



TOWN OF GANDER

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Council Brings Down \$17M Budget for 2019**

*(Gander, NL – December 19th, 2018)*

On Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, Finance Chair, Councillor Brian Dove, presented the Town Council of Gander's budget for 2019.

Council's total operational budget for 2019 has matching revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$17,127,039 and a total capital budget of \$17,442,500. Focusing on growth and securing the Town's economic future, Council will continue to strategically invest in infrastructure and programs that support these goals.

To present a balanced budget, the mill rate for residential owners will increase from 6.77 mils to 6.95 mils, while the water and sewer levy will increase from \$410 to \$430. The commercial property mil rate will increase from 6.46 mils to 6.80 mils. Commercial water and sewer tax will be based on a mil rate of 6.80 mils.

"As a Council we are committed to working diligently to ensure that any increases in taxes are minimized and services are maintained. This year's tax increase is reflective of the commencement of the repayment of loans associated with the new wastewater treatment plant and other critical capital projects." – *Councillor Brian Dove, Chair of Finance.*

As part of the budget presentation, Councillor Dove announced Council's intentions to proceed with the construction of two new recreation facilities; an artificial turf soccer field with a surrounding 400m, eight-lane running track and a multi-purpose multi-user complex. The combined capital cost for the project is estimated to be \$24.6M. Council will be allocating up to \$8.2M, contingent on securing additional funds through federal and provincial government partners.

"A balanced recreation program with supporting infrastructure is vital to a growing community such as Gander. Council is focused on enhancing the quality of life of our residents and believes that our recreation plans will do so, while also increasing community pride." – *Councillor Brian Dove, Chair of Finance.*

Additional new spending includes new and carried forward major capital projects and equipment, improvements to the Steele Community Centre, enhanced emergency dispatching, work on a

new Adventure Trail system, visitor experience signage, seniors programming and contractual services.

Full documentation of the 2019 Operating and Capital Budgets and the schedule of tax rates and fees for the coming year will be available at the Town Hall and on the Town's official website at [www.gandercanada.com](http://www.gandercanada.com).

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