



Press Release

TECHNOLOGY HELPS CITY TAKE PULSE OF THE COMMUNITY AT BUDGET TIME

Port Coquitlam, BC – January 19, 2009... With critical financial decisions coming up, the City of Port Coquitlam has successfully tapped into technology once again to find out what taxpayers are thinking.

More than 200 people responded to an online survey that wrapped up today, making it the City's most successful public-input tool to date on financial planning issues. The survey will assist Port Coquitlam Council in its upcoming deliberations on the City's 2009-2013 Financial Plan, which will set out expenditures and revenue for the next five years.

"Council takes public consultation very seriously," Port Coquitlam Mayor Greg Moore said. "We're dedicated to developing new ways to take the pulse of our community on issues that affect them."

Mayor Moore introduced the online survey at the two Financial Plan public input sessions held on Jan. 12 and 13. The Financial Planning Survey was posted on the City's website, www.portcoquitlam.ca, and the City's page on Facebook as well as being distributed to subscribers of the City's free *E-Update* electronic newsletter.

Respondents were asked to rate a wide range of City services, including parks and recreation, waste collection, road and water services, public safety and neighbourhood planning. The survey also asked respondents to identify the most important issue facing the community, and how they would like to see Council balance taxation with the provision of City services.

Detailed results will be available after Council discusses the survey at its Jan. 22 Finance and Intergovernmental Committee meeting, which is open to the public.

"The success of the online survey is encouraging – it shows us first of all that our citizens are open to providing input on City matters, and secondly that online surveys work in Port Coquitlam," Mayor Moore said. "We'll certainly take them seriously whenever we want to collect public input in the future – along with other new avenues such as town hall meetings."

Port Coquitlam citizens who want to ensure they hear about future online surveys can sign up for *E-Update* through links at www.portcoquitlam.ca. All *E-Update* subscribers are automatically informed of public input opportunities, in addition to receiving monthly newsletters and special bulletins in their email inboxes.

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