



March 27, 2020

COVID-19 and property tax payments update

Wondering if COVID-19 is affecting property tax payments? The City of Campbell River is planning to adjust as necessary to any changes directed by the Province – and to keep local taxpayers updated.

The Province of British Columbia is working on initiatives to support property owners with property tax payments in response to the COVID-19 situation. City Council continues to lobby the Province to consider options to expand the scope of support. Homeowners with children, as well as homeowners aged 55 and older, are able to defer taxes under already-established programs.

“The coronavirus pandemic has created uncertainty in many ways, and we realize that people have questions about property tax payments in light of COVID-19,” says city manager Deborah Sargent. *“Currently, the Province requires City property taxes to be paid by July 2. They have announced some changes around business taxes, and we’re working to be as responsive and helpful as possible if the Province announces further changes.”*

In the meantime, the City is reminding residents who’ve arranged for monthly pre-authorized payments that they can make changes to scheduled withdrawals if they choose.

“The City is reminding property owners who’ve arranged for automatic withdrawals that, if they would like to change these for any reason, giving the City advance notice will help ensure that payments can be cancelled in time,” says Dennis Brodie, the City’s financial planning officer.

Important information about changing pre-authorized withdrawal payments on property taxes

The City of Campbell River has sent letters to property owners who are registered for pre-scheduled payments, reminding them of deadlines to cancel scheduled withdrawals from their bank accounts.

The next scheduled withdrawals for payment of 2020 property taxes are scheduled to occur on April 10, May 10, and any remaining balance on July 2.

Deadlines for notifying the City that pre-authorized tax withdrawals should be cancelled:

- To cancel the April 10 withdrawal, please notify the City by April 7, 2020
- To cancel the May 10 withdrawal, please notify the City by May 6, 2020
- To cancel the July 2 withdrawal, please notify the City by June 29, 2020

To cancel pre-authorized withdrawals, please contact the City by email at info@campbellriver.ca with your name, address of the property, and an email address. The City will email confirmation of cancellation within two business days.

Please contact the City’s call centre at 250-286-4033 with questions.

Information on existing tax deferment programs is available at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/property-taxes/annual-property-tax/defer-taxes>

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