



## **PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE & DISTRICT CHAMBER**

February 18, 2026

### **Portage la Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce Statement on the 2026 City Budget**

The Portage la Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce acknowledges the City's 2026 Budget and the effort made to balance infrastructure investment, service delivery, and fiscal responsibility.

The Chamber recognizes that significant long-term infrastructure projects — particularly the Water Treatment Plant expansion and wastewater system upgrades — are critical to supporting growth, protecting public health, and positioning Portage la Prairie for future economic development. Reliable utility infrastructure is foundational to business expansion, residential growth, and investment attraction.

We also acknowledge the City's continued investment in roads, neighbourhood development, public safety, and greenspace improvements. Strategic capital planning and the use of provincial and federal funding programs help reduce the burden on local taxpayers while advancing key priorities.

At the same time, the 3.21% municipal tax increase comes at a time when businesses continue to manage rising operating costs, workforce challenges, and broader economic uncertainty. Predictability and long-term financial planning remain essential to maintaining Portage la Prairie's competitiveness as a place to invest and operate.

As the financial plan is finalized, the Chamber encourages continued transparency around future debt servicing impacts, utility rate pressures, and long-term capital planning to ensure the community remains both growth-oriented and fiscally sustainable.

We look forward to continued collaboration with City Council and Administration to ensure municipal decisions support economic stability, business retention, and sustainable growth in Portage la Prairie.