



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 26, 2016

RE: Kentville Citizen Budget

PR TOK 007-16

KENTVILLE, NOVA SCOTIA - The Town of Kentville is inviting people to use a new interactive budget simulator to help Town officials understand the priorities of residents and business owners, and to provide feedback on the Town's current service levels. The online tool, called Citizen Budget includes charts, links, and background information to help display the current service levels provided by the Town of Kentville, and to help people through the consultation.

For the purposes of the exercise, the Town of Kentville is allowing participants to submit choices regarding levels of funding they think should be allocated to different areas of the budget. Mayor David Corkum is excited about the new tool saying, "People can let us know how they think we should direct our resources. For example, people can make a choice to maintain, increase, or decrease funding in the areas of fire protection services, economic development or ice and snow removal". Corkum hopes it will act as an educational tool for both participants and Town Council. He says the Town, "hopes it is successful as a means for community engagement".

Participants can submit their choices only if their budget version reflects a deficit or surplus of up to \$150,000. "Budgets have to balance, and when they don't Council can either make cuts, or raise taxes to cover the difference, we wanted people to experience having to make choices that result in a balanced budget" says Corkum. The data collected by the Citizen Budget tool will be tabulated and reviewed by Town Council and staff so that participant priorities are better understood. While participants must provide an email address and postal code to participate, that information will not be shared or made public. People can find the link to Citizen Budget on the Town's website.

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