

March 5, 2024

Dear Mayor Linnsie Clark,
Councillor Cassie Hider
Councillor Alison Van Dyke
Councillor Allison Knodel
Councillor Shila Sharps
Councillor Ramona Robbins
Councillor Andy McGrogan
Councillor Robert Dumanowski
Councillor Darren Hirsch

On Behalf of the Medicine Hat Utilities Ratepayer Association,
It is extremely distressing to find our Property Tax Assessments in the mail, and to discover these assessments have increased on average for residential properties 2.8% and commercial properties approximately 4%! Adding an additional 4% tax hike due in May on top of these assessments is of great concern. The City has raised our MCAF fees 25%, while doubling our Going Green charge. Utilities have started to rise again, and many in the community have voiced their distress as well. With these multiple increases, it is not sustainable for the average resident or business owner to carry on. We implore our Council to greatly reconsider the 4% tax increase as well as the Municipal Consent Access Fee. Our City holds nearly \$788 million in reserves and operating cash. Our electricity generation has been extremely profitable these last 2 years, and we are on target to add another \$80 million more in utility profits this year. The City is in a very stable financial position. The residents and businesses in this community, however, are not. Please show empathy for the Citizens of Medicine Hat and table the 4% tax increase as well as eliminate the MCAF fee.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kind Regards,

Sounantha Boss

Medicine Hat Utilities Ratepayer Association