

# 2020 CITY COUNCIL SNAPSHOT

## Mayor's Message

Just about a year ago, City Council was putting the final touches on taking back control of CUI, introducing black carts, finding improved ways to encourage development and cutting utility rates. We are so proud of those achievements and we were eager to build on those successes in 2020.

Then COVID-19 became a reality and our city, country and the world had to adjust. Faced with this challenge, our staff and our city responded with courage, tenacity and care. To each and every one of you, we thank you for helping to stop the spread of this virus. I am particularly proud of the response by our Emergency Command Centre (ECC) as well as the staff who found ways to continue to offer municipal services in new, virtual ways.



Mayor Marshall Chalmers

As I write this, we still have active cases in our community, and the threat of a second wave of COVID-19 has not passed. Yet we are not afraid and we are not idle. We will continue to find new ways to serve and connect, we will be vigilant in protecting our community, and we will continue building an amazing Chestermere within this new reality. In the rest of this document, you will find a summary of ways in which we are doing that.

We thank you for your patience and for your partnership as we all navigate a 'new normal'. I am confident that together, we will emerge from this pandemic stronger and safer.

Mayor Marshall Chalmers

## 2020 NEWS, PROJECTS & SERVICES



### PARENT & CAREGIVER SUPPORT

This spring, Chestermere introduced the Parent & Caregiver Support Services (PCSS), a new program which is part of the provincial Family Resource Networks.

This team provides a range of free, community-based resources, services, and learning opportunities, specifically designed to support parents and caregivers with children ages 0-13.

[chestermere.ca/pcss](http://chestermere.ca/pcss)



### GRAND SLAM OF CURLING

While it has to be postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Chestermere is excited to host the BOOST National as part of the Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling series.

"We look forward to hosting the event in 2021 and we appreciate the confidence that sponsors and event organizers have shown in our community," says Mayor Chalmers.

[chestermere.ca/curling](http://chestermere.ca/curling)



### FUTURE PLANNING

New developments are beginning on Chestermere's western borders and with that growth, Council recognizes that our community has some significant requirements that need to be addressed.

Planning is currently underway to determine when and how to upgrade Chestermere Boulevard, integrate transit options, create an amazing border with Calgary and build new cultural and recreation spaces. Watch for more details in the second half of 2020.

[chestermere.ca/growth](http://chestermere.ca/growth)



### COUNCIL CUTS TAXES AGAIN

Last winter, City Council passed a 2% tax cut as part of the 2020 budget. The decision made at the Dec 3, 2019, Council meeting means that residents will receive a municipal tax cut for the second year in a row.

[chestermere.ca/taxes](http://chestermere.ca/taxes)



### PROGRESS ON SENIOR SERVICES

After a year of investigation, research and consultation, the Chestermere Seniors Task Force presented their recommendations to City Council in January.

The report identified recommendations for City Council to consider to support seniors and progress is underway to determine action plans. Applications for members of Council's Seniors Advisory Committee are currently being accepted.

[chestermere.ca/seniors](http://chestermere.ca/seniors)



### DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

In June, Council made a statement to address Black community members, families, and individuals of all ethnic backgrounds who have been the direct target of systemic racism. Over the summer, the City is sharing resources and invites residents to participate in community webinars and connect with diversity staff to learn more and help end the cycle of racism.

[chestermere.ca/diversity](http://chestermere.ca/diversity)

# COVID-19 IN CHESTERMERE

**We need to remember that being safe while relaunching our economy can save lives. The virus is still with us and we must do everything we can to prevent the spread at home, when we are out and when we are at work.**

- Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health for Alberta

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the provincial health response is led by the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Alberta Health Services, and the local response is coordinated by the Chestermere Emergency Management Agency (CHEMA) and its Director of Emergency Management (and Chief Administrative Officer), Bernie Morton.

For more than 100 days, the CHEMA team operated the Emergency Command Centre (ECC) to review statistics, design local orders to keep the community safe, liaise with local businesses and organizations, and plan next steps.

Due to stable numbers, local orders have been rescinded and the ECC has closed (as of this printing) but City staff continue to watch local case numbers carefully and can reactivate the ECC at any time. All residents are asked to help stop the spread by staying home when sick, practicing good hand hygiene, wearing a mask in busy public places, and practicing physical distancing.

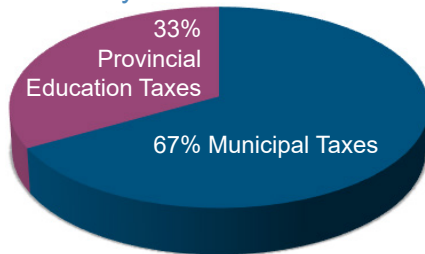
For more information, visit [chestermere.ca/covid19](http://chestermere.ca/covid19).



Faith & cultural leaders bless the ECC at the beginning of the pandemic response.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

### Components of your tax bill



**67% Municipal Taxes:** Municipal taxes are used to pay for policing, fire protection, road maintenance, infrastructure maintenance, community and social services, recreation, and parks.

*2020 change: The municipal tax requirement is decreasing by 2%. The decrease, combined with assessment changes, means that a property assessed at \$500,000 can expect to pay \$120 less in municipal taxes this year.*

**33% Provincial Education Tax:** The City of Chestermere is required by legislation to bill and collect school taxes on behalf of the provincial government. Upon receipt, the City immediately forwards the education taxes directly to the Province.

*2020 change: The provincial education tax requirement is increasing by 1%. A property assessed at \$500,000 can expect to pay \$10 more in education taxes this year.*

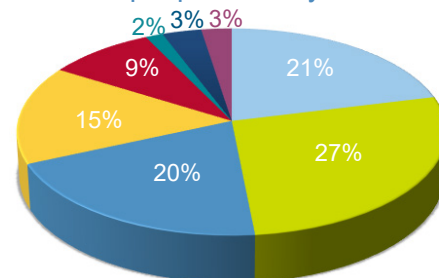
### Looking for more financial information?

Chestermere Financial Statements: [chestermere.ca/financials](http://chestermere.ca/financials)

Chestermere Budget Presentations: [chestermere.ca/budget](http://chestermere.ca/budget)

*Note: The WID service fee has been incorporated into the municipal tax requirement as it applies to all properties.*

### How the municipal portion of your taxes is spent



**21% Roads & Infrastructure:** Roads crews clear snow in the winter, sweep the sand in the spring and repair potholes throughout the year. This category also includes vehicle and asset maintenance.

**27% Protective Services:** When you need help in an emergency, the RCMP and Fire Department are available to you 24 hours a day and are supported by Peace Officers and Emergency Management.

**20% Corporate Services:** These funds go towards community festivals, legislative services, communications, and administrative requirements such as human resources, finance, reception and IT.

**15% Parks & Recreation:** Whether you are taking a walk on the City's pathways, enjoying a day at the beach, or trying new jumps at the Bike Park, the Parks & Recreation team make our community a clean and vibrant place to live.

**9% Planning & Development Services:** Planning, engineering, permitting and safety code services ensure our growth and development is well coordinated and sustainable for years to come.

**2% General:** Funds are set aside to provide stabilization for operations, savings for major multi-year future projects (such as infrastructure and recreation), and fees for banking and investments.

**3% Community & Social Development:** This team ensures that our community is a welcoming and healthy place for all ages. They provide Parent & Caregiver Support Services, support for families through the Community Resource Centre, the facilitation of programs for adults & seniors and support for community initiatives.

**3% Council & Mayor:** This covers Council's salaries and expenses.

**NEED MORE?** This document is just a snapshot of the amazing things happening around our community. If you are interested in learning more, visit [chestermere.ca](http://chestermere.ca) or follow us on social media.