



**Castlegar, British Columbia, October 10, 2018** – The City of Castlegar is pleased to announce that it has launched a new public engagement web site, [www.castlegarconnects.ca](http://www.castlegarconnects.ca) to coincide with the annual public budget survey.

Castlegar Connects is an online engagement site and platform where citizens can contribute their ideas and give feedback on City matters.

“We want to empower you, our residents, to help us build a better municipality by learning about current opportunities for comment and giving us your feedback”, says Mayor Lawrence Chernoff. “As Council continues to focus on Community Engagement as a key priority, this public engagement tool will give residents more opportunity and a greater voice in developing the kind of community where we are all proud to work, live and play in.”

The introduction of Castlegar Connects will improve community engagement by allowing citizens to share their ideas, in addition to seeking feedback from residents and stakeholders when it's convenient for them to provide it.

The website will be the portal for all community engagement initiatives. No more looking for different links, all community engagement opportunities and surveys will be found at [www.castlegarconnects.ca](http://www.castlegarconnects.ca)

Another important feature of the engagement tool is the “**Have Your Say in the 2019 Budget**” tool. This feature will allow you to decide if spending for key services should increase, decrease or if spending should maintain current service levels. Results and comments received before November 2, 2018 will be provided to Council prior to the upcoming budget development process.

Castlegar Connects also has an interactive map feature. Sometimes it's easier to show your ideas on a map. The feature allows you to pick a spot, add a picture or other example and let us see what your ideas are.

These new online tools will be used in addition to the traditional community engagement methods already in use to ensure meaningful dialogue between residents, stakeholders, and the City on major projects current and upcoming. Please visit the site and register and you will receive notifications as new engagement opportunities become available.

A link to the [Castlegar Connects](http://www.castlegarconnects.ca) online community engagement tool can be found on the City's website at [www.castlegar.ca](http://www.castlegar.ca) or by going directly to [www.castlegarconnects.ca](http://www.castlegarconnects.ca)

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