

Finance Department – FAQ

Updated: March 31, 2020

Will the City provide property tax relief for taxpayers?

The City of Chilliwack is monitoring the dynamic and changing environment during this health crisis. We understand that the current situation will have varying degrees of financial impact for the residents and taxpayers of Chilliwack in the coming days, weeks and months.

Both the Federal and Provincial governments have announced aid and stimulus plans for individuals and businesses affected by the effects of COVID-19. The City of Chilliwack will continue to monitor the roll out of these aid programs and ensure those in need are directed to the appropriate location. Unlike the Federal and Provincial governments, local governments cannot run a budgetary deficit, thereby, impacting the types of relief options that municipalities can consider. However, the City will continue to explore any possible actions that can be taken to ease the impacts for its residents and taxpayers.

Under the [Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 Action Plan](#), announced on March 23, 2020, businesses and light and major industry will see the school tax portion of their 2020 property taxes cut in half. On average, the School Tax portion makes up approximately 30% of total property taxation levies. This will provide immediate relief to businesses that own their property and also allow commercial landlords to immediately pass savings on to their tenants under triple-net leases.

Will the City extend the due date for property taxes?

The City of Chilliwack is governed by provincial legislation under the *Community Charter* and follows the “General Tax Collection Scheme”, which states that “property taxes for a year are due on July 2 of the year”. The Provincial Government has not yet announced any changes to this due date, however, the City will continue to monitor any future announcements that may include this provision.

Will the City waive penalties and for property taxes not paid by the due date?

The *Community Charter* legislation also mandates municipalities to charge late payment penalties to property tax amounts not paid by the due date. This ensures all taxpayers are treated equitably. The Provincial Government has also not announced any changes to this penalty stipulation, however, the City will continue to monitor any future announcements that may include changes to this provision.

Will the City waive interest charges on overdue utility (water, sewer and garbage collection) fees?

Yes. At the Special Regular Meeting of Council held on March 25, 2020, Chilliwack City Council approved waiving interest charges on unpaid utility invoicing, effective immediately, with a reassessment on June 30, 2020.