



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, December 18, 2025

Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's Tables 2026 Budget
Strong focus on Affordability and Fiscal Responsibility

Portugal Cove-St. Philip's, NL – The Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's has adopted its 2026 Budget, delivering a balanced and responsible financial plan that prioritizes affordability for residents while continuing to invest in essential services, infrastructure, and long term sustainability.

Presented by Deputy Mayor and Corporate Services Committee Chair, Kim Churchill, the 2026 Budget marks the first budget tabled by the newly elected Council. It follows a detailed financial review, strategic planning with extensive public engagement as affordability emerging as a central theme throughout the process.

“Council carefully examined every aspect of the Town’s financial position, with the goal of easing cost pressure on residents, while still maintaining service levels and planning responsibly for the future” said Deputy Mayor Churchill. “This budget reflects thoughtful choices and a clear commitment to affordability.”

Key Affordability Measures in the 2026 Budget Include:

- **A reduction in the residential and commercial mill rate to 6.6**, providing direct property tax relief to residents across the community.
- **Continuation of the 20 percent property tax reduction for residents receiving the Guaranteed Income Supplement**, supporting seniors and those on fixed incomes.
- **Introduction of a new Low Income Property Tax Reduction Program**, expanding financial support to residents who need it most.
- **Decreases to water and sewer fees**, along with the elimination of connection fees for existing homes within capital project areas, helping remove financial barriers and support responsible growth.

Despite ongoing financial pressures facing municipalities province-wide, Council achieved a balanced budget that remains mindful of household affordability while positioning the Town for the year ahead.

In addition to affordability measures, the 2026 Budget includes continued investment in infrastructure, public safety, environmental stewardship, and community spaces.

Funding is allocated for road improvements, asset renewal, fire protection equipment, trail and park enhancements, and long term planning initiatives such as a water infrastructure study and housing needs assessment.

Council also reaffirmed its commitment to inclusion and accessibility, with continued funding for inclusive summer programming and supports for families.

Residents are encouraged to review the full 2026 Budget package, available on the Town's website, pcsp.ca/budget-2026/

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