

COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL

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DATE: September 12, 2022

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Standing Committee on Finance and Audit

SUBJECT: 2023 Permissive Tax Exemptions

ATTACHMENT(S): Staff Report to Standing Committee on Finance and Audit from Kris Dalio, Director of Finance dated August 19, 2022
Appendix A – 2023 Permissive Tax Exemptions

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council:

1. APPROVES the recommendation for permissive tax exemptions for the year 2023 for the organizations listed in Appendix “A” attached to the report dated September 12, 2022 from the Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Audit titled “2023 Permissive Tax Exemptions”; and
2. GIVES FIRST THREE READINGS of the “City of Prince George Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 9075, 2019, Amendment Bylaw 9343, 2022”.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval from Council regarding 2023 Permissive Tax Exemptions.

The Director of Finance presented a report on the 2023 Permissive Tax Exemptions at the Standing Committee on Finance and Audit meeting held on August 29, 2022 and the Committee endorsed the approval of the new exemptions recommended in the report.

Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaws must be approved before October 31st as per Section 224 of the *Community Charter*.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The Permissive Tax Exemption program supports all of Council’s Social Development Priorities as well as Sustainable Fiscal Management and Organizational Excellence.

As per Sustainable Finance Guideline 5.5, permissive tax exemption is a means for Council to support organizations within the community which further Council’s objectives of enhancing quality of life (economic, social, and cultural) and delivering services economically. There is no obligation on the part of Council to grant exemptions.

The Permissive Tax Exemption Policy was used in conjunction with the Permissive Tax Exemption Administrative Procedure to adjudicate the Permissive Tax Exemptions. As per the Policy, the length of the exemptions provided will be granted to the organizations for a period that coincides with the existing Council’s term of office, up to a maximum of 4 years. However, the owners of the exempted properties

are expected to apply annually and state any changes that have occurred, which are then reviewed by Administration.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The total estimated value for the tax exemptions in this report's recommendations is \$1,822,666 or 1.53% of the tax levy (based on 2022 tax rates and assessment values). The exact amount of these exemptions will not be known until the time that BC Assessment releases the revised property tax roll in 2023.

New folios recommended for approval include:

1. 00-14674-000 Elks Lodge 122 Prince George – The Elks Lodge facility serves as a community hall which supports social inclusion, access public recreation, culture and arts opportunities. Examples of the above are: Card Clubs, Sewing Clubs, Religious Events, the May Day parade, and other charity events.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The Standing Committee on Finance and Audit requests that Council approve the new exemption recommended in this report.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Councillor Garth Frizzell, Chair
Standing Committee on Finance and Audit

MEETING DATE: September 21, 2022