



Many Easy Ways to Pay Your 2009 Property Taxes

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – There are many ways City of Victoria property owners can pay in advance and avoid last minute line-ups when paying 2009 property taxes.

Property owners have just one month – until July 2, 2009 – to pay their taxes. A penalty of 10% will be applied to outstanding current year taxes and unclaimed Provincial Home Owner Grants at the close of business on that day.

The City provides a variety of convenient ways to pay property taxes, including through many financial institutions – either in person or online – by mail, and at in person City Hall. As the deadline falls the day after a statutory holiday, it may be convenient for many residents to pay property taxes before the final day, rather than chancing large line-ups. The City does accept cheques post-dated for July 2, 2009. However, please note that credit card payments are not accepted for property tax payments.

Thinking ahead to next year's taxes, property owners may wish to enrol in the monthly, automatic pre-payment program. For 10 months, on the first day of the month, a fixed amount is automatically debited from a bank account. Once 2010 taxes have been determined the remaining balance will be debited in July.

Property owners who occupy a property as their principal residence may be eligible for a Provincial Home Owner Grant. The grant application should be returned to City Hall or claimed online before July 2, 2009 to avoid a 10% penalty.

For more information on 2009 property taxes please visit www.victoria.ca.

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For More Information:

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Property Tax Quick Facts Backgrounder Attached

2009 City of Victoria Property Tax Quick Facts

How your 2009 tax dollar is spent

Engineering and Utilities	\$61,839,496	32.56%	32¢
Police Department	41,217,000	21.71%	22¢
General Government	28,524,706	15.02%	15¢
Parks, Recreation and Community Development	13,568,496	7.15%	7¢
Fire Department	12,497,461	6.58%	7¢
Capital Budget Funding	9,885,335	5.21%	5¢
Debt Repayment	7,827,583	4.12%	4¢
Conference Centre	7,720,724	4.07%	4¢
Victoria Public Library	3,461,221	1.82%	2¢
Planning and Development	3,339,195	1.76%	2¢
Total	\$189,881,217	100%	

2009 Taxes By Government Agency

City of Victoria (includes Debt)	\$60,600,237	36.89%
School District	49,782,074	30.29%
Police	32,564,057	19.82%
Regional District	9,544,910	5.81%
BC Transit Authority	5,133,456	3.12%
Hospital District	5,112,333	3.11%
BC Assessment	1,583,430	0.96%
Finance Authority	4,403	0.00%
Total	\$164,324,900	100%

Your 2009 Tax Dollars at Work:

- Secondary Suite Grant Program and relaxed zoning to create more, safe affordable housing
- Funding for non-profit housing developments through Housing Trust Fund
- Implement improved governance structure
- Development of green guidelines for private development
- Review of Official Community Plan and Neighbourhood plans
- Host the start of 2010 Olympic Torch Relay and 2009 Scotties Tournament of Hearts, attracting millions in economic spin-offs
- Host annual Canada Day celebrations on the Inner Harbour
- Develop Urban Forest Master Plan to determine how to best protect and renew Victoria's trees for the future
- Complete condition assessments of City infrastructure
- Continued rehabilitation of stormwater system
- Implement new pesticide bylaw and education program
- Create new Department of Sustainability
- Upgrade Sumas and Fisherman's Wharf Parks, start Harbour Pathway and complete Parks Master Plan
- Renovate Royal Athletic Park to host professional baseball
- Host thousands of conference visitors with the opening of the Crystal Garden, a 40% expansion of the Victoria Conference Centre
- Introduce downtown Victoria's Spirit Square including Spirit Poles, water feature, and performance stage for outdoor performances.
- New "pay-and-go" parking system and makeover of City parkades
- Continue to fund heritage projects through tax incentive program
- Test innovative technologies to reduce the amount of rain and stormwater entering sewer system in James Bay
- Rehabilitate 8 km of aging steel water mains using an innovative method known as trenchless technology
- Introduce newsletter to citizens and new City website