



2021 TAX INFORMATION

TAX PAYMENTS ARE DUE JULY 2, 2021

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, Council and City staff have together been balancing public health orders and declining City revenues with the need to deliver critical services and maintain local infrastructure. When the pandemic was first declared, many facilities closed, and more than 100 positions were affected. Some facilities have since been able to re-open at different service levels but there is continued uncertainty, and this will likely continue to affect budgets and City operations through 2021.

The Governments of BC and Canada are helping, and have provided the City of Prince George with \$6.1 million of emergency assistance – called “Safe Restart” funding – to support operating costs. Council has used just over \$3 million of this amount to date, which enabled them to provide relief to local residents by freezing tax increases in 2021.

PROPERTY TAXES AND WHAT A 0% TAX INCREASE MEANS

Council’s 0% tax increase means the total amount of property taxes collected in 2021 will be the same as 2020 (not including new development). The amount each property is taxed is also a function of the assessed value of the property as determined by the BC Assessment Authority. This ensures a fair distribution of taxes according to the value of the property. This year, the residential tax rate (an amount charged per \$1,000 of assessed value) has actually decreased from last year but if your assessed value increased, it is possible that your tax bill could still be higher in 2021 than it was in 2020.

See our web page at www.princegeorge.ca/taxes for more information.

2021 BUDGET MEASURES APPROVED BY COUNCIL

- Increasing the annual budget for snow and ice control from \$8.5 to \$10 million.
- A \$501,000 increase in the City operating budget to cover all service areas except those with service/utility fees.
- A \$150,000 increase in the budget for road and sidewalk rehabilitation.
- A \$125,000 increase in funding for infrastructure reinvestment to keep pace with inflation.
- No cost-of-living salary increase for the Mayor, members of Council, or City management for the second year in a row.
- Reduction of travel, conferences, and other discretionary expenses.

JULY 2

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DON'T FORGET TO APPLY FOR THE HOME OWNER GRANT.

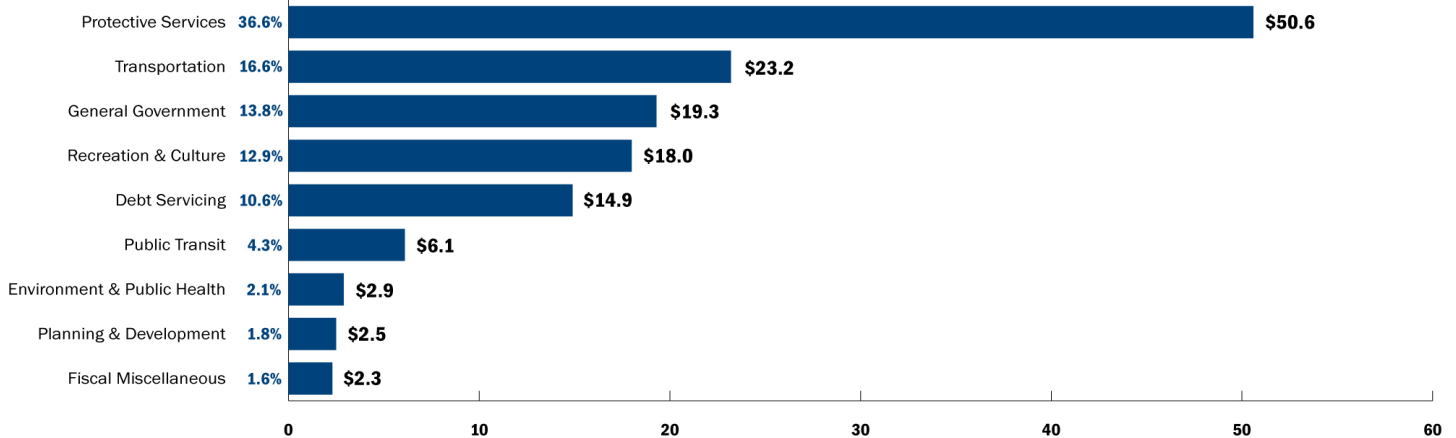


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HOW YOUR TAX DOLLARS ARE SPENT

2021 General Operating Expenses in \$millions



Services such as water, sanitary sewer, and residential garbage collection are billed separately from property taxes. User fees (collected through City utility bills) support the operating costs of these services as well as the replacement of aging infrastructure.

CLAIMING THE HOME OWNER GRANT

The Provincial Home Owner Grant program helps reduce the amount of residential property taxes home owners pay on their primary residences. Applications **must** now be made through the Government of BC, but while the process has changed, program details and eligibility requirements are the same. To claim the home owner grant, visit www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant or see the link from the City website: www.princegeorge.ca/taxes. Note that taxes do not need to be paid before claiming the home owner grant.

PAYING YOUR TAXES

Note that due to the ongoing pandemic, the City requests that you consider options to pay taxes remotely. Payment options are indicated on the back of your property tax notice and on the City website at www.princegeorge.ca/taxes. The Service Centre in City Hall is open weekdays from 8:30am to 5:00pm and safety measures are in place for residents who must pay their taxes in-person.

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