

2023 Budget Consultation Public Engagement Summary

Public engagement period: **February 28, 2023 to March 19, 2023**

Public engagement participation from engage.portmoody.ca/

- **377 engaged participants** contributed to one or more feedback tools
- **686 informed participants** visited multiple project pages, contributed to a tool, or downloaded documents
- **1,000 aware visitors** viewed this project page

Who did we hear from?

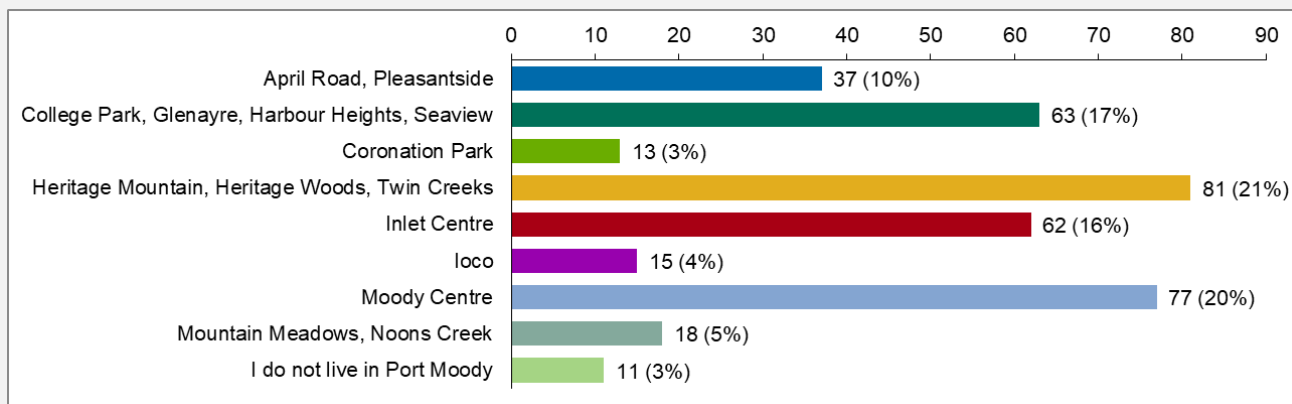
Age

19-34	11%
35-44	22%
45-54	22%
55-64	20%
65+	25%

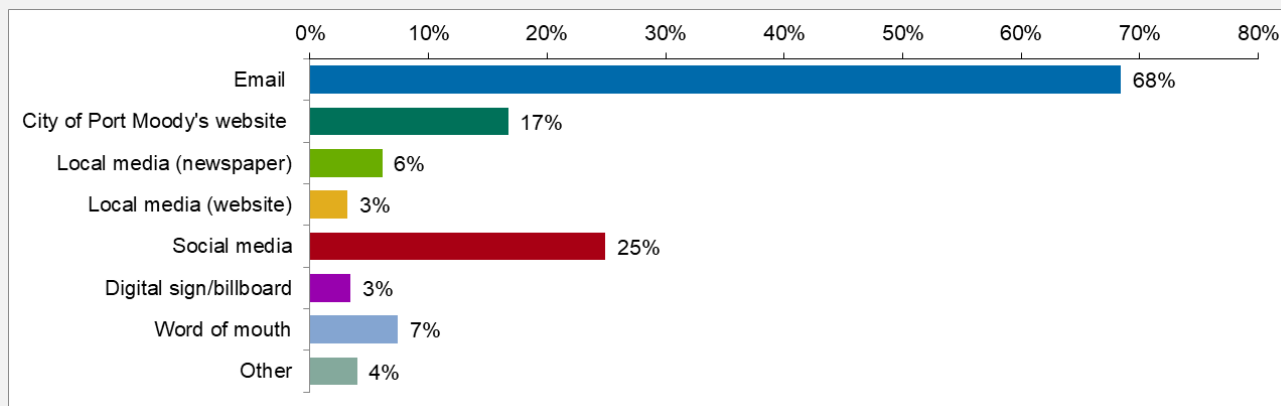
92% of respondents are Port Moody residents

8% of respondents own a business in Port Moody

Which Port Moody neighbourhood do you live in?



How did you hear about the 2023 budget consultation?

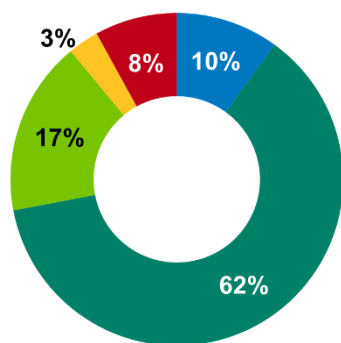


Key Findings: what we heard

- 72% of survey respondents indicated that they received good (62%) or excellent (10%) value in relation to the taxes and utility fees that they pay.
- 45% of survey respondents wanted to maintain current service levels through a tax increase.
- 28% of respondents wanted to keep tax rate the same as last year through reduced services levels; in contrast, 14% wanted enhanced service levels through a larger tax increase.
- 56% of respondents said to leave subsidies and user fees they way they are (no change), while 25% wanted decreased subsidies so users pay more than they do now, while 8% wanted to increase subsidies so users pay less than they do now.

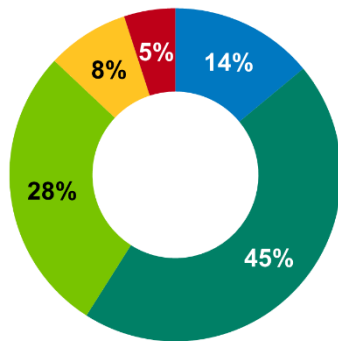
Survey Results (n=377): February 28, 2023 to March 19, 2023

Section 1. Survey respondents were asked to rate the overall value of City services, programs, and facilities in relation to the taxes and utility fees that they pay.



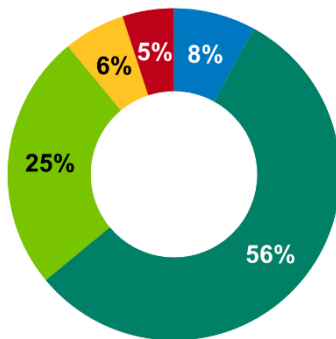
38	said they received excellent value
233	said they received good value
64	said they received poor value
10	said they received very poor value
32	were not sure

Section 2. Survey respondents were asked how Council should balance service levels and tax rates in 2023.



53	said enhance service levels by collecting a larger dollar amount
170	said maintain current service levels by collecting the proposed dollar amount for 2023
107	said reduce service levels to keep the tax rate the same as in 2022
29	said further reduce service levels to make the tax rate lower than in 2022
18	were not sure






Section 3. Survey respondents were asked how Council should subsidize City programs in 2023.



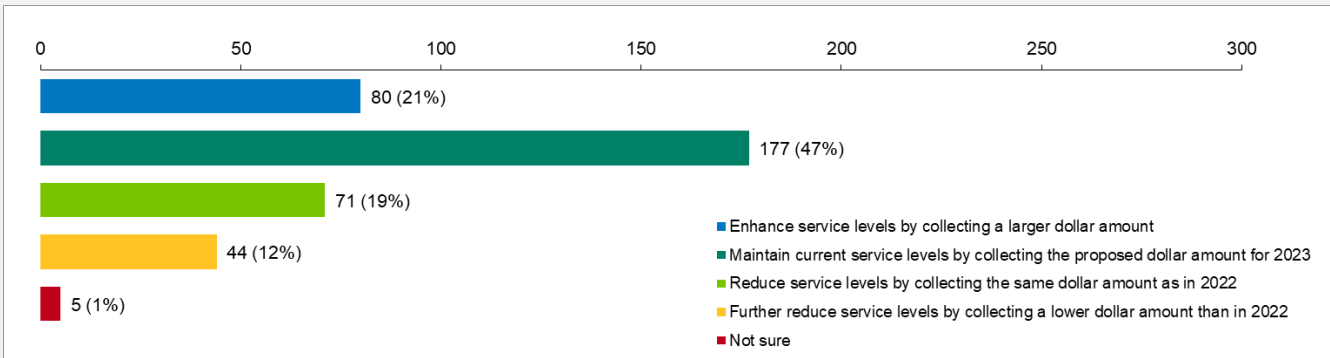
31	said increase subsidies so users pay less than they do now
213	said leave subsidies and user fees the way they are (no change)
96	said decrease subsidies so users pay more than they do now
23	said remove subsidies entirely so users pay the full cost
14	were not sure

Section 4. Survey respondents were asked a series of questions about how Council should balance service levels and tax rates for specific service areas.

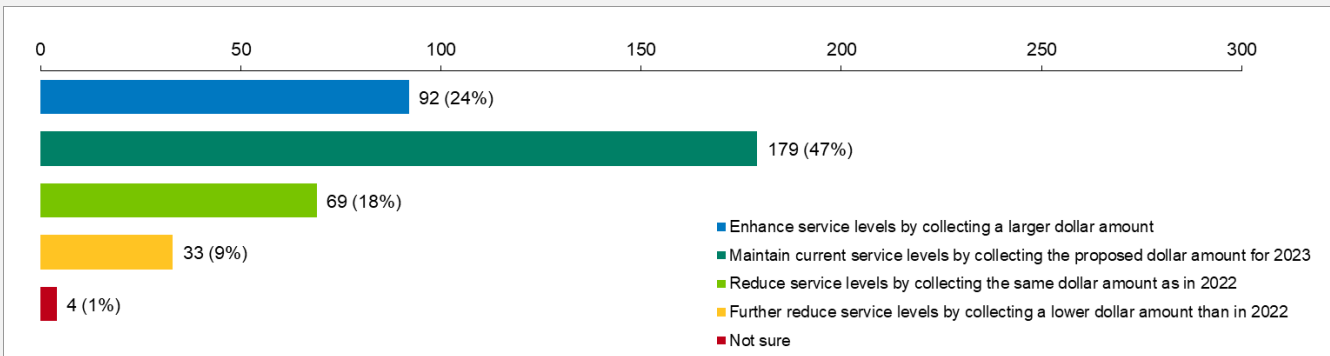
Dollar figures (based on the average residential property) were included for the proposed 2023 budget and for the approved 2022 budget. Response options included:

-  Enhance service levels by collecting a larger dollar amount
-  Maintain current service levels by collecting the proposed dollar amount for 2023
-  Reduce service levels to keep the tax rate the same as in 2022
-  Further reduce service levels to make the tax rate lower than in 2022
-  Not sure

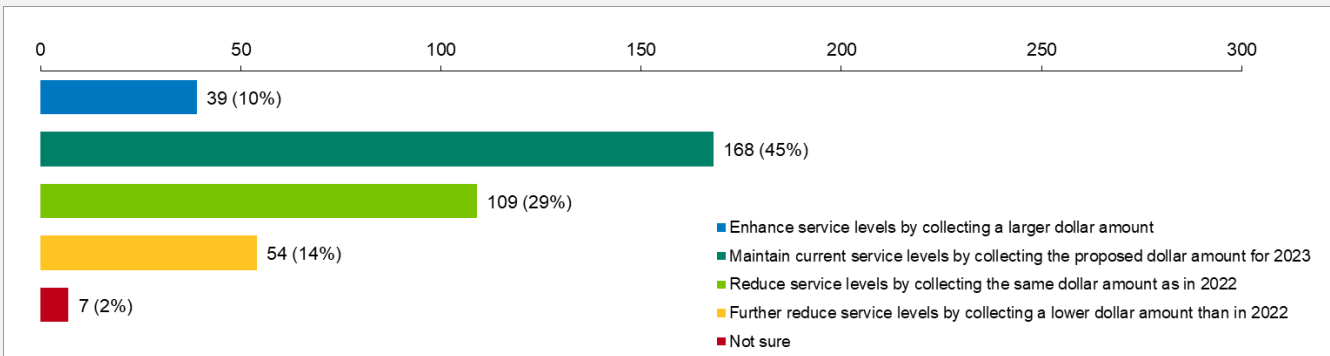
Service area – natural environment



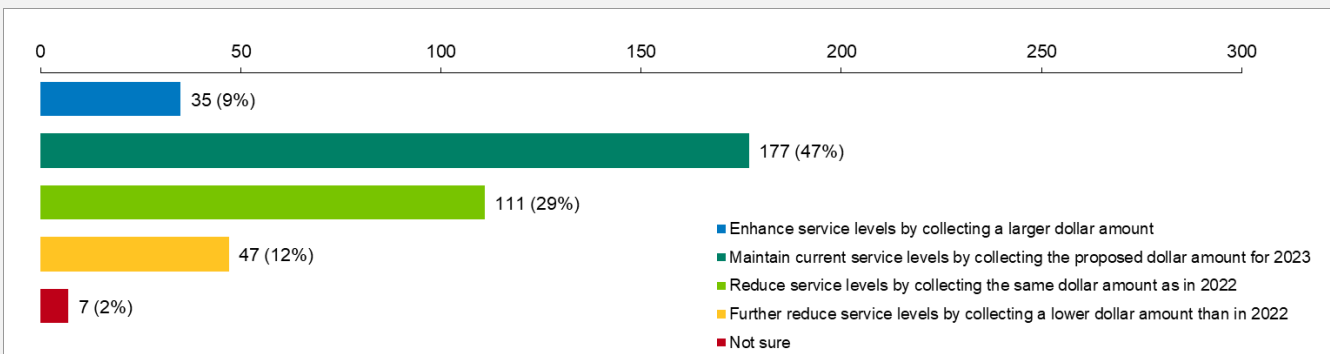
Service area – parks, trails, sports fields, and green spaces



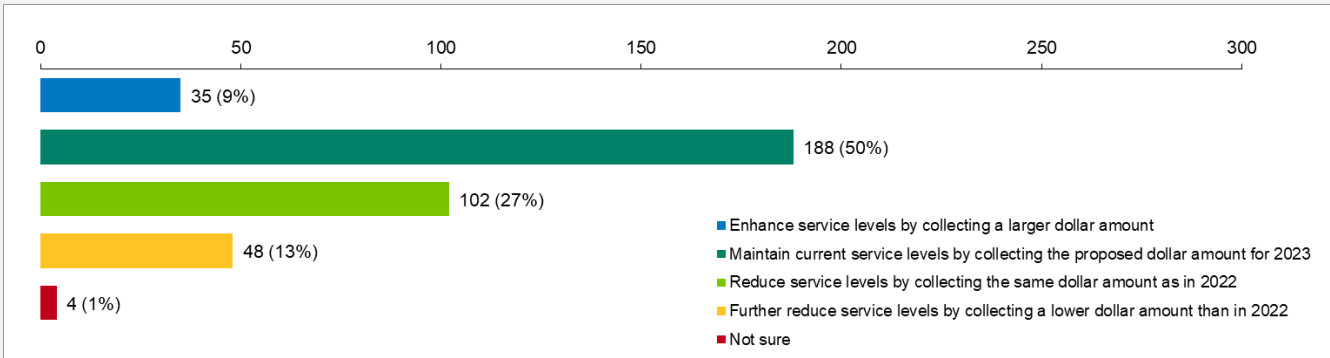
Service area – planning and development services



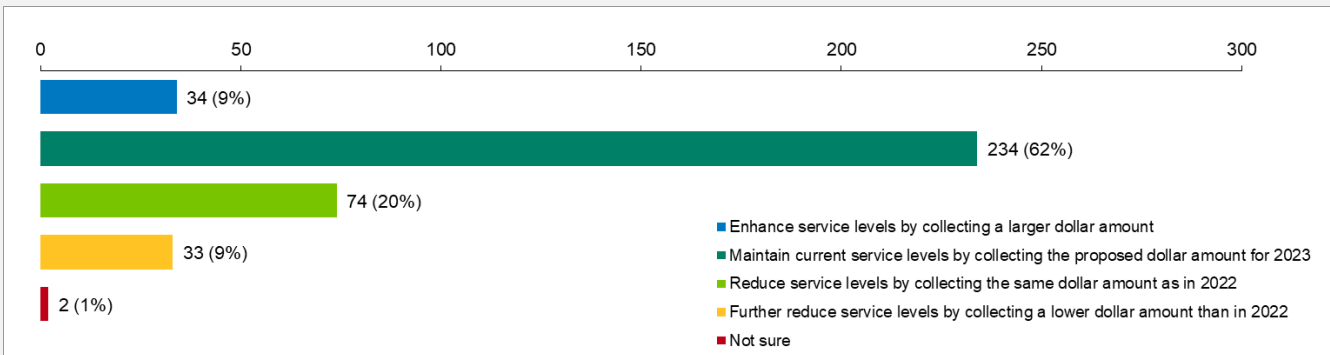
Service area – building permits and inspections, licensing, and bylaw enforcement



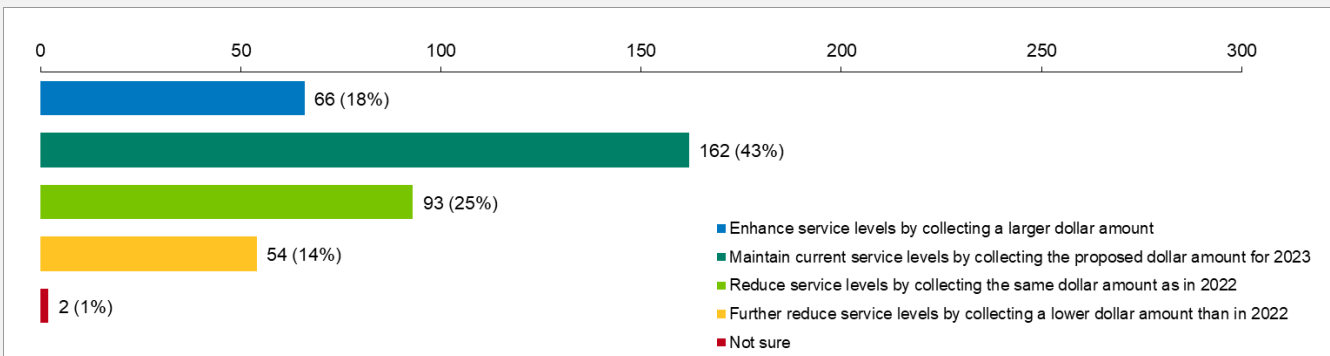
Service area – police services



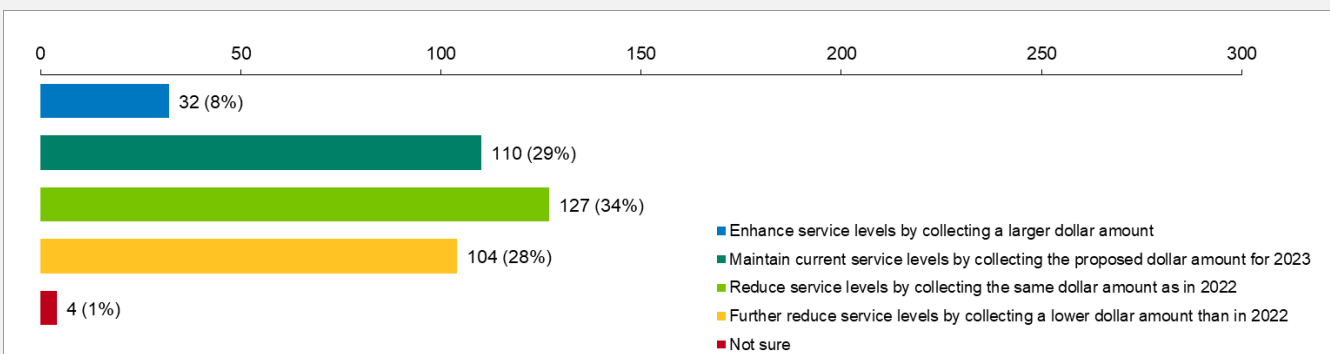
Service area – fire rescue services



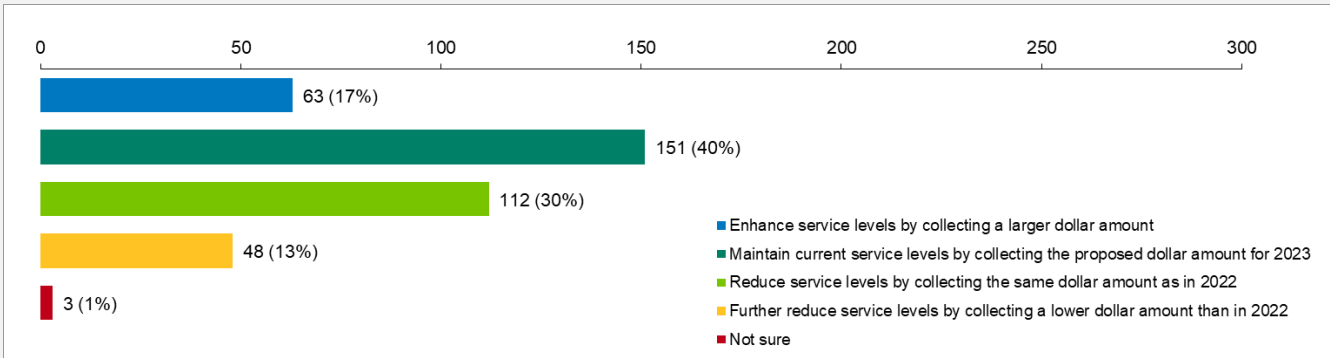
Service area – library services



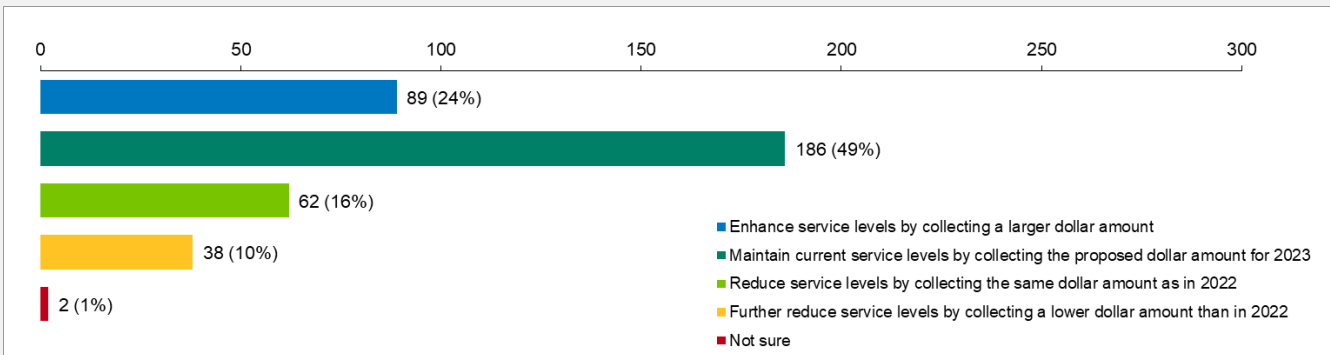
Service area – cultural services



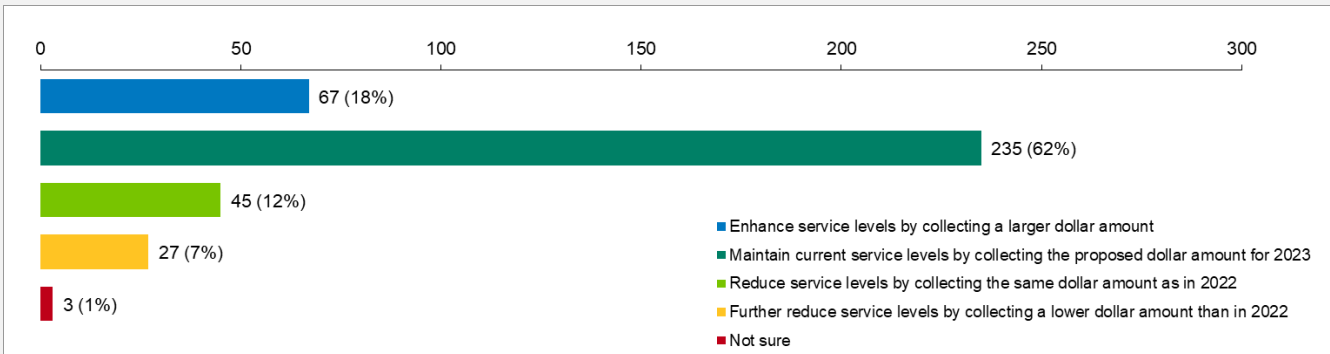
Service area – recreation services



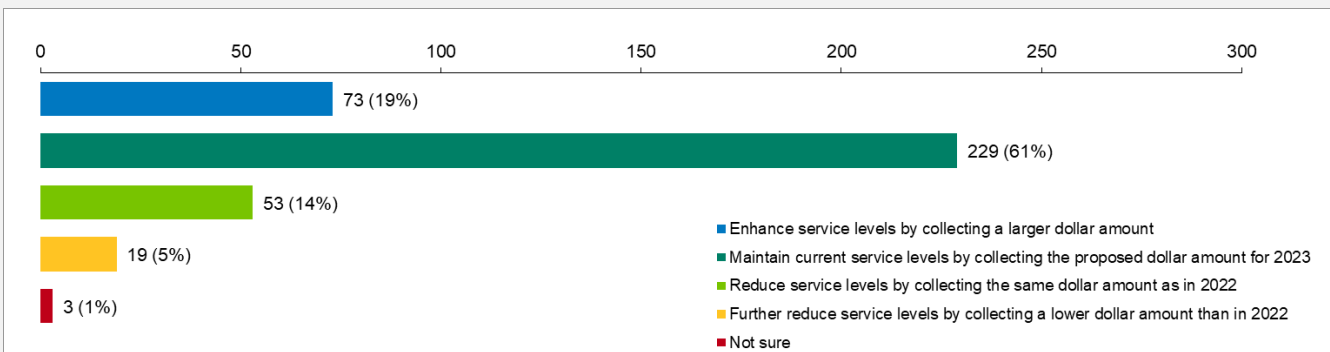
Service area – recreation facilities



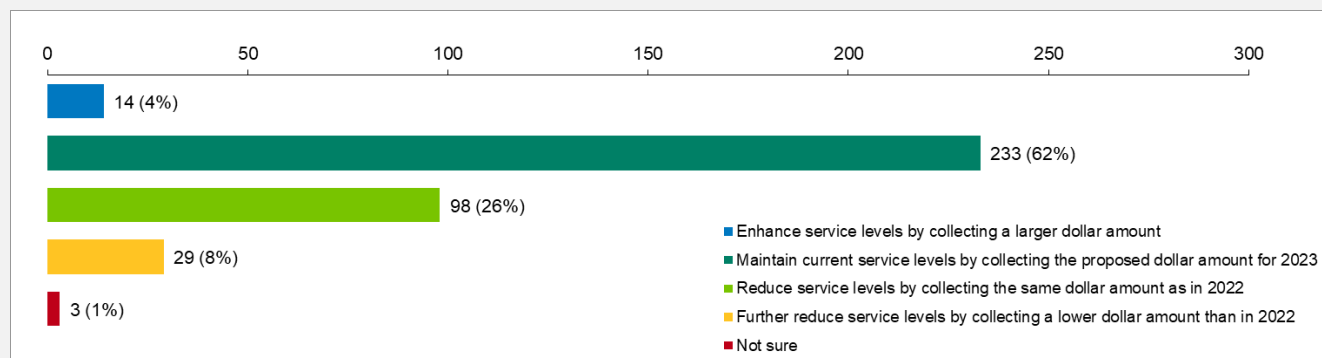
Service area – roads and transportation services



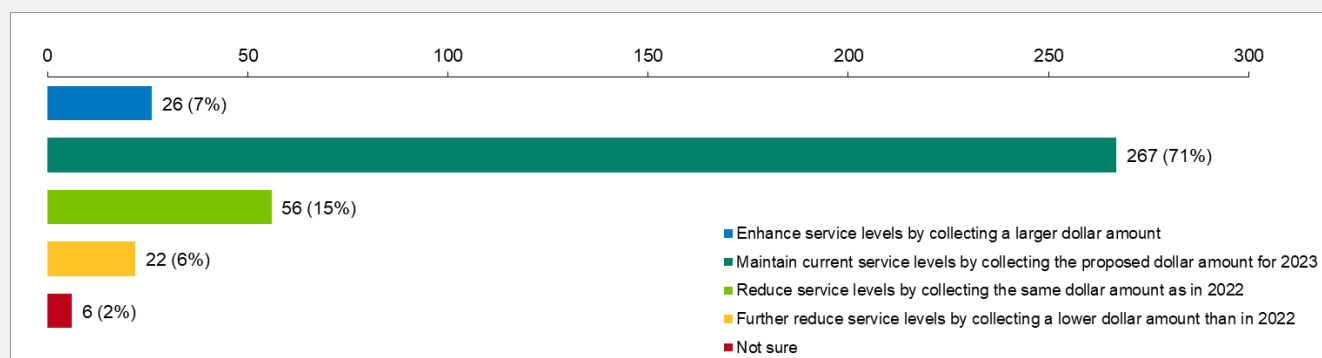
Service area – snow and ice response



Service area – garbage, green waste, recycling, and glass collection



Service area – water, drainage, and sewer services



Section 5. Survey respondents were asked: If you would like to see service levels enhanced in one or more of the City’s service areas, please tell us which specific services or programs you think should be added or improved.

The most common themes that emerged include the following:

Theme 1 – Protecting and expanding green space, parks, fields, trails, playgrounds, off-leash dog parks, as well as enhancing active transportation opportunities.

Comments we heard around this theme sounded like:

1. "Parks and greenspaces by far. This is a long-term, net gain for the city. People are healthier and happier when we can access nature."
2. "Our trail infrastructure. We use those trails all day every day, as a means of recreation and for our mental health. It would be really nice to see a quicker turn around on bridge and trail repairs. Nothing fancy, just functional."
3. "Increase safe sustainable transportation options - bike paths, walkways, especially in high risk areas (Guilford Way, Clarke Road, loco Road). Additional revenues through parking fees! Needed to meet 2030 Climate Action targets approved by Council."

Theme 2 – Enhancing our recreation services, library space and services, and expanding on the work we do as a “City of the Arts”

Comments we heard around this theme sounded like:

1. "The library and rec center are such important parts of the community. Both should always be a priority when it comes to maintenance, and continuing to offer programs and services to residents."
2. "Library services should be enhanced to address issues of EDI. The Library is the only City facility that is free and accessible to all, is a safe and welcoming space, and provides essentially barrier-free access to learning and entertainment."
3. "The recreation facilities have not kept up with the needs of this growing community. We need more rinks and gym space for both adults and kids. It's vital to our community so user groups can be supported. The upkeep of buildings also needs to be addressed."

Section 6. Survey respondents were asked: If you would like to see service levels reduced in one or more of the City's service areas, please tell us which specific services or programs you think should be cut or scaled back.

The most common themes that emerged include the following:

Theme 1 – Reducing spending in non-essential services and finding efficiencies in how the City provides services.

Comments we heard around this theme sounded like:

1. "City needs to focus more on core services (police, fire, sewer/sanitation/water, roads). Cannot do everything. Cut other programs to create funding for core programs and potentially avoid a tax increase. I would like to see more of this analysis. "
2. "Eliminate all renovations that are not critical, and wait until inflation rate is down to 3.5%, reduce capital expenditures that are not critical, reduce staffing increases, scale back expenditures because of Port Moody's rapid development of new housing developments where there is a smaller percentage of low income housing."
3. "The increase proposed is too high. While it is nice to invest in events, and the dressing rooms in the rec centre, this is certainly not needed this year, when people are already struggling with inflation, housing, and mortgage rates. This is not the year to increase services and invest in unneeded infrastructure projects. Get more revenue from proposed developments, attract more business to the city, and then focus on these projects. Don't download the costs to struggling families."

Theme 2 – Reducing spending in cultural services, particularly City-funded festivals and events.

Comments we heard around this theme sounded like:

1. "The proposed increase for cultural services, which I assume is primarily for festivals and events, is a 'nice to have' and during difficult financial times these are the services/programs that should be scaled back. Tough choices must be made."
2. "Reinstated services in the Cultural services bucket albeit important to the community perhaps can be scaled back for the 2023. The proposed survey noted a 28% increase from \$ 57 to \$ 85. Perhaps the city planned events can start charging a small user fee for people to attend or eliminate these programs for this year and assess again for 2024."
3. "As much as I appreciate and participate in the arts, I would like to see less money spent on festivals and public art. Instead we should concentrating on policies that support the arts, such as development and zoning that protects and encourages affordable studio and exhibition

space as well as affordable housing for those of lower income, many of whom happen to be creative people.”

Theme 3 – Reducing spending in police and fire rescue services.

Comments we heard around this theme sounded like:

1. "Police. It is the largest item by far. While this is common for all municipalities, I'm wondering if a more preventative and community approach would fit Port Moody? It seems to be effective. If we are spending more money, could we increase transparency and accountability?"
 2. "Police services are extremely responsive in Port Moody compared to other municipalities. Demographics are keeping crime rates low and we do not need to keep increasing the police budget."
 3. "Police, Port Moody is such a small city why is the police budget so high. How has it proven it's effective or worth the cost?"
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Section 7. Survey respondents were given an opportunity to provide additional comments or suggestions for Council about the 2023–2027 budget.

The most common themes that emerged include the following:

Theme 1 – Reducing expenses through amalgamation and generating revenue through other avenues such as paid parking, developer contributions, and economic development.

Comments we heard around this theme sounded like:

1. "I am generally pro-development, but we need to make sure that developers are contributing their fair share to community enhancement/services as part of the process."
 2. "Why not questions on expand sources of revenues? We need to do more bylaw enforcement to generate some revenues. Now just compliant driven instead of active enforcement. And pay parking at Rocky Point should be implemented."
 3. "Port Moody is too small to maintain the level of government employees it has grown to. Time to amalgamate the Tri-Cities."
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Theme 2 – Addressing the state of the City's infrastructure, facilities, and transportation networks, especially in light of new developments.

Comments we heard around this theme sounded like:

1. "Roads are in poor condition. Road networks are congested. St Johns needs a complete redesign with 3 lanes of traffic in each direction during rush hour periods, or a counterflow lane. East/west cycling networks badly needed. Better traffic light sequencing. Port Moody has become known as the City of Traffic Lights, not the City of Arts."
 2. "Some of the roads are starting to fail with lots of potholes, etc. Need to plan for those improvements over the coming years."
 3. "Really look at improvements to our road ways. People are going to drive. Roads like loco need to be widened to allow for safer pedestrian/bike use and for more car traffic."
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Theme 3 – Easing the tax burden on taxpayers.

Comments we heard around this theme sounded like:

1. "This has been an incredibly difficult year financially for almost everyone. Those of us living in condos are constantly facing increases in strata fees and insurance, the cost of gas has greatly increased, groceries have gone through the roof and wages are not on par to inflation for most people. We need to look at ALL options to keep the tax payer burden to a minimum. We are worried that with time, we will no longer be able to afford to live in this city and raise a family."

2. "I believe that it is crucial for our city to act in a financially responsible manner. By keeping rate increases at a minimum, increasing development charges to developers, and avoiding debt, we can ensure that our city remains financially stable and prosperous."

3. "We are a very small city but have all the perks like a big city, the only way to keep it sustainable is to either increase tax base or cut services."
