councillor know before Wednesday.



On December 10<sup>th</sup>, City Council will review and vote on the 2015 City Budget Process.

Why is this important? The amount of money allocated for city operations will affect the level of service the City can provide to the community.

**The City Budget Process proposes a 2% cap on property tax increases. Consider these facts and let your Councillor know what you think before they vote on Wednesday.**

**Keeping taxes low is not as good as it sounds.** We can end up paying more out of our own pockets, as the city is more likely to increase user fees (i.e. bus fares, parking tickets, water and sewer rates, recreation, etc) and make changes to services in order to balance the budget.

**Ottawa has a growing population.** Many of us would like to see expanded services to better address the needs of a growing and diversifying population. With a 2% tax cap, there is less possibility of that happening.

**Services will be impacted.** By raising taxes by only 2%, there will be an impact on services and further efforts to migrate services to the least cost options, primarily using the internet. Over half of a 2% tax increase would go to cover salary increases and employee benefit growth, leaving less than half for changes to services and increasing costs with inflation. **What will be the impact on services we rely upon?**

**Funding cities.** Property tax increases need to be kept to a reasonable level, especially as they impact fixed or limited-income homeowners and renters. However, until provincial laws are modified, property taxes are a crucial source of revenue for many important City services. This makes it difficult to have a fixed cap and still be responsive to a changing environment. **Rather than cap taxes, we can ask candidates in the upcoming federal election to provide more funds for cities.**

**Make our votes in the recent municipal election count by letting the new Council know your views.**

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City for All Women Initiative (CAWI)  
Coalition of Community Health and Resource Centres**