

MESSAGE FROM ABBOTSFORD CITY COUNCIL

Shortly after the election in October of last year, your new City Council began working to identify and solidify our priorities for the next four years through the development of a new 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan supports our collective vision of Abbotsford as the cultural and economic Hub of the Fraser Valley and provides the foundation for aligning all of our municipal planning decisions over the course of our term. It also provides Council the ability to continually monitor progress toward our overall vision for the community.

Within the Strategic Plan, Council's priorities are set out under four Guiding Principles, which set the overall direction at the highest level for every initiative the City will be focused on for the next four years and include:

- Inclusive and Connected Community;
- Sustainable and Safe City;
- Vibrant and Growing Economy; and,
- Organizational Excellence and Integrity.

Each Guiding Principle has corresponding Goals and Priority Actions to help us build and grow to a city of 200,000 residents, and just six months into our term, we are already seeing action on some of these goals.

The City has begun the implementation of our Culture Connect Strategy, and are looking to establish a cultural "one-stop-shop", as a way to provide more cultural programming and resources for everyone in Abbotsford and to connect all our diverse cultures and communities. We've also launched a new Aquatic Strategy, which aims to improve the accessibility and quality of our community's aquatic facilities and to ensure our facilities and programming are meeting the needs of our residents.

We've also implemented several of the actions signaled under our Homelessness Action Plan and will continue advocating to the provincial government for more support, affordable housing options and community resources for those most vulnerable in our community.

Additionally, construction has begun on the new Abbotsford Police Department headquarters. This new facility will provide our police services with the resources they need to meet their goal of making Abbotsford the safest City in BC. As a Council, we are proud to invest in public safety and believe that this new building will

be an important step in continuing to support the safety and security of our community.

We are exploring a Regional Partnerships Strategy to find more ways to collaborate on service efficiencies for our City, and have been reviewing the resource needs for the organization and modernizing City services in order to provide efficient and exceptional customer service.

As we continue to work toward improving the quality of life for all residents in our community, we remain committed to advocating for the long-term flood mitigation funding and support required to protect our community and for more affordable housing options so that all our residents can find a home and set down their roots in Abbotsford.

As a Council, it's been a privilege for each of us to serve this dynamic and vibrant community and we look forward to continuing our work together, to build up our City as the Cultural and Economic Hub of the Fraser Valley.

Ross Siemens
Mayor



2022-2026 ABBOTSFORD CITY COUNCIL

OUR MISSION: We strive to continually improve the quality of life within our community by delivering key services for current and future generations.



MAYOR
ROSS SIEMENS



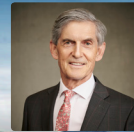
COUNCILLOR
LES BARKMAN



COUNCILLOR
KELLY CHAHAL



COUNCILLOR
PATRICIA DRIESSEN



COUNCILLOR
SIMON GIBSON



COUNCILLOR
DAVE LOEWEN



COUNCILLOR
PATRICIA ROSS



COUNCILLOR
DAVE SIDHU



COUNCILLOR
MARK WARKENTIN

COUNCIL'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES



INCLUSIVE & CONNECTED COMMUNITY



SUSTAINABLE & SAFE CITY



VIBRANT & GROWING ECONOMY



ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE & INTEGRITY

2023 GOALS

The new 2022-2026 Strategic Plan sets out the goals, priorities and actions for the City of Abbotsford through four Guiding Principles which reflect a balanced approach to the municipal organizational planning process.

Principle 1: Inclusive and Connected Community

GOALS:

- Embrace diversity as one of our community's greatest strengths
- Capitalize on transportation opportunities in and through the City
- Value recreation and support facilities, amenities and activities that connect us
- Ensure development decisions are based on our long-term strategies and are not swayed from our community vision by short-term goals

Principle 2: Sustainable and Safe City

GOALS:

- Value our community's connection with the environment
- Support a multi-disciplinary approach to public safety
- Facilitate action to mitigate social issues that impact our community

Principle 3: Vibrant & Growing Economy

GOALS:

- Invest in building relationships that facilitate alignment
- Develop a vibrant and diverse economy
- Recognize the value of innovation in our local economy, especially agriculture

Principle 4: Organizational Excellence & Integrity

GOALS:

- Our City services and programs are efficient and effective and we provide excellence in customer experiences
- Financial decisions consider long-term costs alongside the value to the community
- We have open and transparent governance
- Our workforce is involved, safe and engaged

STAY CONNECTED

FACEBOOK /CityofAbbotsford /AbbotsfordPRC

TWITTER @City_Abbotsford

INSTAGRAM @thecityofabbotsford @Abbotsfordprc

YOUTUBE /cityofabbotsfordbc

letstalkabbotsford.ca

ALL PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2023

NOTE: TAX PENALTIES APPLIED: First 5% Penalty Date: JULY 5, 2023 | Second 5% Penalty Date: SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

OPTIONS FOR PAYING PROPERTY TAXES

HOW TO PAY

ONLINE IS EASIEST!

Set up Abbotsford Property Tax as a bill payee through your online banking system and pay as you would any utility bill. Search for "Abbotsford" and select payee with "property taxes". Use the 10 digit folio number from your tax notice as the account number.

PAYING BY CHEQUE

Canada Post postmarks are not accepted as the date of payment. Therefore, please allow for delivery time for your mailed cheque to arrive. City Hall also has drop boxes for cheques only, which are emptied every day.

PAYING BY CREDIT CARD

Credit cards are only accepted for online tax and utility payments and are not accepted in person at City Hall. To pay online visit abbotsford.ca/creditcard. A 1.75% service fee will apply.

WHERE TO PAY

PAY ONLINE

Residents can easily pay property taxes online at any time through a financial institution. Apply for Home Owner Grants **directly** through the Province of BC. Eligibility requirements remain the same. For more information visit gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant

DROP OFF OR MAIL TO CITY HALL

Cheques for taxes can be mailed or dropped off at a City Hall dropbox. There are 2 dropboxes, one at each entrance. **Please DO NOT include cash.** These boxes are emptied daily. **Parking is limited due to construction.**

IN PERSON AT CITY HALL

City Hall is open 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Monday - Friday, closed all Statutory Holidays, and located at 32315 South Fraser Way. **Parking is limited due to construction.**

AT YOUR FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

Property taxes can be paid at any Canadian financial institution. Please ensure payment is processed by the due date.

HOMEOWNER GRANT

HOW TO APPLY:

ONLINE:
gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant

CALL: 1-888-355-2700

The City of Abbotsford cannot process your Home Owner Grant. You must do this through the Province of BC.

TAX DEFERMENT PROGRAM

You may qualify to defer your taxes on your principal residence if you meet the provincial program criteria.

HOW TO APPLY:

ONLINE:
gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferment

CALL: 1-888-355-2700

You cannot defer your taxes through the City of Abbotsford. You must do this through the Province of BC, online or by phone.

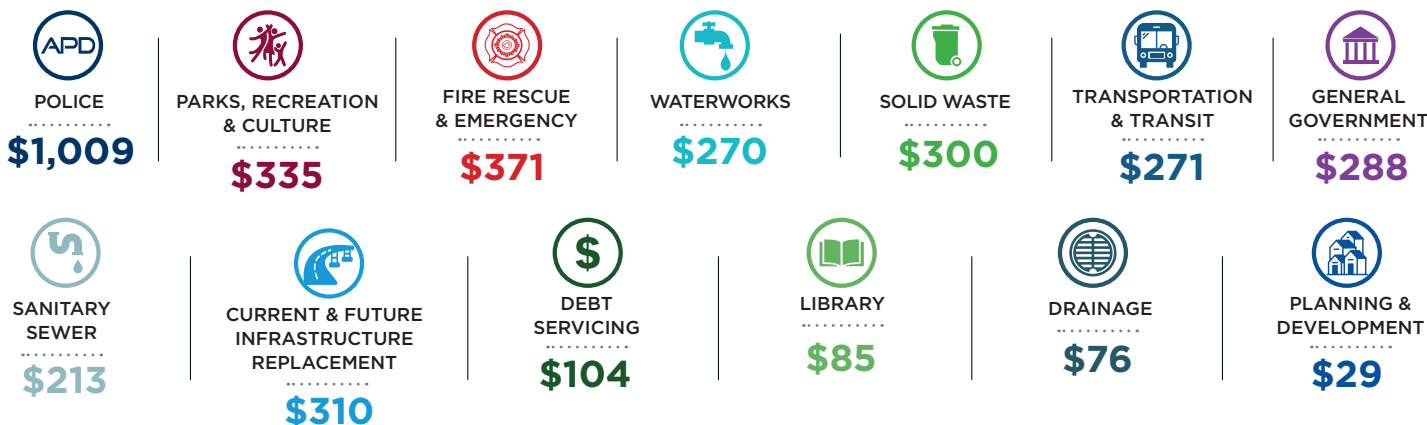
QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR TAX BILL?

Call 604-864-5522 between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm Monday - Friday or email cash@abbotsford.ca, or visit abbotsford.ca/propertytaxes

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HOW TAX DOLLARS & USER FEES PAY FOR CITY SERVICES

This graphic gives a snapshot of how tax revenue is divided up to support services and amenities across the community. Dollars are based on 2023 budgeted municipal taxes, for a typical single family residence with a 2022 property assessment of \$1,074,000.



TOTAL: \$3,661 | THIS YEAR'S AVERAGE MUNICIPAL TAX INCREASE IS 5.98%

WHERE YOUR DOLLAR GOES

The City of Abbotsford is required to collect property taxes on behalf of the Province of BC and other authorities including the School District, BC Assessment, Municipal Finance Authority, Fraser Valley Regional District, Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District and Business Improvement Areas. 36 cents of each dollar the City collects is passed on to other authorities. 64 cents of each dollar is collected and used for City services.

36¢ PROVINCIAL & OTHER AUTHORITIES



64¢
CITY OF ABBOTSFORD

ACCESSING CITY HALL

PARKING AT CITY HALL IS VERY LIMITED DUE TO CONSTRUCTION.

This year, please pay your taxes online, if possible, or be prepared to drop off a cheque with the staff at the tent outside of City Hall.

You can also drop off your payments in the drop boxes, safely and securely without waiting, 24/7.

There are 2 dropboxes, one at each entrance. **Please DO NOT include cash.**

