

TO: Mayor Avis & Members of Council

FROM: Dawn Galusha, Deputy Treasurer

DATE: November 8, 2018

SUBJECT: Consumer Price Index (CPI) Increase for 2019 User Fees

BACKGROUND

User Fees are an important part of the operational budget preparation for the coming year. In the past few years we have endeavored to pass the user fees, with the exception of water and sewer rates, for the upcoming year in early December. The Consumer Price Index is presented as guide for the user fee increases for the coming calendar year.

At the September 18, 2018 Administration and Finance Executive Committee Meeting, information was presented showing the Ontario CPI indicates an inflationary increase of 3.1% change for the period of July 2017 to July 2018 and the Federal CPI indicates 3.0% change for the same period as published by Statistics Canada. Typically treasury brings forward the August to August period and the committee was also interested in information for Northern Ontario. Attached are the tables published by Statistics Canada representing the Ontario CPI inflationary increase of 3.1% for the period of August 2017 to August 2018 and the Federal CPI increase of 2.8% for the same period. Although Stats Canada does not have published reports on Northern Ontario, they do have the same report for major cities. Included is the CPI increase of 2.6% for Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Administration is seeking direction for the inflationary increase for the 2019 user fees. Divisions will bring user fee schedules forward to their respective executive committees in November or December.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration & Finance Executive committee recommends a 2.6% inflationary increase for the 2019 User Fees reflective of the Thunder Bay Consumer Price Index. Further to direct Division Managers to affect the Thunder Bay CPI inflationary increase to their user fees, where appropriate, for review at Executive Committee meetings.

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| Council Approval of this Report will direct division managers to affect a 2.6% user fee increase for 2019, reflective of the Thunder Bay Consumer Price Index inflationary increase, for Executive Committee review. |
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