

A message from Mayor Barbara Desjardins



On behalf of Council—Councillors Ken Armour, Meagan Brame, Lynda Hundleby, Jacob Helliwell, Tim Morrison, Jane Vermeulen and myself—I invite you to review the Township’s 2021 budget and tax information.

This time last year, we were all dealing with—what was unknowingly—the early days of the pandemic. Staff had

to quickly adjust business processes for not only health and safety reasons, but to ensure our operations balanced municipal services with financial accountability.

The 2021 budget process involved input opportunities for taxpayers during regular Council meetings. With this input, and through deliberations and analysis by Council and staff, we approved a tax revenue increase at 1.6 per cent for all property classes which is consistent with the annual Consumer Price Index. We commend staff for adjusting our operations in such a way that we kept our tax increase low without compromising services, including maintaining our capital projects.

In addition to municipal levies, other taxing authorities generate their own calculations to determine taxes to be collected on their behalf by the township. For 2021, taxes to be collected for these other authorities represents approximately 39 per cent of the total property tax amount on your notice.

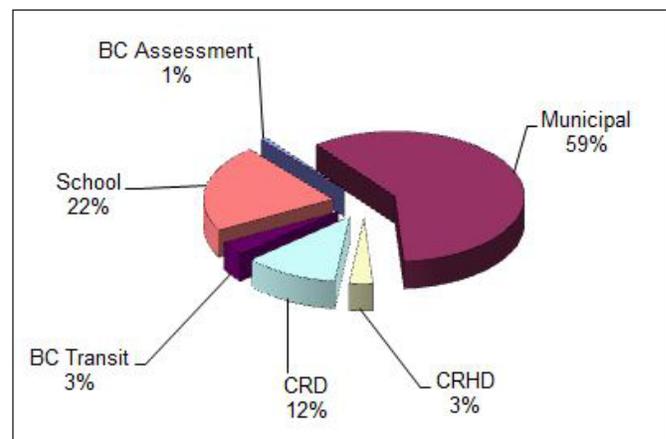
The budget includes costs relating to a newly formed economic development function, the first year of a deer management program, and the implementation of increased online functionality for tax and licence payments. As well, we have budgeted \$28.5M for capital projects, of which

almost \$12.7M will fund completion of the new library and the Gorge Park Pavilion. Additionally, \$6.7M remaining from the \$7.1M in amenity funds has been allocated to supplement the long-term borrowing requirements for the new Public Safety Building Project. Note that a portion of the amenity funds was used in 2020 at the initial stages of the project.

As more of us get vaccinated, there is a cautious optimism that the worst is over. Please take care of yourselves and we hope to see you in person soon.

Barbara Desjardins
Mayor, Township of Esquimalt

2021 total taxation



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

See 2021 tax & budget information on reverse

1229 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt BC V9A 3P1
t. 250-414-7100
f. 250-414-7111
www.esquimalt.ca

2021 tax and budget information

NEW for 2021

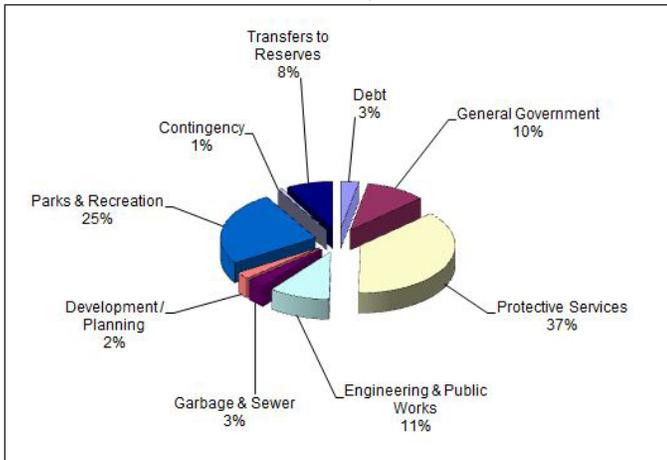
- **The Home Owner Grant Program is now administered by the Province.** Municipalities are no longer accepting home owner grant applications.
- **How to apply:** visit gov.bc.ca/HomeOwnerGrant to apply or for more information. Call 1-888-355-2700 to speak to a live agent.

You may qualify for provincial tax deferment programs. Visit gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferment or contact the Provincial Tax Deferment Office at 250-387-0555 for information.

You can pay your taxes:

- By post-dated cheque (post-dated no later than July 2, 2021).
- Via the municipal hall mailbox outside the front entrance (no cash please).
- At most financial institutions either in person, online, or via telebanking.
- By mail. To avoid a late penalty, your mailed payment must be received by the township on or before July 2.

2021 municipal property taxes



The above graph is based on the 2021 approved operating budget and demonstrates where your municipal tax dollars will be spent.

Your 2021 property tax notice covers the tax year from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. To balance the operating budget, Council must collect revenue through property taxes. The amount required is converted to a rate, which is then applied to the taxable assessment of each property to determine the taxes payable.

NEW: If you are eligible for a Home Owner Grant, you must apply for it through the Province. You must apply for the grant every year. If you miss the due date, you may apply for the home owner grant until December 31; however, penalties may apply.

You can claim your 2021 grant online at gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant as soon as you receive your property tax notice. Phone 1-888-355-2700 (toll free) to speak with a live agent.

Visit our website at esquimalt.ca/tax for more options and information on how you can apply for grants, deferments and pay your taxes.

Schedule of upcoming council meetings

Public input is invited at all Council and Committee of the Whole Meetings.

June 14	Council, 7 p.m.
June 21	Committee of the Whole, 7 p.m.
June 28	Council, 7 p.m.
July 5	Council, 7 p.m.
July 12	Council, 7 p.m.

Summer recess: July 19 through August 13

Property tax penalty deadline is July 2, 2021.

Please visit our website for more tax information at esquimalt.ca/tax.

Township of
ESQUIMALT