

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 2024 budget information.

Ensuring the Township's long-term financial sustainability is crucial for maintaining the delivery of expected community services and programs. Equally important is the upkeep of community assets, which can serve as a means to attract and retain businesses, thereby preventing future taxpayers from bearing greater burdens.

This year, the revenue required to balance the budget is 7.72% higher than last year. The impact this increase will have on property taxes will depend on your property's assessed value.

Esquimalt is renowned for and will continue to support its vibrant community events. Last year was no exception as our beloved outdoor activities and celebrations flourished. Buccaneer Days proved to be one of the most successful in memory, while Music in the Park kept us dancing, Bard Across the Bridge entertained us, and Petapalooza delighted visitors. Additionally, Esquimalt proudly hosted the annual culinary event RibFest and welcomed back the Victoria International Jazzfest to Bullen Field, adding to our rich tapestry of annual events.

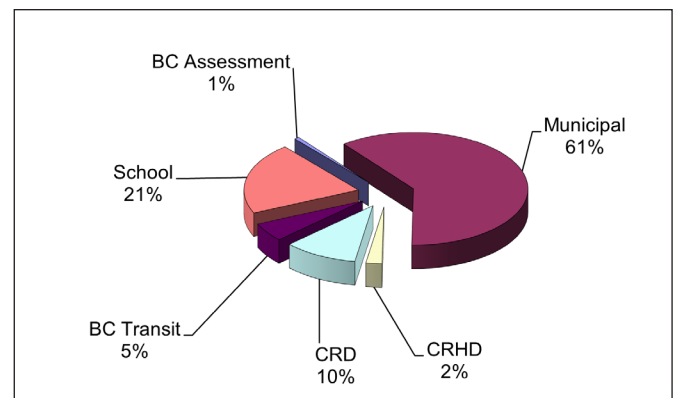
Amidst these remarkable events, significant efforts were also directed towards rezoning and development permits, contributing to the expansion of the Township's housing inventory. Low-carbon initiative discussions were had at the Council table and progress is being made in implementing the Township's Active Transportation Network Plan.

Traffic calming, pedestrian improvements and protected bike lanes were completed, and engagement on speed limit reductions to lower speed limits on Major Roads to 40km/hr and all other roads to 30km/hr was also a priority. Development of an overall Sewer Asset Management Plan initiated and progressed with completion expected in 2024.

A major project in our Parks and Recreation department occurred in 2023 as well. The 50-year-old boilers at the Esquimalt Recreation Centre were replaced. These boilers are the central source of heat for the entire facility including all swimming pools and domestic hot water. The new boilers are modulating high efficiency condensing natural gas units that will reduce greenhouse emissions through improved efficiencies.



2024 total taxation



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

Comparing the Township's tax rates with those of other municipalities in the Capital Regional District proves challenging. Although the Township independently offers police, fire, recreation, and library services, some of these services are either cost-shared or provided voluntarily by neighboring municipalities. Additionally, the Township incorporates all utility costs into its property tax levies, whereas some municipalities send separate invoices to taxpayers, further complicating comparisons.

We anticipate an exhilarating year ahead in Esquimalt, dedicated to enriching the vitality and essence of our community.

Barbara Desjardins

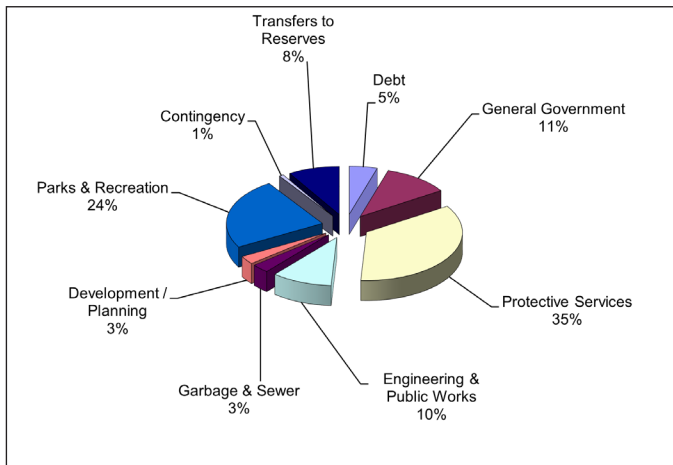
2024 TAX AND BUDGET INFORMATION

Visit [Esquimalt.ca](https://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.

- By post-dated cheque (post-dated no later than July 2, 2024).
- Via the 24-hour secure municipal hall drop box outside the front entrance (no cash please).
- In person at Esquimalt Municipal Hall, Monday-Friday, 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 2.

2024 municipal property taxes



The above graph is based on the 2024 approved operating budget and demonstrates where your municipal tax dollars will be spent.

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 2024 grant online at 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 or contact the Provincial Tax Deferral Office at 250-387-0555 for information.

Your 2024 property tax notice covers the tax year from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

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.

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

The property tax penalty deadline is July 2, 2024.

Please visit our website for more tax information at esquimalt.ca/tax

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