

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND COVID-19 UPDATE



The District of Peachland ("the District") is monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic closely while collaborating with all levels of government to ensure consistent communications, operations and service delivery. The District is following recommended protocols from the B.C. Ministry of Health and the B.C. Centre for Disease Control to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

**As your tax notice and newsletter go to print, the District's main office remains open to the public. In-person payments can be made by cheque, cash or debit between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the District Office located at 5806 Beach Avenue. District staff are also available to answer your questions by phone Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please call 250-767-2647 or email [finance@peachland.ca](mailto:finance@peachland.ca).**

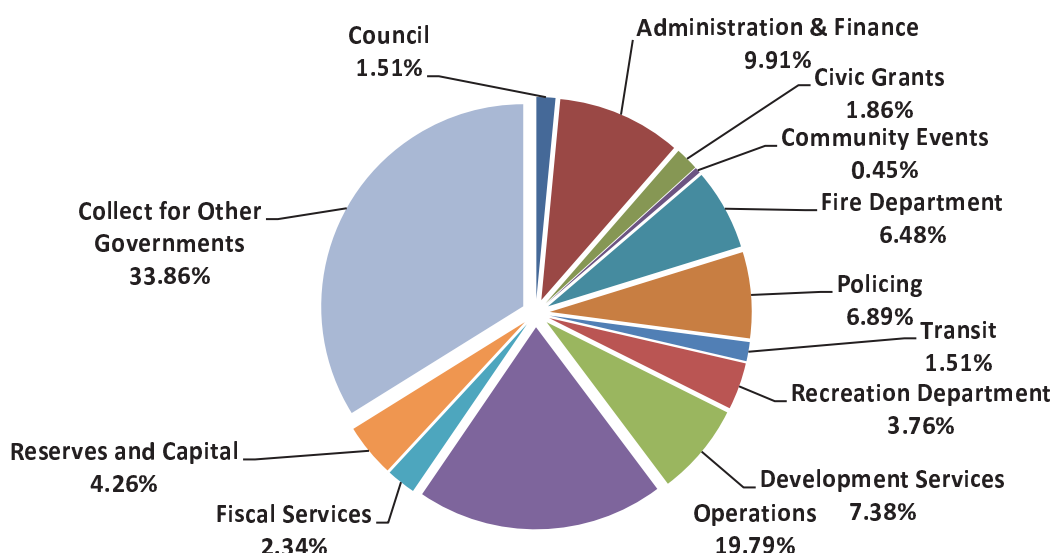
A drop box is located to the right of the main entrance door for non-cash payments. To avoid line ups you can visit your bank's website and pay your taxes online.

### 2022 MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX LEVIES

The impact of the 2022 Financial Plan on the average household includes:

- A \$32.79 or 2.27% percent increase in general taxes for the average household,
- A \$26.84 or 10.36% increase to the policing tax,
- A \$9.27 or 14.74% increase to the transit tax, and
- No change to the total parcel taxes collected; \$748.73 per year. A reduction to the Water Capital improvement parcel tax of \$190.00 was offset by a new Water Capital Debt Servicing Parcel tax of \$190.00. General, Water and Sewer Capital Asset Renewal Parcel Taxes are required to meet asset management policy targets.
- A \$248.36 or 6.36% increase to Total Municipal Taxes (including Parcel Taxes) for the average household which includes taxes collected for Other Taxation Authorities.

### WHERE YOUR TAX DOLLARS ARE SPENT



Tax notices may result in questions for you, including how your property assessment affects the amount of property taxes payable. To assist with these inquiries, BC Assessment provides a variety of communication resources, including webpages, infographics, and short videos:

Property Assessments & Property Taxes: <https://info.bcassessment.ca/propertytax>

The Property Tax Equation: <https://info.bcassessment.ca/services-and-products/Pages/ThePropertyTaxEquation.aspx>

How BC Assessment Works: <https://info.bcassessment.ca/about-us/how-BC-Assessment-works>

Your Property Value Change and Property Taxes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hAdlipZv5g4>

Understanding Property Assessments & Property Taxes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJ1mzeCm5jw>

### \*\*\*IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING APPLICATIONS FOR NORTHERN AND RURAL HOME OWNER GRANTS\*\*\*

**As of January 2021, residents in British Columbia no longer apply for the Home Owner Grant through their municipal office. The Provincial government has centralized the Home Owner Grant program and all eligible owners are now required to apply directly to the Province using a new online system developed specifically for your grant application.**

The best time to apply is after receiving your property tax notice and before your property tax due date.

1. Have your property tax notice on hand. It has important numbers that you will need to complete your application.
2. Apply online at [www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant](http://www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant). Your information will be safe and secure when you apply online. It only takes a few minutes and is faster than calling.
3. If you're unable to apply online, call the Province at 1-888-355-2700 for assistance.

Although the Home Owner Grant application process has changed, program details and eligibility requirements have not. The regular grant offers up to \$770 and is available for eligible homeowners in the District of Peachland. Up to \$1,045 is available to property owners if the owner is 65 years or older or is a person with a disability.

To qualify for the grant, you must:

- Be the registered owner of the residence
- Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada
- Live in B.C.
- Occupy the residence as your principal residence

**The Northern and Rural Home Owner Grant (“HOG”) application must be completed and submitted to the Province each year to receive the grant. If your mortgage company pays your taxes, your HOG application must still be completed and submitted to the Province by the tax due date to avoid late penalties.**

**Any property tax payment or HOG claim not received by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, July 4, 2022 is subject to the 10% late penalty.** As the grant is a form of payment towards your property taxes, it is considered a late payment if you apply late. However, you can still apply for the Home Owner Grant until December 31 of the current tax year. You can apply even if you have not paid your property taxes.

For additional information on the types of home owner grants available, the criteria for qualifying and to complete your application, please visit [www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant](http://www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant)

### **PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT OPTIONS**

The District office continues to be open for in-person payments from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. For after hours, a drop box is available 24 hours a day by the main doors of the District office (cheques only, please do not leave cash or money orders in the drop box).

Payments can also be made by mail, online banking, tele-banking or in person at most financial institutions. If paying Property Taxes at a participating financial institution, please check with the financial institution for bank cut-off times to avoid penalty. Postmarks and bank stamps are not accepted as proof of payment date. The account number for online banking is the last eight digits of the Roll number printed on your tax notice at the top right corner of your tax bill (do not include any dots or spaces).

Forms of payment include cash, cheques (including post-dated), money orders and Interac payments. Please allow five business days for electronic payments. **Please note: CREDIT CARDS are NOT accepted.**

### **PROPERTY TAX PREPAYMENT PLAN**

This program offers a convenient method of paying your next year taxes in advance. The plan starts July 15, 2022 and continues to May 15, 2023 for **next year's** taxes. When you participate in the prepayment plan, your monthly installment is automatically deducted from your bank account. Interest is paid monthly on credit balances at a rate set by the Province (currently Prime less 2%). The Tax Prepayment Plan automatically renews every year starting in July but if you want to cancel or make changes to your application you must contact the District at least 5 business days before payments are due. Application forms are available online at: <https://www.peachland.ca/cms/wpattachments/wpID1125atID3023.pdf>

### **PROPERTY TAX DEFERMENT PROGRAM**

Tax deferment is a low-interest loan program that the Province offers to help qualified B.C. homeowners pay their annual property taxes on their principal residence.

For program information, to apply for tax deferment or to check your application status, please visit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/property-taxes/annual-property-tax/defer-taxes> or call 1-888-355-2700.

**Note that Municipalities cannot accept applications and do not have information of individual deferment accounts on record.**

### **VIEW PROPERTY TAX DETAILS ONLINE and RECEIVE FUTURE PROPERTY TAX NOTICES VIA EMAIL**

TO REGISTER and/or to sign up for electronic tax notices:

1. You will need your roll number and access code from the upper right hand side of most recent property tax notice.
2. Visit [www.peachland.ca](http://www.peachland.ca) and click on “On-line Services”. Click on the “On-line Services Portal” link at bottom of page.
3. Click on the “Link & Register” button near the upper right hand corner.
4. If you are already registered with an online account, login and relink your account with email options checked.
5. If you have not previously registered, click on “Show Me How”. Click on the down arrow beside “Select Account Type” and choose Property Taxes. Enter your eight digit account number (include the decimal point), access code and check the applicable boxes for emailed tax notices.
6. Once all fields are entered, click on the 'Continue' button and then create a User Name and Password. SAVE.
7. An email confirmation will be sent to the registered user. (If you own more than one Peachland property, you can add them to your Online Account by selecting “PT-Property Taxes” from “Account Type”; enter property tax roll number and access code).

To view your property tax account details, place a cursor over online services and click on property taxes. An email will be sent annually when future Property Tax notices are ready for viewing.

For more information on 2022 Property Taxes, contact the District Office at 250-767-2647 or email [finance@peachland.ca](mailto:finance@peachland.ca)