



Committee Report to Council

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Date: September 26, 2024

To: **Mayor and Council.**

Name and title: Standing Committee on Finance and Audit

Subject: **2025 Permissive Tax Exemptions**

Attachment(s): Staff Report to Standing Committee on Finance and Audit from Kris Dalio, Director of Finance and IT Services dated August 19, 2024

Recommendation(s):

That Council GIVES FIRST THREE READINGS to “City of Prince George Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 9504, 2024”.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval from Council regarding 2025 Permissive Tax Exemptions.

The Director of Finance and IT Services presented a report on the 2025 Permissive Tax Exemptions at the Standing Committee on Finance and Audit meeting held on August 19, 2024 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 \$2,063,718 or 1.49% of the tax levy (based on 2024 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 2025.

New folios recommended for approval include:

1. 00-02960-000 Carrier Sekani Family Services - 301 George Street – Supports to family who are in crisis or need of extra support to resolve disputes within the family and/or with social services where children may be impacted. This includes, but is not limited to, family group conferences, permanency planning meetings, family case planning conferences, youth transition conferences and prevention meetings. Also offers development of programming and services that will culminate in the resumption of full jurisdiction over child and family services based on cultural laws and principles.
2. 00-03248-000 Carrier Sekani Family Services - 966 960 5th Avenue - Supporting the drafting of the Carrier Sekani Child and Family Wellbeing Act. Supporting the structural transformation of services currently offered to ensure that member children, youth and families' holistic wellbeing is insured. Host a variety of working groups including the Matriarch's Voices Working Group and the Men's Voices Working Group.
3. 90-24004-000 Nature Trust of BC - Kelly Road North - This property is connected to the properties leased to the City of Prince George for public use and conservation in this area.

A renewal application was also received after the Finance and Audit meeting for folio 00-14674-000 – Prince George Lodge no 122 (known as the Elks Lodge) and has been added to the bylaw that is recommended for approval.

Summary and conclusion:

The Standing Committee on Finance and Audit requests that Council approve the new exemption recommended in this report by granting of first three readings to Bylaw No. 9504, 2024.

Respectfully submitted:

Councillor Cori Ramsay, Chair
Standing Committee on Finance and Audit

Prepared by Kris Dalio, Director of Finance and IT Services

Approved:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting date: 2024/10/07