



SIoux LOOKOUT

Hub of the North

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Municipality of Sioux Lookout
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MEDIA RELEASE

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~ FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ~

Sioux Lookout Residents Invited to Take Part in 'Budgetopoly'

Sioux Lookout, ON – The Municipality of Sioux Lookout invites residents to participate in an innovative and interactive way to weigh in on 2025 budget priorities. "Budgetopoly" is modeled after the classic board game Monopoly, in which residents can invest a fixed amount of "Budgetopoly Bucks," representing next year's controllable costs, into key areas of investment.

Budgetopoly will be open to the public on the following dates, times, and locations:

- **Monday, December 2nd through Friday, December 6th**
 - Location: Municipal Office
 - Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, December 4th**
 - Location: Hudson Community Hall
 - Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, December 10th**
 - Location: Recreation Centre
 - Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Residents who attend will register to receive an outline of the 8 available "properties." Each one represents a municipal priority area with descriptions and examples of potential projects. Participants will also receive \$1,000 of Budgetopoly Bucks to "invest" in the areas they believe should be prioritized during the 2025 budget process.

The 2025 budget process comes with an added challenge, as policing costs have increased by 61%. This alone results in over \$1 million in additional expenses. While staff continue to explore ways to mitigate these costs, the financial strain will significantly influence decision-making. The Province of Ontario has pledged support to help offset these costs, but the extent of the assistance is not yet clear.

This fun and engaging format will allow residents to think critically about Sioux Lookout's needs and share what they believe should be prioritized. By simulating tough budget decisions, participants can see how their priorities align with the challenges and opportunities Council faces in balancing the 2025 budget.

The results of "Budgetopoly" will be compiled and presented to Council as part of their budget deliberations, ensuring that resident input is a key consideration in decision-making for 2025 and beyond.

"This initiative gives residents a hands-on role in deciding our community's priorities," said CAO Brian P. MacKinnon. "Your input is invaluable, especially as we navigate the challenges of next year's budget."

For more information, please visit www.siouxlookout.ca.

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For more information, please contact:
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