



# Message from the Mayor

Dear Residents and Business Owners,

Here we are on what seems like almost the other side of a global health pandemic. On behalf of Council, I want to express my appreciation to you for pulling together as a community to get through it.

Many of our small local businesses and members of our arts and culture community have really struggled. This year will be better for all. We've got an amazing series of festivals planned for this summer, downtown and in neighbourhoods. We'll once again be welcoming visitors to enjoy our beautiful city and all it has to offer. And the successful Build Back Victoria patio initiative will also give us all a chance to gather safely with friends and neighbours and experience Victoria's vibrancy.

Budget 2022 continues to invest in economic recovery and building resilience. It makes investments to prepare Victoria for the future – more affordable housing, renewal of critical infrastructure, taking action on climate mitigation and adaptation, enhancing public safety and community well-being, and also continuing to provide quality core services.

Based on input received during the budget engagement process, Council will invest \$274.2 million in operating and \$154 million in capital improvements to deliver 200 programs and services that the community depends on.

The benefits of a stronger-than-expected economic recovery in 2021 delivered a \$6.6 million boost to the bottom line through surplus and new assessed revenue from development. This creates financial flexibility to keep the property tax increase relatively low, while making strategic investments in programs and services to prepare the city for the future.

In our ongoing work on reconciliation, Council has established a five-year, annual Reconciliation Grant of \$200,000 for the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations as well as the City's new Reconciliation Contribution Fund, to which you are invited to contribute. Both

programs recognize that the wealth we hold in our properties is generated from Lekwungen lands without benefit to the Lekwungen people.

Contributing to the City's new Reconciliation Contribution Fund is something I hope every Victorian will consider supporting each year at tax time. Reconciliation must involve more than words, it must also include meaningful action. Contributing to this Fund is an act of reciprocity. Please see information and a contribution form enclosed.

Check out [victoria.ca/budget](https://victoria.ca/budget) for the full read on how your tax dollars are being invested to strengthen and enhance Victoria. Some highlights include:

- Investing \$5.5 million in community-driven initiatives and economic activity through the City's suite of grant programs that include Direct Award Grants, Strategic Plan Grants, Festival Investment Grants, Community Garden Volunteer Grants and Great Neighbourhood Grants.
  - \$250,000 to increase housing choice for renters and owners. Incentivizing the development of rental housing and looking for further opportunities to expedite and simplify development processes for affordable rental housing.
  - \$207,000 will go to supporting businesses through the *Build Back Victoria* patio program. A new staff position will be created to oversee implementation of *Victoria 3.0 – Recovery, Reinvention, Resilience*, the City's 20-year economic action plan and continue to support recovery from the pandemic.
  - An allocation of \$450,000 will develop the Beacon Hill Park Transportation, Circulation and Accessibility Plan and \$535,000 will restore natural areas in Victoria parks.
  - An investment of \$240,000 will go towards developing the Arts and Innovation District, to the north of downtown, a hub for cross-sector collaboration, innovation, research and development, and a place where arts and culture can thrive into the future.
- \$35.2 million to upgrade underground water mains, storm drains and sewer infrastructure. Funding from the federal Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund will support this work.
  - A continued focus on public safety will also see \$18.6 million for fire services. In 2022, the City will complete a new state-of-the-art, post-seismic Fire Hall and Emergency Operations Centre on Johnson Street to replace the current fire headquarters building on Yates Street.
  - Council funded VicPD's 2022 budget request, bringing Victoria's annual share of the total base police budget to \$53.6 million.
  - \$8 million for paving and filling potholes and a further \$1.1 million will go towards new accessible sidewalks and other upgrades.
  - \$5.9 million will advance high-impact initiatives in the Climate Leadership Plan, including the Green Fleet Plan and the Electric Vehicle Strategy.
  - Funding will continue for the implementation of the City's Zero Waste Strategy, including reducing single-use items going into the landfill and enhancing garbage and kitchen scraps services.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lisa Helps'.

Lisa Helps, Victoria Mayor

As we continue to recover from the pandemic, I hope that you and your loved ones can once again enjoy all that Victoria has to offer. I also hope that you will continue to contribute your ideas and input to help make Victoria one of the best medium-sized cities in the world.

# What you need to know to pay your taxes

The City offers many convenient payment methods to pay your property taxes.

TAXES DUE:



## Ways to pay your taxes



### Online Banking

Online banking is encouraged. You can pay through your financial institution's online banking system using the Folio Number located at the top left of your tax notice as the account number. Check your institution's local cut-off time to ensure payment is received by **July 4, 2022**.

**By Mail:** Mail your cheque (including post-dated cheques to the due date) and the bottom portion of your tax notice to:

#1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

Payment must be received by **July 4, 2022** to avoid a penalty.

**Financial Institutions:** Contact your financial institution for additional details and hours of operation.

**Drop Box:** There is a drop box located at the Pandora Avenue entrance of City Hall. The drop box is open 24/7 for non-cash payments.

**Through Your Mortgage Company:** If your mortgage company will be remitting payment to the City of Victoria on your behalf, confirm details of your tax payment with your mortgage company directly.

**In Person:** The Public Service Centre located in City Hall is open to the public Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., excluding statutory holidays. Payment methods include cash, cheque and debit. Credit cards are not accepted. Face masks are optional.

**Pre-authorized Payments:** Pre-authorized payments offer a convenient method to make monthly payments towards your 2023 property taxes. For further information visit [victoria.ca/propertytax](http://victoria.ca/propertytax).

## Claim Your Home Owner Grant

A reminder that eligible property owners can apply for their Home Owner Grant through the **Province's online system**. **Municipalities are no longer accepting applications**. Program eligibility is unchanged. To avoid penalties and interest, apply before the property tax due date of July 4, 2022. Learn more at [gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant](http://gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant) or call **1.888.355.2700** to speak with someone over the phone.

## MyCity Online

Want one-stop 24-hour access to your City accounts? Register at [victoria.ca/mycity](http://victoria.ca/mycity) today. Create a profile, register your accounts and access all of your information.

- Review property tax accounts (payments, assessments, levies)
- Obtain information for income tax purposes
- Sign up to view your Property Tax Notice online

## Property Tax Calculator

View your property assessed value change compared to the average assessed value for your property class and total property tax change by entering your Folio Number into the Property Tax Calculator at [victoria.ca/taxcalculator](http://victoria.ca/taxcalculator).

## Your 2022 property taxes

In 2022, the increase in revenue needed from property taxes is \$5.7 million over 2021. This amount is distributed across all property types and determines the property tax increase.

Council has distributed this increase equally to all property classes at 3.89%. This will result in an average property tax increase of \$105 for an average residential property assessed at \$966,000, and an average increase of \$265 for a typical business property assessed at \$683,000.

Please note that these are estimates only and each property will vary based on a number of factors. If your property assessment change (determined through BC Assessment) is equal to the average in its property classification (15.85% increase for residential and 5.63% for business in 2022), your property tax change will be close to the average. If your property assessment increased at a greater or lower rate than the average, your property tax increase will adjust accordingly.

## Say Hello to eBilling and Goodbye to Paper Bills

Sign up at MyCity Online.  
It's easy!

Receive next year's property tax notice by email and have less paper to worry about.

- 1 Login or register at [victoria.ca/mycity](http://victoria.ca/mycity).
- 2 Register your property tax account. If you own multiple properties, you can sign up each property for eBilling. Use your eight-digit Folio Number and your six-digit Access Code from your Property Tax Notice.
- 3 Select to receive your Property Tax Notice by email.

# Reconciliation Contribution Fund

*In 2015, the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada made clear that municipalities like the City of Victoria have a key role to play in reconciliation, and that reconciliation is about more than words, it must also include actions.*

## What is the Reconciliation Contribution Fund?

The City of Victoria has established the Reconciliation Contribution Fund to create an opportunity for residential and commercial property owners to contribute a voluntary amount to the Songhees Nation and Esquimalt Nation alongside their City of Victoria property taxes.

Your contribution will be provided to the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, in addition to the City's \$200,000 Reconciliation Grant. Both programs are an effort to start recognizing that the wealth generated by our City and its residents – including in the form of property ownership and associated taxes – is rooted in the lands and waters of the ləkʷəŋən, (Lekwungen) peoples.

Both the Grant and the Fund are meaningful ways for the City, residents and businesses to participate in reconciliation.

### Why is this Reconciliation Contribution Fund needed?

The City's Reconciliation Contribution Fund has been developed based on public input. People have asked for a tangible way for Victoria residents and businesses to make a meaningful contribution towards reconciliation. The Fund will be used by the Songhees Nation and Esquimalt Nation to achieve the goals and aims of their communities.

### How does the program work?

As a Victoria property owner, you have the **option** to contribute an amount equal to 5% or 10% of your property taxes **or** another amount of your choosing.

This voluntary contribution is to be made in addition to, and separately from, your annual property tax payment. The full value of your voluntary contribution will be provided directly to the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations.

### Can renters, business owners or people who don't live in the City but do live on Lekwungen lands contribute to the Fund?

Yes. Anyone has the option to contribute to the City's Reconciliation Contribution Fund. Information on ways to contribute is available on the reverse and at [victoria.ca/ReconciliationContribution](http://victoria.ca/ReconciliationContribution).

### Will I receive an official donation receipt for my contribution?

At this time an official donation receipt for tax purposes will not be issued for your contribution to the Fund.

*See over for ways to contribute*

# Reconciliation Contribution Fund Remittance Form

(for mail-in payments by cheque only)

**NOTE:** You do not need to complete this form if you are contributing by e-Transfer or in person at City Hall.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## Contribution Amount:

5% of property tax amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

10% of property tax amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Mail to:

City of Victoria  
#1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

Thank you for your contribution.

## Reminder

Your voluntary additional contribution to the Reconciliation Contribution Fund **must be made as a separate payment** from your Property Tax payment. The two amounts **cannot** be combined into one payment.

At this time an official donation receipt for tax purposes will not be issued for your contribution to the Fund.

The personal information collected by this remittance form will only be used for the purpose of processing your contribution. Section 26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act is the legislative authority for collection. If you require further information, please contact [publicsrv@victoria.ca](mailto:publicsrv@victoria.ca).

## Ways to Contribute

Anyone can contribute to the Reconciliation Contribution Fund.

Victoria property owners may want to consider making **an additional, voluntary** contribution equal to 5% or 10% of their property taxes OR an amount of their choosing.

### Interac e-Transfer:

You can contribute by e-Transfer. Set up the e-Transfer through your financial institution's online banking system and e-Transfer the City of Victoria using email address: [reconciliation@victoria.ca](mailto:reconciliation@victoria.ca).

No password is required. You do not need to submit the Remittance Form when you contribute by e-Transfer.

### In Person:

You can make a contribution to the Reconciliation Contribution Fund by cash, debit, credit card or cheque at the Public Service Centre at Victoria City Hall, Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (except on Statutory Holidays).

You do not need to submit the Remittance Form when you contribute in person.

### By Mail:

You can contribute by mailing a cheque payable to: **City of Victoria**.

REMINDER: Include your completed Remittance Form along with your cheque in the envelope.

### Mail to:

City of Victoria  
#1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

*(Please do not place cash or your credit card information in the mail.)*



For more information:  
250.361.0228  
[propertytax@victoria.ca](mailto:propertytax@victoria.ca)  
[victoria.ca/propertytax](http://victoria.ca/propertytax)

1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 1P6