



*The City has been reaching out to residents over the past few months and we've received a lot of great questions. We are doing our best to get them answered and each month we are going to highlight a few right here in the newsletter.*

*For plenty more Q&A just like this, visit [ShapeYourCityPenticton.ca](http://ShapeYourCityPenticton.ca)*

## Where do my tax dollars go?

The City introduced the 2017 budget during three days of public deliberations at the end of February. The original draft proposed a 5% tax increase which was reduced down to 4.36% by the end of the deliberations. The effect on residential tax bills will depend on final adjustments to assessed values and the setting of the business tax multiplier. At 2016 rates, this increase would result in the average homeowner paying approximately \$86 more per year in property taxes.

The increase can be broken down to 2.1% for asset management, 1.5 % for inflation and 0.76% for general increases. Asset management refers to funds directed at replacing the City's aging infrastructure and includes increasing the City's Asset Sustainability Reserve to \$1.2 million by the end of 2017. Inflationary increases result mainly from contractual labour obligations

and general increases are a result of increased expenditures to cover the cost of providing city services.

The majority of your tax dollars go towards providing essential protective services – police, fire and bylaw. The next largest piece is allocated to recreation and culture which includes the Community Centre, parks, arenas, museum, library, and the events centre. General Government services eat up another 12% and include City Hall services, municipal grants, facilities, and the Mayor and Council.

Transportation services including road maintenance, public transit, city vehicles and traffic control take up another 10%. Rounding out the top five is Environmental Development services which includes planning and engineering services, economic development, tourism and land management.



Segment	% Property Tax	Cost per capita
Protective Services	41%	\$ 373.00
Recreation & Culture	15%	\$ 140.20
General Government	12%	\$ 114.30
Transportation Services	10%	\$ 92.60
Environmental Development Services	5%	\$ 43.50

Explanatory presentations and details of the 2017-2021 Financial Plan are available at City Hall or online at: [penticton.ca](http://penticton.ca) » departments » billing & finance » Financial Plan – 2017

If you have questions about the budget or would like to see budget Q&A from the public, check out the Financial Plan section of [ShapeYourCityPenticton.ca](http://ShapeYourCityPenticton.ca)

# MEETUS

...who we are

## Who works for the City and what do they do?

*Each month we shed some light on who does what around City Hall as well as the numerous other facilities and operations managed by the City.*

### What is a typical day-in-the-life on the job for you?

In the warmer months we get going at 6:00 a.m. and work in four-person teams. We take care of 170 hanging baskets and 10 flower beds at over 50 sites throughout the city including parks, parking lots, xeriscape and rose gardens, and roundabouts. It's really a team effort to make everything come together, but the irrigation guy who waters everything is by far the most important! In the winter, we start a little later at 7:00 a.m. and I'm mainly pruning shrubs with a co-worker.

### Do you have a horticultural background?

I have a diploma that I received while working with the city and I've always been outside in the garden it seems. I started working in the orchards during the 1980s, and then I leased out an orchard, worked in a nursery, and finally progressed to working for the City.

### What is the most rewarding part of the job?

Making the city more beautiful! I design all of the hanging baskets and flower beds for the City. I really love what I do. It's not just the job but who I am. It's wonderful to see all of the people outside walking around and enjoying the hard work that we do.



**Name:** Danielle Auger

**Position:** Gardener 2

**Start date:** May, 2004

**Primary responsibilities:** Planning and maintaining ornamental horticulture including shrub/flower beds and hanging baskets.

### Is there an aspect of your job that people may not be aware of?

We are very aware on the amount of water we use and we prefer to use drought-resistant varieties rather than bring in plants from other climates that require a lot of care. We also compost and limit our use of pesticides wherever possible.

### Rumour has it that you do something unique with pollinating. Can you explain what that entails?

I put in a pollinating garden in a space at the back of the rose garden near the SS Sicamous last year. I attended a seminar about bees

and pollinating and I thought that I would go for it. I put up a sign explaining how the pollinating worked with the bees and I got lots of really great feedback from everyone! It's something that I will try and do again this year.

### Can you share one great gardening tip for the citizens of Penticton to help with their gardens this season?

Start with your soil... lots of organic matter and compost and keep it aerated. Low maintenance is always a plus. There is so much variety. The best tip I can give is just try things and see what you enjoy!

### Danielle's Top 3 Picks for Penticton Gardeners

**Echinacea (coneflowers)** – perennial, lots of colors and sizes, blooms all summer if you deadhead, drought-tolerant

**Red Salvia** – easy maintenance, tall, flowers into fall

**Grasses** – so many to choose from, easy to care for

## MEET YOUR COUNCIL

### COUNCILLORS

Helena Konanz

Tarik Sayeed

Andre Martin

Judy Sentes

Max Picton

Campbell Watt

MAYOR Andrew Jakubeit

Want to contact your elected officials?

Call 250-490-2400 and you will be connected, or visit [www.penticton.ca/contactcouncil](http://www.penticton.ca/contactcouncil) to send them an email.