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Version visionnée sur le site Internet d'origine le 24 septembre 2009.

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**Budget 2009: A realistic and responsible budget**

Budget 2009 was prepared with an eye to our residents' main concerns. Gatineau opted for prudence in its projections in order to avoid as much as possible any nasty surprises. Managing a city in full bloom is no easy thing. The demands are substantial and resources are limited. While higher levels of government may have increased their financial support to municipalities over the last few years, what they provide is far from sufficient, hence the need to provide cities with new sources of revenue.

For 2009, the municipal budget adjusts taxes by 2.2%, which is less than Canada's Consumer Price Index. This will enable us to maintain and enhance services to residents. The property tax is also adjusted by 0.7% to pursue implementation of the fire safety cover plan imposed by Quebec's Ministère de la Sécurité publique. Because of the measures taken by Gatineau to manage residual materials efficiently and responsibly, it has been able to freeze this year's rate at \$159.77

Click for more information on:

- [Plans under the 2009 budget](#)
- [The summary of revenues and expenses](#)

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Ville de Gatineau
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Looking for lifeguards!

Gatineau is giving people who love to swim the opportunity to become a lifeguard by organizing intensive training sessions during the holiday period:

- from December 27, 2008 to January 3, 2009, for the Bronze Cross
- from December 26, 2008 to January 5, 2009 for the National Lifeguard / First Aid.

Do you already have lifeguard training? Share your skills by [joining our team](#).
Apply now!

When the time comes to dispose of your Christmas tree...

Every year, there is a special collection of Christmas trees in the first two weeks of January. Once the holidays are over, remove all the decorations from your tree and place it at the side of the road the night before the regular garbage collection day. Remember to set it back a little from the road to make sure that it does not impede snow clearing operations or get buried by the snow clearing machines.

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**Summary of the public consultations in 2008**

Gatineau was certainly busy with public consultations on the major issues, including its downtown, the Boucher forest and the municipal strategic plan. Some of these projects, including the ones on the environmental policy and cultural diversity, were completed.

In brief:

- More than 1,000 individuals took part in civic participation activities online or in person.
- Almost 100 organizations working in Gatineau tabled some 40 briefs for these consultations.

As the year draws to a close, Gatineau would like to thank its residents for their participation.

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Partnership between Gatineau and Tricentris

Gatineau has signed an agreement with Tricentris to build and operate a recyclables sorting centre that will be up and running by 2011 in the environmental zone.

It should be noted that Tricentris is a not for profit organization, and one of the main players in Quebec when it comes to the volume of municipal waste processed.

The agreement with Tricentris specifies that it will:

- cover 100% of the investment in the infrastructures;
- start operations by 2011;
- construct a LEED building with a capacity of 70,000 tons;
- provide sufficient capacity for the next 20 years; and
- offer Gatineau membership status.

By the same token, Gatineau commits to:

- sell Tricentris a lot measuring approximately 25,000 m2 in the environmental zone;
- maintain and promote recycling; and
- entrust all of its recyclables to Tricentris until April 13, 2017.

Gatineau's membership status will carry several benefits, including a seat on the board of directors, and dividends for awareness programs. The agreement also provides for an annual fixed cost of \$6.83 per ton in 2011, calculated as a proportion of Gatineau's population.

This agreement represents a partnership approach with an association of municipalities (more than 70) whose mission is to develop and increase awareness about recycling.

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Did you know...

The new Accès Gatineau card will be available starting in January for all Gatineau residents. It is free for students under 18 years of age.

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