



## Media Release

For Immediate Release

DATE: December 12, 2024

---

### Summerland Council proposes 7.25% property tax increase

**SUMMERLAND** – After two days of extensive budget deliberations, Mayor and Council have proposed a 7.25% property tax rate increase for 2025.

The rate increase would see a typical single-family home in the District of Summerland, assessed at \$878,808 pay \$129.95 more in taxes than they did in 2024, with \$31.11 attributed to new debt payments for the Prairie Valley Road upgrade.

By way of comparison, it is proposed that a Summerland home assessed at \$850,000 would pay \$2,112.31 in municipal property taxes in 2025 whereas a property of the same assessed value is expected to pay \$2,332.61 in Kelowna, \$2,536.57 in Peachland, \$2,740.01 in Vernon, and \$2,937.47 in Penticton.

Historically, Council has set Summerland's annual tax rate increase lower than most other municipalities in the region and that focus remained for the 2025 budget despite the District having the same inflationary pressures as other local governments. In particular, the District faces large increases in labour with new union collective agreements taking effect, and in contractual increases such as the RCMP agreement and the curbside waste collection contract.

After two years of extensive cuts, including staff layoffs in 2024, the only way for Council to keep tax increases amongst the lowest in the region in 2025 was to reduce service levels and to add new user-pay elements. To that end, as cost saving and revenue generating measures, Council is proposing to:

- eliminate the unlimited yard waste collection days effective Fall 2025;
- increase the monthly Base Cart Program Fee by \$1.18 to cover the increased contractual cost of weekly garbage, recycling and yard and garden waste pick-up (effective January 1, 2025);
- reduce the amount of road line painting;
- move statutory notifications to an alternative means of publication in accordance with the Community Charter (effective March 4, 2025);
- move the monthly District newsletter to an online only format (effective April 1, 2025);
- charge a \$1.50 postage fee to those who choose to receive monthly utility bills by mail (effective April 1, 2025);
- implement a recreation program cancellation fee (effective Spring 2025);
- extend the third party surcharge to recover credit card processing costs to include the registration of recreation programs (effective Spring 2025);
- increase building permit fees by \$1 per \$1,000 of construction value (effective January 1, 2025);
- defer the Peach Orchard Cemetery paving project.

The District invites residents to provide feedback on the proposed 2025 Financial Plan at an Open House at the Summerland Arena Banquet Room (8820 Jubilee Road East) on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm with a presentation at 6:00 pm.

The Open House is an opportunity to learn about the priority projects planned for 2025 and how your tax dollars will be invested in the community in the areas of roads, parks and recreation, fire protection, policing, and more.

Quote:

*“Council continues to try to balance the need to invest in the community with the need to minimize the financial impact on residents and businesses. With cuts made in previous years, the District is already a very lean organization and finding more operational efficiencies this year, unfortunately, required some service level reductions. We have always strived to improve service delivery so reducing service levels isn’t something that Council takes lightly. We looked for service level reductions that would cause the least amount of disruption.”*

~ Mayor Doug Holmes

-30-

**For further information/Media Contact/Contact**

Graham Statt

Chief Administrative Officer

250-404-4043

[gstatt@summerland.ca](mailto:gstatt@summerland.ca)