

TK'EMLÚPS TE SECWÉPEMC
KAMLOOPS INDIAN BAND
LAND, LEASING & PROPERTY TAX DEPARTMENT

Property Taxation Newsletter 2011

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Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc will no longer offering the 5% rebate for early payment of Property Tax

Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc will no longer be offering the 5% rebate for early payment

Any Property Tax payment received after the August 2, 2011 due date will be subject to penalty.

Mail lost or delayed by post office will be assessed the penalty as the postmark will not be accepted as proof of payment by due date.

SUMMER HOURS:

Effective July 4th 2011 to September 5, 2011.

7:00 am to 3:00 pm

Accounting Dept. will remain open until 3:00 pm on Tax Due date, August 2nd, 2011.



No Carbon Tax Rebates on First Nation lands! Why?

What is Carbon Tax?

In 2008, the BC government introduced the Carbon Tax which is a revenue-neutral tax on carbon emissions taxes pollution and returns all the revenue collected to British Columbians through tax cuts in other areas. The idea behind this Carbon Tax is to encourage everyone in the province to reduce their carbon emissions which will allow people to save money while protecting the environment. The carbon tax applies to everyone who burns fossil fuels in B.C. – industry and individuals. Under law, every cent of the carbon tax will be returned to taxpayers through tax cuts.

What is the Northern and Rural Homeowner benefit?

Northern and Rural Homeowner benefit of up to \$200 for homeowners outside of the Capital Regional District, Greater Vancouver Regional District and Fraser Valley Regional District starting in the 2011 tax year. This program recognizes that people in these regions are more impacted by the carbon tax than elsewhere because fuel savings alternatives such as mass transit are less available. Households on First Nation lands, who pay the Carbon Tax, and who pay property tax, will not receive this compensation.

What is the Industrial Property Tax Credit?

The Industrial Property Tax Credit recognizes that businesses have no alternative but to pay for fuel, it is intended to ensure that businesses do not experience a net increase in taxes that would simply make them less competitive. However, again businesses located on First Nation lands, which pay the Carbon Tax, will not receive this same compensation. For these taxpayers, the Carbon Tax will add to their tax burden, make them less competitive and cause them to shoulder a disproportionate share of the tax burden.

Why am I not receiving the Northern and Rural Homeowner benefit or the Industrial Property Tax Credit?

When the province designed the property tax reduction measures that return Carbon Tax revenues to the people and businesses impacted by the tax they forgot to account for those tax payers who work and live on First Nation lands. This means that households and businesses located on First Nations lands who pay the Carbon Tax and who pay property tax will not receive this compensation.

What is being done?

The First Nations Tax Commission (FNTC) is a shared governance institution established to assist First Nations in the development and operation of their property tax systems. At the same time, an important part of the Commission's mandate is to promote fairness for taxpayers on First Nation lands. The Chief Commissioner of FNTC, C.T. (Manny) Jules, wrote to the Honourable Colin Hansen on February 25, 2011, explaining the commission's concerns and their willingness to work with provincial officials and other impacted First Nations "to identify First Nation property taxpayers who would qualify for these programs in a non-reserve context, and develop a means to redress the problem."

A copy of the letter Chief Shane Gottfriedson sent to the Honourable Kevin Falcon on May 9, 2011 is on the back. The letter is requesting the Provincial government begin a dialogue with the FNTC and other impacted First Nations to ensure that these property tax reduction programs are applied fairly to all taxpayers including those taxpayers living and working within the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc boundaries.

What can I as a taxpayer living within the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc boundaries do?

Write to the various ministers expressing your concerns.

Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment, *E-mail:* terry.lake.mla@leg.bc.ca
Office: Room 112 Parliament Buildings Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Honourable Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations, *E-mail:* mary.polak.mla@leg.bc.ca
Office: Room 325, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Honourable Kevin Falcon, Minister of Finance, *E-mail:* kevin.falcon.mla@leg.bc.ca
Office: Room 153 Parliament Buildings Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

MLA: Kevin Krueger kevin.krueger.mla@leg.bc.ca
Office: East Annex Parliament Buildings Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

TK'EMLÚPS TE SECWÉPEMC PROVIDES IT'S OWN GRANT

Due to the incomplete nature of the Carbon Tax—Rural and Northern Benefit Program (the rebate is not applied fairly to taxpayers on First Nation lands) the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (TteS) Chief & Council are not offering the amount equal to the BC "Home Owner Grant Act". It will be offering a Grant and an Over 65 or Handicapped Grant in the same amount as the "Home Owner Grant Act" without the Rural and Northern Benefit Program amount.



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

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Web Site: www.kib.ca

May 9, 2011

ADDRESS CHANGE:

Please contact in writing BC Assessment and the Land, Leasing & Property Tax Dept., with any contact information changes: address, phone, fax, email.

BC Assessment web:
www.bcassessment.ca

First Nations Tax Commission—

Information Bulletin

Carbon Tax Reduction and Impact on First Nation Property Tax

<http://www.fntc.ca>

First Nations Gazette

A copy of the Annual Expenditure and Annual Rates Law can be found at the First Nations Gazette website. Search the Gazette library, list of all FSMA Laws find the year you want and then look for the Kamloops Indian Band.

TteS IS LOOKING INTO INCREASING THE MINIMUM PROPERTY TAX

TteS's Land, Leasing & Property Taxation Department is looking at raising the Minimum Tax Limit by fifty (\$50) dollars.

* Regular Grants – would pay the first \$400.00

* Seniors or disabled persons – would pay the first \$150.00

The reason for the increase is that the cost of providing services to properties with lower assessed values exceeds one hundred dollars (\$100). The increase would not take effect until the next tax year.

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7:00 am to 3:00 pm

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The Honorable Kevin Falcon
Minister of Finance, Minister Responsible for
Small Business and Deputy Premier
PO Box 9048 Stn Prov Gov't
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Falcon,

RE: Rural and Northern Benefit Program

Tk'emlúps Indian Band is writing to you on a matter of some urgency in regard to recent provincial property tax reduction programs. We understand that these programs have been undertaken to return Carbon Tax revenues to the people and businesses most impacted.

As Minister Lake and MLA Krueger can attest, there are significant residential subdivisions on our Band lands. These homeowners have a good working relationship with the Band and take comfort in our commitment to them that we will base their property taxes on levels charged by the adjacent community of Kamloops. In fact, we contract with Kamloops to provide professional firefighters and sewage disposal as well as contribute and participate in other civic programs. In short, these tax dollars are put to good use providing services to all our residents.

Unlike the city of Kamloops, the increase in the homeowner grant is not accompanied by any funds from your government. This then gives the impression that our First Nations government is not living up our commitments to our residents in this regard. That said, our residents pay carbon taxes at the same levels as residents of Kamloops and it is only by virtue of their investment in lands within our Band that they are denied the rebate that would otherwise be available to them. With respect, this is not fair treatment to British Columbians working with us and making good faith investments in developments within our Band's boundaries.

The property tax reduction measures are incomplete because they will not return Carbon Tax revenues to property taxpayers on Tk'emlúps lands. Instead these taxpayers will not receive the full benefit of the Rural and Northern Benefit program. This would apply to all three property tax reduction programs the Province has designed to return Carbon Tax revenues; the rural and northern benefit program, the industrial property tax credit and the farm property tax reduction.

Sincerely,

TK'EMLÚPS INDIAN BAND

CHIEF Shane Gottfriedson

Cc: Minister Terry Lake

Minister Mary Polak

MLA Kevin Krueger Minister

John O'Fee, Tk'emlúps Indian Band CEO

Freda Jules, Tk'emlúps Indian Band Lands, Leasing & Taxation Manager