



## A message from Mayor Barbara Desjardins

On behalf of Council—Councillors Darlene Rotchford, Duncan Cavens, Andrea Boardman, Jacob Helliwell, Ken Armour, Tim Morrison and myself, I invite you to review the township’s 2023 budget information.

Look how far we have come in 2022—the year began with us unable to hold our levée due to ongoing Covid restrictions. By May we were able to hold in-person open houses for Future of Policing, host the grand opening of our new library space, and celebrate the opening of the Gorge Park Pavilion with the community.

Esquimalt is known for community events and last year, our well-loved outdoor activities and celebrations were in full swing. We saw Buccaneer Days and Ribfest return, danced to Music in the Park, enjoyed Bard Across the Bridge, visited Petapalooza, and wandered the Urban Arts Tour.

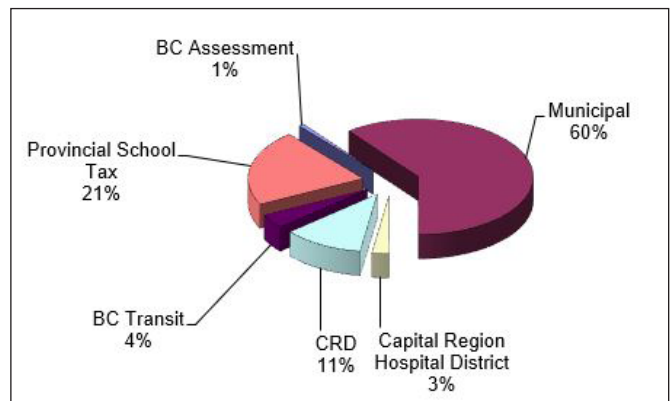
For the first time, Esquimalt was a host site for Victoria International Jazzfest in July. Hosting marquis events further puts Esquimalt on the map and brings new visitors and dollars to the community.

But it wasn’t all celebration, significant work has occurred such as development approvals for several housing projects, low-carbon initiatives discussions at council and the graduated return of our Parks and Recreation programs. Council endorsed the Active Transportation Network Plan, planning and design was done for the Lyall Street corridor and active transportation plans for the Lampson and Tillicum corridors.

Long term financial sustainability is important if the Township is to continue delivering the services and programs expected by the community. It is also important that community assets are maintained as a potential means to attract and retain businesses and to ensure that the costs do not become a greater burden for future taxpayers.

Council has a responsibility in budgeting to maintain healthy financial reserves and to balance new or renewed capital projects with the overall financial health of the township.

### 2023 total taxation



*In addition to municipal levies, taxes are collected on behalf of other taxing authorities.*

The Township’s tax rates are difficult to compare with other municipalities in the Capital Regional District. The Township provides its own police, fire, recreation, and library services however these services are, in some instances, either cost-shared or provided on a volunteer basis by other municipalities. Another factor to consider is that the Township includes all utility costs in its property tax levies while some municipalities issue separate invoices to taxpayers.

This year, revenue collected from residential properties will be 7.41% higher than last year. All other classes will require a revenue increase of 9.67% with the exception of Class 6 Business which will see an increase of 5.16% to support the service levels in the Financial Plan.

A busy and successful year of transitions from Covid, retirements and elections, and return of in-person events. Looking forward to what 2023 brings!

*Barbara Desjardins*

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**See 2023 tax & budget information on reverse**

# 2023 tax and budget information

Visit [Esquimalt.ca](http://Esquimalt.ca) to set up your MyEsquimalt online account where you can:

- ✓ Apply for dog and business licences.
- ✓ Choose to receive future tax notices & licence renewals electronically.
- ✓ Access your tax & licencing details anytime, anywhere.
- ✓ Pay your property taxes.

Your **2023 property tax notice covers the tax year from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.** To balance the operating budget, Council must collect revenue through property taxes. The amount required is converted to a rate, which is then applied to the taxable assessment of each property to determine the taxes payable.

## You can pay your taxes:

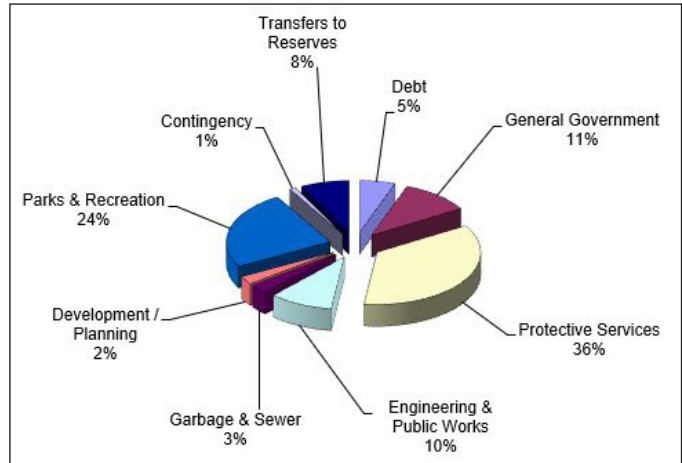
- At most financial institutions either in person, online, or via telebanking.
- By credit card through the MyEsquimalt portal. Set up your account via [esquimalt.ca/tax](http://esquimalt.ca/tax).
- By post-dated cheque (post-dated no later than July 4, 2023).
- Via the 24-hour secure municipal hall drop box outside the front entrance (no cash please).
- In person at Esquimalt Municipal Hall, M–F, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- By mail. To avoid a late penalty, your mailed payment must be received by the township on or before July 4.

If you are eligible for a **Home Owner Grant, you must apply through the Province.** The grant needs to be applied for every year. If you miss the due date, you may apply for the home owner grant until December 31; however a 10 per cent penalty may apply.

You can claim your 2023 grant online at [gov.bc.ca/HomeOwnerGrant](http://gov.bc.ca/HomeOwnerGrant) as soon as you receive your property tax notice. Call 1-888-355-2700 (toll free) to speak to a live agent or visit Service BC at 403-771 Vernon Ave.

You may qualify for **provincial tax deferral programs.** Visit [gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferral](http://gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferral) or contact the Provincial Tax Deferral Office at 250-387-0555 for information.

## 2023 municipal property taxes



The above graph is based on the 2023 approved operating budget and demonstrates where your municipal tax dollars will be spent.

Visit our website at [esquimalt.ca/tax](http://esquimalt.ca/tax) for more options and information on how you can apply for grants, deferrals and pay your taxes.

## Schedule of upcoming council meetings

Public input is invited at all Council and Committee of the Whole Meetings.

June 5	Council, 7 p.m.
June 12	Committee of the Whole, 6 p.m.
June 19	Council, 7 p.m.
July 10	Council, 7 p.m.
July 17	Council, 7 p.m.

Summer recess: July 18 through August 14

**Property tax penalty deadline is July 4, 2023.**

Please visit our website for more tax information at [esquimalt.ca/tax](http://esquimalt.ca/tax)

Township of  
**ESQUIMALT**