

January 28, 2023

City of Prince George  
1100 Patricia Blvd  
Prince George, BC V2L 3V9

Attention: Mayor Simon Yu

Subject: 2023 Budget Meetings

Please add the attached November 15, 2022 letter to Council's budget meeting agenda this week as my input on this year's budget.

I previously delivered this letter to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor City Hall by hand with copies for all Councillors on November 15.

With the exception of a phone call from Councillor Klassen, I did not receive any further response or acknowledgement of my letter by city staff, Mayor or Councillors.

In mid December I phoned the Mayor's executive assistant at the time and left a voice message inquiring on the status of my letter. I received no response to this call. In mid January I phoned the Mayor's new executive assistant who advised that she could not find any record that the City received my November 15 letter.

I sincerely hope all taxpayers' letters to Mayor and Council are not treated in a similar manner.

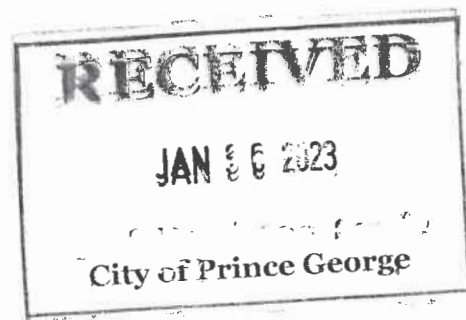
Finally, I recommend that Council's final budget approval directs staff to include detailed information in our tax notices showing tax increases on average and higher assessed homes as noted in my November 15 letter suggestion 3.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my input on the 2023 budget.

Yours sincerely,

Redacted

Ed Chanter  
2692 Ridgeview Drive  
Prince George, BC  
V2K 4C5



November 15, 2022

City of Prince George  
1100 Patricia Blvd  
Prince George BC V2L 3V9

Attention: Mayor Simon Yu

**Subject: 2023 City Budget and Residential Property Tax Notice/Information**

I have a number of suggestions for Mayor and Council to consider when developing the 2023 City budget.

The 2022 Tax Information accompanying our Property Tax Notice indicated as follows:

**"City Council cut a projected 6.55% 2022 tax levy by more than half to 3%. The reduction means that the average home (valued at about \$341,000 in 2021) will see an approximately \$70 increase in 2022."**

This tax information has an accompanying chart indicating "How Your Tax Dollars Are Spent" with general operating expenses in \$millions.

My discussions with a number of residential taxpayers indicates their 2022 property taxes were 20% higher compared to 2021 resulting in a tax increase in the range of \$50 to \$70 per MONTH.

I attended several of our last local government election debates and heard a number of comments related to the need for more transparency and accountability in Council decision making. During the break in one of these debates an existing councillor was unable or unwilling to answer my question on what percentage of taxpayers received tax notices with 20% or higher increases.

My suggestions for Mayor and Council when preparing the 2023 City Budget are as follows:

1. Direct the Finance Department to prepare a bar graph/pie chart with accompanying financial information showing how many 2022 residential taxpayers paid 3%, 3-10%, 10-20% and 20% or higher this year and include this information on a public Council agenda prior to approval of the 2023 budget.
2. Direct the Finance Department to prepare a similar bar graph/pie chart with accompanying information when finalizing the 2023 budget showing how many residential taxpayers may have to pay taxes equal to the City budget increase/decrease and how many may have to pay in excess of the City budget and include this information on a public Council agenda prior to tax notices being mailed out.
3. Revise the 2023 Tax Information accompanying the property tax notice to include detailed information on the percentage of taxpayers who will be required to pay taxes equal to the actual increase/decrease in the City budget and what percentage may have to pay more than the Council budget increase/decrease (use examples of the residential tax impact on \$400,000, \$600,000 or higher assessed homes).

I appreciate Council working toward greater transparency and accountability to the taxpayer by acting on my suggestions to include this further information with our property tax notices in future.

Finally, I look forward to Mayor and Council developing the City budget which minimizes the 2023 residential property tax increase compared to 2022.

Yours sincerely,

Redacted

Ed Chanter  
2692 Ridgeview Drive  
Prince George BC V2K 4C5

Redacted

cc. Tim Bennett  
Garth Frizzell  
Trudy Klassen  
Ron Polillo  
Cori Ramsay  
Kyle Sampson  
Susan Scott  
Brian Skakun