



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

*For Immediate release*

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### **City initiatives engage public in forward-thinking**

The St. John's Board of Trade welcomes the City of St. John's actions to get residents and organizations more involved in the City's budget and planning processes. To make the processes a success, the Board is calling on its members, others in the business community, and members of the public to get involved in all public stages.

"Opening up decision-making in this way is a strong move by Council," said Board Chair Bruce Templeton. "Working together with information, open communications and a drive for an even better city, we make a stronger St. John's for the future."

Council approved a process that would increase public knowledge about the City's budget and provide a way for people to tell the City about their priorities. Council also approved a process for getting citizens involved in setting City priorities through updates to the municipal plan.

"Having people more aware of how budgets are created is essential to good government and good citizenry," said Mr. Templeton. "Actions that lead to more understanding of both sides of the financial equation, and what the balance is between service delivery and cost to taxpayers is excellent news. Getting the community involved in the direction that Council will take on its behalf is also to be applauded. A plan that involves people will motivate us all to work together to make St. John's an even better place to live, work and play."

The Board is encouraged by both of these positive steps forward and encourages these actions by the City. In its on-going discussions with the City, the Board has noted its desire to be involved in enhanced budget consultations, and visioning and planning activities. The Board also strongly encourages participation by all people and organizations interested in the future of St. John's.

The St. John's Board of Trade is a non-partisan, business advocacy organization that is the principal voice of business for over 700 members in the St. John's area. Its mission is to improve the local business climate, enhancing its members' ability to do business through advocacy and member services.

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