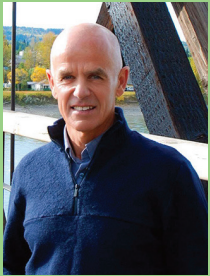


May 2020

# Property Tax Info

CITY OF  
**Quesnel**

## Mayor's Message



Council and I sincerely hope that you and your family are managing through this difficult time. We're proud of the way Quesnel residents and businesses have adhered to the public health orders and recommendations for social distancing and, like you, we're looking forward to getting back to some kind of normal over the coming months.

Budget 2020 was challenging for Council, even before the COVID-19 pandemic. We had to build a budget that incorporated the loss of \$400,000/year in industrial taxation due to the Tolko mill closure while addressing the demand from ratepayers for improved services, especially in the area of public safety.

The budget Council unanimously approved prior to the pandemic contained a tax increase of \$70.84 for the average household in Quesnel, and \$116.04 for the average commercial ratepayer. Council was able to moderate the tax impact of the Tolko closure on ratepayers by using funds from its Tax Stabilization Reserve, enabling us to focus this year's tax increase on covering inflationary pressures, making improvements to public safety, and addressing the incremental costs of our snow removal program.

As the social distancing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our local economy became clear, Council revisited its

2020 budget. Our first task was to ensure we could cover any loss of revenue and any incremental costs associated with the pandemic without increasing property taxes further, either in 2020 or 2021. Next, we looked at any cost savings that might be possible through a refinement of our 2020 operating budget and capital plan. The result of this reassessment indicated we could potentially reduce taxes this year by \$11.31 for the average household and \$18.46 for the average commercial property, or we could put aside approximately \$180,000 to hedge against the as yet unknown impacts of the pandemic on both our community and on the City's finances.

Council made the decision to stay with its original 2020 budget and add any accrued savings from this year's budget to our Tax Stabilization Reserve. This hedge against potential future tax increases resulting from this long public health emergency was deemed by Council to be the most fiscally prudent approach to take at this time of increasing uncertainty.

You'll find information in this flyer about when and how to pay your property taxes and where help may be available for seniors and families struggling to pay their property taxes. As we begin taking steps to return to some kind of normalcy, please continue to adhere to the advice of public health officials – we will get through this challenging time together.

- Mayor Bob Simpson

## COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

The City of Quesnel is taking the COVID-19 pandemic extremely seriously, and would like to ask that residents do the same.

There are online resources available to help provide residents with alternative methods to pay their property taxes, and to apply for applicable grants. Please see the reverse page for more information on the online resources available.

## More Information

Please visit [www.quesnel.ca/property-taxes](http://www.quesnel.ca/property-taxes) for more property tax information.

Please visit [www.quesnel.ca/COVID-19](http://www.quesnel.ca/COVID-19) for the most up to date information on COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

## 2020 Extended Tax due date

*Wed. September 30, 2020  
at 4:30 pm*

**10% penalty on unpaid taxes and unclaimed home owner grants effective October 1, 2020.**

See reverse side for detailed information on payment options.

# You do not need to visit City Hall!

Residents do not need to visit City Hall to pay their property taxes, or apply for grants. Please take advantage of alternative payment options.

## Paying your property taxes

- Online through most financial institutions - call your bank for details.
- Mail or courier a cheque or money order to City Hall – 410 Kinchant Street, Quesnel B.C. V2J 7J5

## Claim your Home Owner Grant

- Online at <https://ehog.quesnel.ca/>

## Provincial Tax Deferment

You may be able to apply for a low interest loan to pay your current year property taxes on your principal residence. There are two programs that you may qualify for:

### Regular Program

- 55 or older during the current year
- A surviving spouse of any age
- A person with disabilities

### Families with Children Program

- Parent
- Stepparent
- Financially supporting a child

For full program details, visit: <http://bit.ly/defer-taxes-2020>

You can submit an application to defer your unpaid property taxes at any time during the current taxation year. It is best to apply after you receive your property tax notice and before your property taxes are due.

If you apply after the property tax due date, you must pay any late payment penalties before you can defer your taxes. Only your current year's taxes will be deferred.

## New for 2020

Applications for the property tax deferment program are now submitted online through eTaxBC. The City of Quesnel will no longer accept paper applications. Learn more about the online application process at [gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferment](http://gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferment). Program details and eligibility requirements have not changed.

## Home Owner Grant

The home owner grant reduces the amount of property tax you pay for your principal residence. Residents can apply for the home owner grant two ways:

1. Claim online <https://ehog.quesnel.ca/>
2. Find your home owner grant on the end of your property tax notice. Fill out this section and mail it to:

City Hall  
410 Kinchant Street  
Quesnel B.C.  
V2J 7J5

Your grant due date is related to your property taxes. Make sure you mark down the due date to avoid penalties.

## Home Ownership or Address Changes

Current mailing addresses can be updated online through BC Assessment.

[www.bcassessment.ca](http://www.bcassessment.ca)