



Message from the Mayor

Dear Residents and Business Owners,

Budget 2025 is the third annual budget of this term of Mayor and Council. The City of Victoria is committed to investing in core services, infrastructure and community safety and strives to offer the best value for your tax dollars.

Council and staff have worked hard to keep the tax increase at 6.99 per cent – 8.18 per cent for residents and 5.6 per cent for businesses. Global economic pressures and inflation continue to increase costs, and now more than ever, we must support and shop local – and Canadian.

This year, Council will invest \$361.9 million in operating expenses and \$164.3 in capital improvements, to ensure the continued delivery of more than 200 services and programs on which our community relies.

We continue to hear that housing and community safety and wellbeing are Victorians' top two priorities for investment.

This is why we are dedicating \$14.2 million to city-wide and area-based planning, housing and development approvals, climate action, urban design, heritage, social planning and equity, and tenant assistance.

We are also investing \$68.2 million for Victoria's share of the Victoria Police Budget, plus \$24 million in fire services and \$5.3 million for bylaw services to support community safety and wellbeing.

In our ongoing work towards reconciliation, Budget 2025 continues the City's annual Reconciliation Grant of \$200,000 for the Songhees Nation and the Xwsepsum Nation. The City's Reconciliation Contribution Fund will also continue; please see the back page on how to contribute to this voluntary Fund.

Like most Canadian cities, property taxes provide the largest source of revenue to fund City services, programs and initiatives.

Budget 2025 highlights include:

- \$43.9 million to rehabilitate Victoria's underground infrastructure, including replacing and upgrading water, stormwater and sewer mains.
- \$16.3 million for major and local street rehabilitation, with another \$16.7 million for multi-modal corridor improvements to support road safety, livability and accessibility.
- \$420,000 for traffic calming measures; installing speed humps, prioritizing installations on streets adjacent to schools, parks and streets with higher speeds and volumes. This investment also supports curb extensions or medians to enhance pedestrian crossings and safety.
- \$884,000 in improvements to expand the City's pedestrian network of accessible sidewalks and pathways to support a welcoming experience for walking and rolling. Additional investment of \$775,000 will create new crosswalks and upgrade crossing locations, with another \$571,000 to replace and widen existing sidewalks.
- \$2.4 million to upgrade and make public washrooms more accessible.
- \$7.4 million for the detailed design and construction of the first phase of the Centennial Square Revitalization Project. Phase 1 will include the construction of a large central plaza with a new performance area, lighting and an interactive water feature, new trees and landscaping, with the monolith public art restored and moved closer to Douglas Street.
- \$4.6 million to construct an 11-court pickleball hub at Topaz Park, with a new outdoor fitness area, central gathering space, misting station and connected pathways.
- \$948,000 to upgrade the playgrounds at Irving Park in the James Bay neighbourhood and Pemberton Park in the Gonzales neighbourhood. Another \$800,000 will be invested to design upgrades and improve accessibility to Royal Athletic Park's seating and washrooms.
- \$945,000 for the City's OUR DWTN revitalization program to invest in the downtown core with a focus on beautification, programming, cleaning and enhanced safety and the activation of downtown spaces.
- \$2.1 million for the detailed design and costing of the Government Street Refresh project between Yates Street and Pandora Avenue, to make this section of the street more pedestrian friendly.
- \$9 million to advance the City's low-carbon fleet to meet the municipality's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. This investment also includes installing electric vehicle charging infrastructure and building out the EV charging network.
- \$5.8 million in community-driven initiatives and economic activity with the City's suite of grant programs that include the new Major Community Initiatives and Events Grant, Direct Award Grants, Festival Project Grants, Community Garden Volunteer Grants and My Great Neighbourhood Grants.

I am honoured to be your mayor. Together, we are re-imagining and intentionally transforming our city, actively working to rebuild a welcoming society for current and future residents. It's a privilege to have the opportunity to serve and work alongside you in helping our community thrive.

Marianne Alto,
Victoria Mayor

What you need to know to pay your taxes

TAXES DUE:



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

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 2, 2025**.

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 2, 2025** 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.

Pre-authorized Payments: Pre-authorized payments offer a convenient method to make monthly payments towards your 2026 property taxes. For further information visit 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 2, 2025. Learn more at 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 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.

Your 2025 Property Taxes

In 2025, the increase in revenue needed from property taxes is \$12.6 million over 2024, resulting in an overall tax increase of 6.99%.

Council has distributed this increase at 8.18% to residential properties and 5.6% to business properties.

This will result in an average property tax increase of \$261 for an average residential property assessed at \$1,024,000 and an average increase of \$469 for a typical business property assessed at \$737,000.

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 (-2.02% decrease for residential and 0.5% increase for business in 2025), your property tax change will be close to the average. If your property assessment increased or decreased at a greater or lower rate than the average, your property tax will adjust accordingly.

Say Hello to eBilling and Goodbye to Paper Bills

Sign up at MyCity Online.
It's easy!

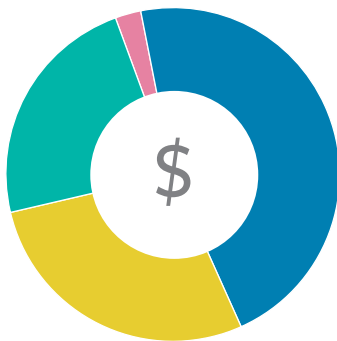
Receive next year's property tax notice by email and have less paper to worry about.

- 1 Login or register at victoria.ca/mycity.
- 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.

Your Overall Property Tax Increase Broken Down

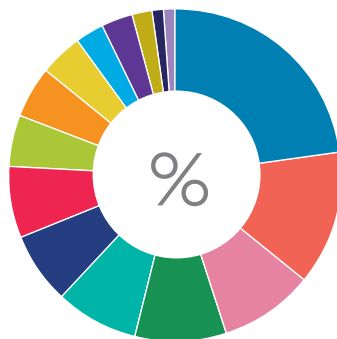
Your City Budget invests in vital services, programs and infrastructure that will benefit current and future generations. We take our responsibility to manage your tax dollars seriously, working every day to improve your quality of life and ensure community prosperity.

Property Tax Increase Breakdown



Police	3.23%
Infrastructure	1.97%
City Operations	1.62%
Greater Victoria Public Library	0.17%
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= 6.99%	

City Spending by Department



Victoria Police Department	23%
Underground Utilities	13%
Engineering and Public Works	9%
Parks, Recreation and Facilities	9%
General Government	8%
Transfers to Reserves	7%
Victoria Fire Department	7%
Support Functions	5%
Transfers to Capital Budget	5%
Sustainable Planning and Community Development	4%
Business and Community Relations	3%
Parking Services	3%
Debt	2%
Bylaw Services	1%
Greater Victoria Public Library	1%

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?

In 2022, the City of Victoria 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 Xwsepsəm Nation alongside their City of Victoria property taxes.

Your voluntary contribution will be provided to the Songhees Nation and Xwsepsəm Nation, in addition to the City's annual \$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 Lək'wəḡən (Lekwungen) peoples.

Why is the Reconciliation Contribution Fund needed?

The City's Reconciliation Contribution Fund was developed based on public input. People 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 Xwsepsəm Nation to achieve the goals and aims of their communities.

How does the program work?

Your 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 Xwsepsəm Nation and Songhees Nation.

Some Victoria property owners have opted to contribute an amount equal to five or 10 per cent of their property taxes. You may contribute any amount – every dollar is welcome.

Learn more at: victoria.ca/ReconciliationContribution

Ways to Contribute

Anyone can contribute to the Reconciliation Contribution Fund.

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.

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 and mail to: City of Victoria, 1 Centennial Square, Victoria, BC V8W 1P6.

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.

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 \$ _____ ☐ Other amount \$ _____
- ☐ 10% of property tax amount \$ _____

Mail to:

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

Thank you for your contribution.



For more information:
250.361.0228
propertytax@victoria.ca | victoria.ca/propertytax

1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC
V8W 1P6