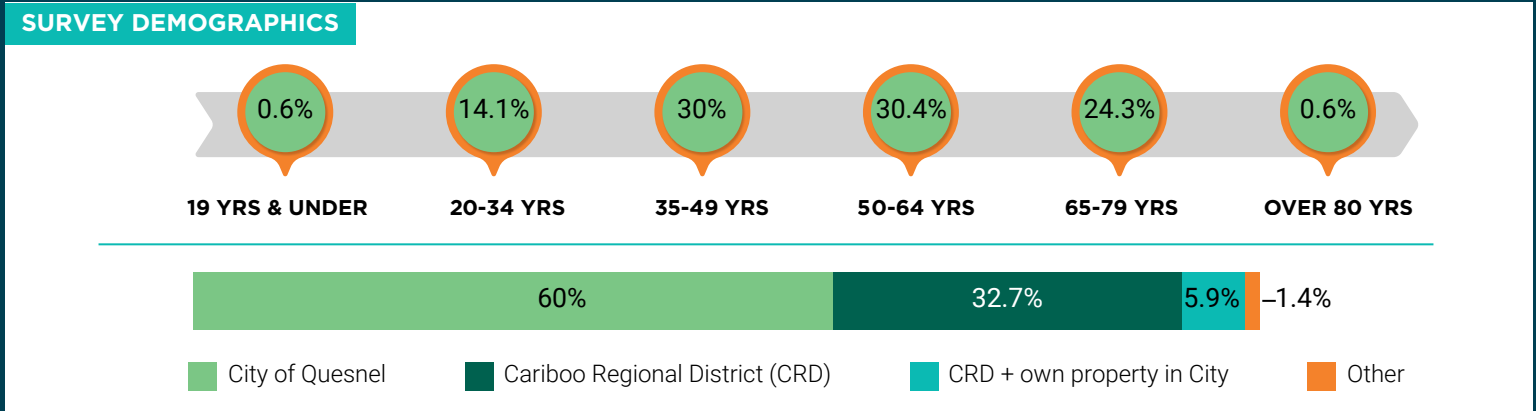


# 2026 BUDGET CONSULTATION

The 2026 budget survey is our main source of community engagement regarding the City budget. The survey was accessible online or by paper at City Hall from January 9-23, 2026.



### PARTICIPANTS

**510**  
vs 190 participants in 2025



## How residents say the City can save money and work more efficiently.

211 comments were received and grouped by topic to understand common suggestions. Percentages reflect the share of respondents who mentioned each theme. Many comments raised multiple issues.



**26.5%**

### Homelessness, drugs & public safety

Common ideas: reduce spending on shelters/harm reduction; stronger bylaw/RCMP presence; or shift some policing costs to mental-health/crisis response services.



**23.7%**

### Roads, snow, bridges & core infrastructure

Common ideas: right-size snow clearing; fix potholes and line painting; prioritize bridge repairs; invest in aging water/sewer and asset management; improve scheduling and value for money.



**19.9%**

### Cut back on flowers & non-essential beautification

Common ideas: reduce annual flower program/watering; plant hardy perennials/grass; scale back decorative crosswalks/events; avoid "nice-to-have" projects (e.g., Gold Pan, certain park refreshes) in tight times.



**11.4%**

### Management, wages & staffing efficiency

Common ideas: reduce spending on shelters/harm reduction; stronger bylaw/RCMP presence; or shift some policing costs to mental-health/crisis response services.



**7.6%**

### Permits, development, housing & taxes

Common ideas: streamline permits/reduce red tape; encourage infill and business; consider tools like higher taxes for long-vacant buildings; enable growth that expands the tax base.



**6.2%**

### Fleet/equipment & operational productivity

Common ideas: extend life of vehicles/equipment; rebuild instead of replace; limit idling; optimize usage scheduling; avoid buying "too new, too often."