



BUDGET 2026

Mayor Richards, fellow Councilors and residents in the gallery,

Tonight, as the Deputy Mayor and chair of the Finance Committee, I am pleased to deliver Budget 2026 for the beautiful town of Pouch Cove.

2025 in Review

Before presentation of the 2026 budget, I would like to take the time to reflect on what we accomplished in 2025. To do so, I would like to thank the members of the previous council who served the Town from 2021 to 2025. As a council we were able to begin construction of the Multi-Purpose Court and look forward to completion and grand opening in 2026. We conducted a comprehensive review of our water treatment plant and related operations and were able to make improvements to our water and sewer infrastructure and position the current council for more improvement this coming year. Additionally, we continued to make repairs and improvements to our roads.

Budget 2026

After many hours of careful thought, debate, and consideration, we are pleased to deliver Budget 2026. I am proud of all our accomplishments to date and look forward to what 2026 has in store.

We would like to thank every resident in Pouch Cove for continuing to work together and showing their true strength in keeping our community a safe place, to live, work and raise a family.

Budget 2026 is balanced at \$3,132,681.05

All areas of Town operation were tasked with finding efficiencies and operating with a lower budget in 2025. Due to the hard work of staff and the commitment to finding savings within operations Council is pleased to maintain the Mill Rate at 6.25. Additionally, water/sewer fees will remain the same for 2026. Council will continue to offer the 12-month interest free payment plan for taxes, in addition to the 20% tax reduction for those in receipt of the Guaranteed Income

Supplement. The tax reductions will apply to primary residence only. Residents are encouraged to contact the Town Hall for more information regarding the application process to determine and confirm your eligibility.

General Government

The General Government Budget has been set this year at \$1,195,346.55, a reduction of \$217,477.62. This budget includes all salaries, benefits and payroll expenses for the office staff. Also included in this division are all expenses related to legal, insurance, property assessments, engineering, IT and other general expenses for the operation of the Town.

Protective Services

The Town of Pouch Cove is proud of its outstanding Volunteer Fire Department, which provides not only fire protection and firefighting services, but also responds to motor vehicle accidents, medical calls and high angle rope rescue. These exemplary services come at a high price, and this year Council is making an investment of \$237,885.23 toward the continued operation of the Pouch Cove Volunteer Fire Department.

To maintain this level of service the Council will be implementing a Fire Protection Fee of \$250 per household or business effective January 1, 2026.

Transportation Services

The Town of Pouch Cove has increased the budget for Transportation Services by an additional \$177,000 over the 2025 calendar year. For 2026, the Town has budgeted \$397,000, for Transportation Services. This reflects the cost of snow removal, road work, street lighting and salaries of public works staff related to these duties.

Environmental Health

The Town of Pouch Cove is maintaining the water and sewer fees at current levels and is committing to investing 100% of all water and sewer fees to the appropriate areas. This will result in more than doubling the 2025 Environmental Health budget. In 2026 the Council is setting aside \$829,150 for environmental health.

This budget will enable us to continue to offer garbage and waste collection and disposal, which costs the Town \$225,000 annually.

All Towns in Canada are obligated to have a Wastewater Treatment Facility by 2040. In 2025 the Town of Pouch Cove received its transitional authorization and began the process of complying with this federal legislation. This sizable budgetary investment will allow the Council to establish a Wastewater Treatment Plant fund with an initial investment of \$30,000 in 2026. Furthermore, the Council will take on the improvements needed in its lift station to maintain the current quality of service while we continue our efforts towards 2040.

The Council will make continued improvements in its water treatment plant and pumphouse in 2026. The Town will continue with the appropriate repairs to water leaks throughout the town, and we are counting on our qualified and dedicated public works staff to continue with this process.

Planning and Development

We are pleased to maintain the \$23,500 in Community Improvement and Development allocated for community projects which are to be determined throughout this budget year.

Recreation and Cultural Services

Council will be dedicating \$208,610.70 to its recreation and cultural services division in 2026. This will permit Summer Recreation Camp to take place again in 2026 which allows the opportunity for youth to gain employment as well as a service for children to take part in recreation programs which build social skills and healthy living. The Town will finalize construction of a new multipurpose asphalt court which will provide an opportunity to engage in various sports. The Town will continue to offer a variety of community based events ranging from SnowFest to Canada Day to Christmas in the Cove.

Capital Works Priorities

To maintain and build upon our current municipal services, the Capital Works priorities continue to be established and completed as resources allow, it is important to note that these projects are all partially funded by the Town. The priorities in 2026 are to complete the Multipurpose Court and upgrade the Water Treatment Plant. The Asset Management process will continue as well as the Stormwater Control Campaign, which identifies problem-flood areas within the town. Lift Station Upgrades, Pumphouse Upgrades and the Wastewater Feasibility Study Update are also on the list of priorities.

Council, the town has made excellent progress in fulfilling our vision as a “Community Built for Everyone.”

Budget 2026 continues to maintain and strengthen our core values to:

1. Provide great municipal services with a focus on best practices and cost efficiency.
2. Promote, support, and attract the continued growth and expansion of residential and business development.
3. Champion a rich and respectful culture of positive citizen engagement, community pride, and volunteer spirit.

Motions for Adoption

I ask my fellow councilors for their support as I present the required motions for the adoption of Budget 2026:

1. Be it so resolved that the Council of the Town of Pouch Cove in accordance with section 84 of The Towns and Local Service Districts Act, adopt the 2026 budget with operating revenues and expenditures totaling \$3,132,681.05; and
2. Be it so resolved that the Council of the Town of Pouch Cove adopt the 2026 Fee Structure and Tax rates as Submitted.