

### A message from Mayor Barbara Desjardins



On behalf of Council—Councillors Duncan Cavens, Andrea Boardman, Jacob Helliwell, Ken Armour, Tim Morrison and myself, I invite you to review the Township of Esquimalt's 2025 budget information.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Darlene Rotchford for her work as councillor until taking her new position as MLA in October 2024. I would also like to welcome Councillor Meagan Brame who was sworn in to replace Councillor Rotchford on April 28, 2025.

Ensuring the township's long-term financial sustainability is essential to maintaining the quality and continuity of community services and programs. Just as vital is the preservation of community assets, which not only enhance local appeal but also help attract and retain businesses—ultimately reducing the financial burden on future taxpayers.

From 2024 into 2025, staff continue to work on council priority projects in addition to day-to-day operations. This includes the updated parking strategy and bylaw, Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy (e.g., facilities like our recreation centre) and our Development Capacity Assessment. As the township continues to grow, it is important to plan for supporting and improving infra-

structure in a manner that maintains services while investing in future needs.

As always, however, financial pressures constrain the number of projects we can take on annually. Construction material and labour costs rose during the pandemic and continue to remain high. These elevated costs impact budgets and project planning. As such, Council eliminated or deferred some projects for this year to reduce budget needs. Staffing requests were also removed as part of this process.

The Payment in Lieu of Taxes we receive from the Federal Government for the DND lands in Esquimalt saw a decrease for the first time in several years. This 0.48 per cent decrease in the payment impacts the mill rate needed to balance the budget.

The result is that a 9.90 per cent increase was needed to fund the budget components including core services, policing, infrastructure contributions and wages, amongst other items. To put this in context, the average residential property will see an increase of \$320 in their municipal taxes.

It's important to note that the township incorporates all utility costs into its property tax levies, whereas some municipalities send

separate invoices to taxpayers.

This makes comparing the township's tax rates with those of other municipalities in the Capital Regional District a challenge. Although the township independently offers police, fire, recreation, and library services, some of these services are either cost-shared or provided voluntarily by neighboring municipalities.

If you did not attend or view the various council meetings that discussed the budget options in detail, I encourage you to watch the recorded discussions and view the reports. Council had some challenging decisions to make by balancing investing in community infrastructure and services while keeping our taxpayers' financial cost in mind.

Esquimalt is a vibrant community with so much to offer. Council and I take the responsibility of caring for the township today and stewarding it into the future to heart and look forward to seeing the results of our continued investment. Here is to an exciting year ahead in the township, focused on enhancing the vibrancy and spirit of our community and keeping it The Place To Be in our region.

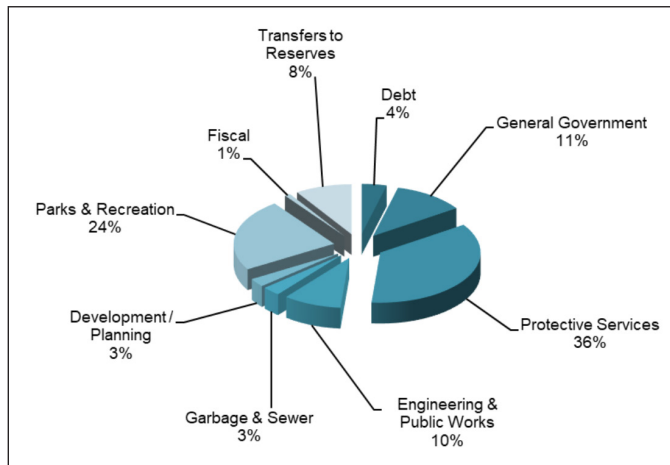
*Barbara Desjardins*

# 2025 TAX AND BUDGET INFORMATION

Visit [Esquimalt.ca](https://www.esquimalt.ca) to set up your MyEsquimalt online account where you can:

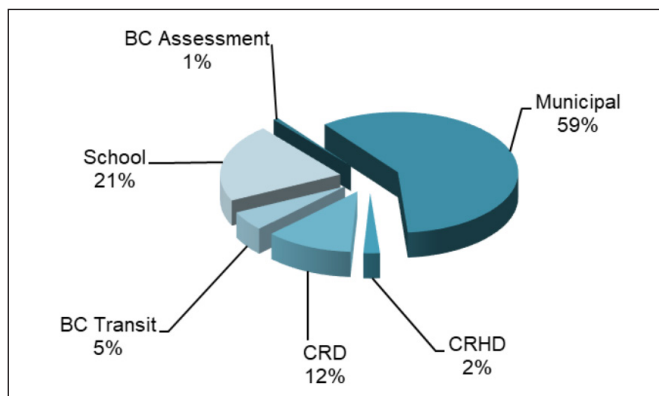
- ✓ Apply for dog and business licences.
- ✓ Choose to receive future tax notices & licence renewals electronically.
- ✓ Access your tax & licencing details anytime, anywhere.
- ✓ Pay your property taxes.

## 2025 municipal property taxes



The above graph is based on the 2025 approved operating budget and demonstrates where your municipal tax dollars will be spent.

## 2025 total taxation



In addition to municipal levies, taxes are collected on behalf of other taxing authorities.

**Your 2025 property tax notice covers the tax year from January 1 to December 31, 2025.**

To balance the operating budget, the township must collect revenue through property taxes. For 2025, the revenue required to balance the budget is 9.90% higher than in 2024.

The amount required is converted to a rate, which is then applied to the taxable assessment of each property to determine the taxes payable.

### You can pay your taxes:

- At most financial institutions either in person, online, or via telebanking
- By credit card through the MyEsquimalt portal
- By post-dated cheque (post-dated no later than July 2, 2025)
- Via the 24-hour secure municipal hall drop box outside the front entrance
- In person at Esquimalt Municipal Hall (1229 Esquimalt Rd), Mon–Fri, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- By mail. To avoid a late penalty, your mailed payment must be received by the township on or before July 2

### Apply through the Province of B.C. for your Home Owner Grant.

You must apply for the grant annually. If you miss the due date, you may apply for the home owner grant until December 31; however a 10 per cent penalty may apply.

You can claim your 2025 grant online at [gov.bc.ca/HomeOwnerGrant](https://gov.bc.ca/HomeOwnerGrant) as soon as you receive your property tax notice. Call 1-888-355-2700 (toll free) to speak to a live agent or visit Service B.C. at 403-771 Vernon Ave.

### You may qualify for provincial tax deferment programs.

Visit [gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferment](https://gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferment) or contact the Provincial Tax Deferment Office at 250-387-0555 for information.

Visit our website at [esquimalt.ca/tax](https://www.esquimalt.ca/tax) for more information on how you can apply for grants, deferments and pay your taxes.

**The property tax penalty deadline is July 2, 2025.**

Township of  
**ESQUIMALT**