



**Corporate Services Department**

**Memorandum**

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**TO:** Krista Power, Director – Legislative Services & City Clerk **FILE:**

**FROM:** Kristyn Lovato-Day, Policy & Research Analyst  
Corporate Services

**DATE:** 11/27/2025 (mm/dd/yyyy)

**SUBJECT:** Results of the Proposed 2026-2027 Capital Budget Survey

**MEETING & DATE:** City Council - 12/02/2025 (mm/dd/yyyy)

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The Proposed 2026-2027 Capital Budget was presented at Committee of the Whole - Budget meeting held on November 24, 2025, and was made public on the City’s website on November 18, 2025, as part of the meeting agenda. Pursuant to Corporate Report 216-2025-Corporate Services-Finance– 2026 Budget Direction and Calendar, approved on August 11, 2025, Administration distributed a survey to gather public feedback on the new two-year format, further changes to the layout, high-level opinions of the capital budget as proposed, and where significant changes should be made.

The survey received 27 responses on the Get Involved electronic platform. No surveys were submitted on paper. The Get Involved platform expects an average response rate of one completed survey in every ten visits; the Proposed 2026-2027 Capital Budget Survey had 87 visits, and 27 submissions, for a rate of 3.1 surveys completed for every ten visits to the platform.

The survey was advertised on the City of Thunder Bay website home page and Budget page, on The Minutes Podcast, in media interviews, through the Get Involved platform, on social media channels, through a media release, and at Thunder Bay Talks on October 22, 2025. Despite these efforts, there was a marked decrease in participation compared to the 2025 Capital Budget Survey, where 93 responses were received. Administration will continue to explore other avenues to increase engagement with the public to gather feedback from the public.

It should be noted that this survey was not a random sample, and the response was not large enough to be representative of the entire population of the City of Thunder Bay,

therefore it is not considered statistically significant. However, the survey responses still provide valuable feedback from residents that should be considered.

The attached report is being presented for information to assist in the Capital Budget discussions.

Of note, the survey identified that the reaction to the present year's changes in the Capital Budget Document has been largely neutral. As there were too few comments in the free-text questions, there were no major themes of note.

A respondent mentioned that they would like to see debentures shown with a repayment schedule; this information is included in the operating budget appendices and Administration will review the presentation of this information.

Although the survey is not a representative sample, survey questions about the clarity of the process and public understanding of the budget process are an important metric that Administration can use going forward to gauge how changes to the budget presentation impacts public opinion.

## Attachments

Attachment A – Proposed 2026-2027 Capital Budget Survey Results