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NEWS

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2022 HALTON BUDGET PROCESS

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It's that time of year when regional councillors gear up to make decisions that will impact local residents' taxes. As the local politicians embark on the 2022 budget process, here's everything you need to know:

1. Halton staff has been directed by council to prepare the budget based on a tax increase at or below the rate of inflation (two per cent).

This would equate to an additional \$3 per \$100,000 of the assessed value of your home for regional services. The 2022 budget document will be available for viewing at halton.ca as of Nov. 26.

2. Halton also funds the police budget, which was recently approved by the Halton Police Board with a 2.5 per cent tax increase and forwarded to council for consideration.

If approved, this would translate into an additional \$2.49 per \$100,000 of assessment. When combined with regional services, the potential overall tax increase on the Halton portion of your bill is \$5.49 for every \$100,000 of assessment.

3. Local residents can have their say on the topic during a budget meeting scheduled for Dec. 8. The session will include time for delegations and staff presentations.

The budget will then be up for approval by regional council on Dec. 15. For fur-

ther details on how to register as a speaker, visit <https://bit.ly/3DGFps0>.

4. COVID-19 continues to impact Halton's finances. Next year's budget will include funds to support the following: local residents impacted by the pandemic through Halton's ongoing rent supplement program, Halton's COVID-19 vaccine plan, infection prevention and control measures at regional long-term-care homes and more.

5. Halton also manages the region's water and sewer services and sets the annual rates, which is part of the budget process. For 2022, the rate is projected to rise by 3.3 per cent for both services, or \$35 more for a typical household for the year.

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