

**Proposed Mayoral Decision re: Direction to the Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
pertaining to the 2026 Budget**

Mayoral Decision

In accordance with subsection 284.3 and 284.16 of the Municipal Act, 2001 (the “Act”), I, Marianne Meed Ward, Mayor of Burlington, hereby directs the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to:

- 1) With direction from the Mayor and in consultation with the CAO, and Deputy Mayor of Strategy and Budgets, prepare a summary of the draft 2026 Budget for Council and public consultation and input;
- 2) Prepare the 2026 Budget, considering feedback from the community, members of Council in both their Council and Deputy Mayor roles, input from the Deputy Mayor of Strategy and Budgets, the needs identified in the 2026 financial needs and multi-year forecast (Financial Forecast) and direction from the Mayor; and
- 3) Ensure any proposed changes to budget (increases or decreases) are done in accordance with the overall objective of inflation plus infrastructure, with a target tax of 3.5% inclusive of Region, with the City portion of the total tax rate less than 3%, while adhering to the following four principles that balance providing for today while preparing for our future:
 - a. **Affordability**
 - b. **Livability**
 - c. **Sustainability**
 - d. **Transparency**

This direction takes effect following Council's vote July 15, 2025 and remains in effect until modified or revoked.