



CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS PARCEL TAX FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is the parcel tax the same amount for everyone?

- Yes this parcel tax is \$51.61 for five (5) years and is the same for everyone regardless of the size of land owned.

What services do I receive for this parcel tax?

- The services are fire protection of property and life safety. This parcel tax will cover the cost of the replacement fire truck the City needed to purchase.
- The total cost of the fire truck purchase was \$1,072,518.50. The Regional District of Kootenay Boundary contributed \$350,000 towards the purchase price. The remainder of \$722,518.50 is financed through the Municipal Finance Authority equipment financing program under a five (5) year agreement. The annual principal and interest loan payments are \$149,516.76 for five (5) years.

I own several parcels do I pay parcel tax on each one?

- Yes each parcel is subject to parcel tax. A parcel is a designated area of land that does not include a highway. A house and yard represent one parcel.

Can I consolidate my parcels into one and pay one parcel tax?

- Yes but there is a cost and only certain parcels can be consolidated.

Can I opt out of paying parcel tax?

- No. Everyone pays this parcel tax – residents, businesses, industries. All parcels receive the same protection service. Only parcels exempt are those owned by the Provincial government.



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Does my Home Owner Grant apply to the parcel tax?

- Yes the Home Owner Grant applies to all taxes. The parcel tax amount of \$51.61 will be included in the total amount of property tax due July 4, 2016.

When and how did council make this decision?

- After a careful consideration of the possible choices available (property tax increase vs parcel tax, debt) Council decided that it would be in the residents best interest to charge a parcel tax. Bylaw 2031 (Bylaw to impose parcel tax) received three (3) readings on April 19, 2016.

What if I decide not to pay the parcel tax?

- Like any unpaid taxes the amount unpaid will be subject to 10% penalty and interest. If these unpaid taxes remain unpaid for three (3) years then the property may be sold by auction in a tax sale.

So how many taxes do I pay to the City?

- Annually as a property owner you pay property taxes based on the assessed value of your land and improvements. Depending on where you live in the City you may pay other taxes.

Where can I obtain more information?

In person: Reception at City Hall

Website: grandforks.ca

Phone: 250-442-8266

Email: info@grandforks.ca