



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Barrie's budget: Share what's important to you through the Budget Allocator tool
*How would you spend your tax dollars?***

(Barrie, ON) It's budget time at the City of Barrie, which means it's time for taxpayers to share what's important to them through the Budget Allocator tool. The online tool allows residents to test spending options for many City services by increasing or decreasing the budget for each area, all while maintaining a balanced budget.

Like many other municipalities, the City of Barrie is facing significant financial impacts due to the pandemic. Although 2020 was not business as usual, the City continued to deliver essential programs and services throughout the emergency including water, garbage/recycling collection, roads, traffic signals, streetlights, libraries, parks, police and fire services, and snow removal.

The effect of the pandemic will be seen beyond 2020. This year—more than ever—the City needs to take action to ensure financial sustainability for future generations.

"We need to make some tough choices about the year ahead," said Mayor Jeff Lehman. "Every day, residents and businesses rely on us to deliver services, and you can help us with the choices around those services. After all, it is your money, so tell us how you want it spent, and help us chart a course for the future of our City."

The Budget Allocator tool is a simple and easy way for taxpayers to learn about City services, and how budget decisions can impact these services. Residents are encouraged to use the tool to learn more about City services and share what is important to them.

The tool will be open until December 18. Results will be shared with Council during the 2021 Business Plan & Budget deliberations, which will help provide insight into the public's priorities. Subject to Council's discussions, the budget is scheduled to be approved on January 25, 2021.

To share your feedback, visit buildingbarrie.ca.

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