

COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL

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DATE: October 9, 2020

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Standing Committee on Finance and Audit

SUBJECT: 2021 Permissive Tax Exemptions

ATTACHMENT(S): Staff Report to Standing Committee on Finance and Audit from Kris Dalio, Director of Finance dated August 21, 2020
Appendix A – 2021 Permissive Tax Exemptions

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council:

1. APPROVES the recommendation for permissive tax exemptions for the years 2021-2023 for the organizations listed in Appendix “A” attached to the report dated August 21, 2020 from the Director of Finance titled “2021 Permissive Tax Exemptions”; and
2. GIVES FIRST THREE READINGS to the “City of Prince George Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 9075, 2019, Amendment Bylaw 9150, 2020”.
3. GRANTS FINAL READING AND ADOPTION to the “City of Prince George Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 9075, 2019, Amendment Bylaw 9150, 2020”.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval from Council regarding 2021 Permissive Tax Exemptions.

The Director of Finance presented a report on the 2021 Permissive Tax Exemptions at the Standing Committee on Finance and Audit meeting held on August 31, 2020 and the Committee endorsed the recommendation 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 \$1,897,032 or 1.68% of the tax levy (based on 2020 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 2021.

New folios recommended for approval include:

- Sources Community Resources Society
 - provides behaviour support programs to identify skill deficits and to create comprehensive support plans to assist caregivers in teaching new skills and replacing challenging behaviour
 - intervention with children, adolescents and adults with developmental disabilities
 - Independent living programs work with adolescents who are transitioning to adulthood
 - work 1:1 with adolescents to teach them skills to connect with services and resources they will require as adults
 - supports at risk families who either had children removed or are at risk of having them removed and connects them with resources and work in the community
- Prince George Italian Club
 - school for Italian language and cooking
 - Italian dinner events
 - catering and rental facility
 - seasonal cooking and bake sales to all residents of Prince George
 - providing orientation for newly arrived Italian immigrants
 - networking and socializing of residents of Italian descent
 - venue for visits from the Italian Consulate staff for renewing and issuing of Italian passports

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The Standing Committee on Finance and Audit has endorsed the recommendations in the Director of Finance's attached report and requests that Council approve them.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Councillor Garth Frizzell, Chair
Standing Committee on Finance and Audit

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, Acting City Manager

Meeting Date: 2020/10/19