



St. John's
BOARD of TRADE

Leading Business Forward

City of St. John's Finance Committee

October 28, 2009



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Agenda

- Introduction & Environment
- Business-City prosperity
- Advocacy
 - Mil rates
 - Provincial pre-Budget collaboration
 - Vision & Plan
 - City Budget process
- Work together



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Introduction

- Represent 750+ local businesses & 30,000+ people
- 40 years of cross-sectoral representation
- A 'solution' organization

Role of the Board

- Strengthen the business climate
- Enhance members' ability to do business
 - *advocacy*
 - *access to opportunities*



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Context & Environment

- Economic recovery on-going
- Infrastructure deficit/rising spending
- Assessment increases
- NEAR Plan/update to St. John's municipal plan



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Vibrant Business, Vibrant City

- Wealth & job generation
- Broader, more resilient tax base
- Contributes expertise
- Drives progress
- Knowledge creation
 - sustainable industries
 - national & global competitiveness



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Mil Rates



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- Substantial rise in assessed values
 - Residential & Non-Residential
- City under cost pressures to maintain service level
- Fairness necessary for competitiveness
 - Stay tax competitive

Reduce res & non-res mil rates proportionately



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Provincial Support



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- Board has access & open invite
- Pre-Budget strategizing now
- Work together on shared goals & ideas
 - PILT

Work with us in our pre-Budget submission



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Visioning & Planning



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- A great collective vision & plan
 - via a great process
 - meaningful public input
 - regional & City-specific
- Sustainable priorities; room for all ideas
- Process bigger than political lifecycle

Vision & Plan – a responsibility to the next generation



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City Budget Process



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- Continue to enhance public knowledge
- Budget information sessions
- Encourage a pre-Budget submission process
 - How can we help?
- Budget speech
- Publish quarterly financial statements



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Looking Forward

- Board is available & engaged
- Board will be active in visioning & planning
- Stronger relationship, stronger city

The Board and City are partners for a better St. John's