

Richmond City Budget

Several Mayors of large Cities across Canada met in Toronto to get funding for infrastructure, transit & transportation from the Federal Government.
They discussed the issues afterwards with host Evan Solomon on CTV.

As You know, the Feds established a " Building Canada " plan, \$ 53 billion over ten years, plus an indexed gas tax.

Here are some of the Mayors decisions to keep their budgets under control:

- * Calgary: Mayor Nenshi wanted transparency: every city manager had to explain on local TV where the taxpayers money went.
- * Montreal: Mayor Denis Corderre cut the city budget, this was well received by citizens.

Missisauga: All municipal politicians have taken a cut in their remuneration to set an example for the city.

Toronto: had an external review to eliminate waste. It cost 3 mil but was well worth it.
Cities have to become smart cities

Mayor of Montreal re toll bridges: Montreal is an island city (like Richmond) If you to toll all the bridges, the centre will die.

They also mentioned that higher and higher property taxes are " unfair to seniors " on a fixed income.

Seniors lose their savings to inflation, devaluation of the dollar, & increased cost of living, and ever increasing property taxes over the years. With no new income.
(Not everyone wants to defer taxes because a large amount is needed for Care Homes in the end.) (usually 5000 to 7000 \$ per month)

Senior are encouraged to stay in their homes for as long as possible, (and they want to do that.) as there is less cost to the Health Care system.

But the city and province must make this possible ! Speak for us in Victoria.

*Erika Simm, Richmond.
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