



Vaudreuil-Dorion

**PRESS RELEASE**

*L'avenir est ICI*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **A budget of 81.5 million for the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion**

**Vaudreuil-Dorion, December 10, 2018** – During a special meeting, the Municipal Council of the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion, accompanied by City Manager Martin Houde along with Treasurer and Director of Finance and Treasury, Marco Pilon, presented the 2019 budget of \$81.5 million, with an average 1.9% increase in residential property tax rates.

### **Budgetary context**

The 2019 budget represents an 8.1% increase attributable in part to the operating costs of the new filtration and water treatment plants, the implementation of First Responders and 24/7 watch, repairing of the indoor pool in collaboration with the Commission scolaire des Trois-Lacs and the project aimed at revamping the Harwood sector (landscaping, tree planting, creation of rest areas). It is important to note that the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's irreducible expenditures for 2019 amount to over 73 million dollars (operating costs, shares, waste collection and disposal, snow removal contracts, debt repayment, etc.) and that these represent 89% of total expenses.

Moreover, the 2019–2020–2021 triennial assessment roll will be in effect starting January 1, 2019. Assessed values are up by 6.7% compared to the roll in effect in 2018. Tax rates were adjusted downwards to compensate for the increase in property values. Residential property taxes will increase from \$0.6069 to \$0.6186 per \$100 of the municipal evaluation amount. For example, for a residence valued at \$324,400 (average residential assessment), homeowners will see a \$37 rise in their property taxes for 2019. Water taxes will remain at \$275.

“The City's revenues increased again this year, which is excellent news for our financial vitality. A city the size of Vaudreuil-Dorion must continually enhance the level of services offered to its residents. In our case, this is especially true with regards to the reorganization of the Fire Department, which began in 2018 with the arrival of permanent full-time firefighters and the implementation of the First Responder services. As a result of these new services, Firehouse 11, located on Lotbinière Road, will be renovated. We will also increase our municipal patrol's budget with a view to ensuring heightened surveillance throughout our territory. Our park and green spaces management plan will be adopted in 2019 and will become the main reference tool for park redevelopment over the next few years. We are also currently in a planning phase that extends beyond our parks and green spaces and tackles the City overall. The Municipal Council and Executive Committee of the City plan to undertake a strategic planning process in an effort to set specific objectives and draw up a plan to ensure that said objectives are met. This process will include several public consultations and surveys to help us define a shared vision of what we want for Vaudreuil-Dorion,” stated Mayor Guy Pilon.

Despite the increase in the City's budget, property taxes remain reasonable and the impact on citizens is relatively the same as the Consumer Price Index—which, on October 31, 2018, stood at 1.8%. “Again this year, we have rigorously analyzed our projects in order to keep our tax rate as low as possible. I say it every year, but it is always worth repeating: Vaudreuil-Dorion's citizens benefit from an extremely wide range of services and enjoy recreational and cultural activities that are the envy of many other cities, not to mention the fact that they also have one of the lowest tax rates in the region,” added the Mayor.

It should be emphasized that the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's general property taxes include all services such as household waste collection, recycling, Sûreté du Québec services and different shares.

### **Upcoming projects**

In 2019, the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion will continue to invest in its infrastructures and in projects aimed at improving the quality of life of its citizens. “We will pursue the implementation of new bike paths and pedestrian connections. In fact, we will be adding a pedestrian tunnel that connects Des Muguets street (near Cité-des-Jeunes high school) to Des Asters Street as well as a footbridge that connects Émile-Bouchard Street to the Floralties sector through Des Nénuphars Street. The work aimed at extending the water supply network and thereby connecting the sectors serviced by the Hudson Acres/Tree Farms and Ritchie wells to the filtration plant will begin in January. We also plan to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Vaudreuil/Dorion merger; in fact, an organizing committee was created specifically for this purpose in 2018. Things will also be quite busy on the cultural front, with the City hosting the Les Arts et la Ville symposium—an event that brings together over 300 participants from Canada's Francophonie—and, of course, the project aimed at revamping the water tower in the Dorion sector. Lastly, we plan to launch an architectural contest for the City Hall and Municipal Library,” added Mayor Guy Pilon.

As was the case in previous years, the Municipal Council will allocate a significant amount to provide assistance to the organizations and citizens of Vaudreuil-Dorion. Over one million dollars has been earmarked for this purpose.

Details on the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's 2019 budget are available on the City's Web site under The City / Municipal Administration / Budget and Financial Documents.