



## Media Release

For Immediate Release

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### **Summerland Council proposes 6.36% property tax increase**

**SUMMERLAND** – After extensive budget deliberations, Mayor and Council have proposed a 6.36% property tax rate increase for 2026.

The rate increase would see a typical single-family home in the District of Summerland assessed at \$862,523 pay \$135.52 more in taxes than they did in 2025, with \$16.57 attributed to initial new debt payments for Wharton Street revitalization and Victoria Road upgrades.

Historically, Council has strived to set Summerland's annual tax rate increases amongst the lowest in the region, despite the District having the same inflationary pressures as other local governments. One such pressure that all local governments face is an increase in labour costs, which is driven by union collective agreements and employment agreements.

Contractual increases such as the RCMP agreement are also impacting the District's budget. To address an increased contractual cost of weekly garbage, recycling and yard and garden waste pick-up, Council proposes to increase the monthly base cart fee by \$1.34.

Despite increased costs, Council continues to follow its historical philosophy of ensuring Summerland has one of the lowest residential property taxes in the region.

It is proposed that a Summerland home assessed at \$850,000 will pay approximately \$2,252.19 in municipal property taxes in 2026, whereas a property of the same assessed value is expected to pay \$2,469.78 in Kelowna, \$2,607.02 in Peachland, \$3,022.64 in Vernon, and \$3,208.50 in Penticton. These calculations are specific to the tax dollars retained by the District to provide services to Summerland residents and do not include third party taxes such as school and regional district taxes.

After years of cuts, including staff layoffs in 2024, the only way for Council to keep tax increases amongst the lowest in the region in 2026 was to reduce service levels and to add new user-pay elements. Proposed cost saving and revenue generating measures include:

- eliminating the summer one day recycle depot;
- reducing the amount of road line painting;
- reducing snow clearing on weekends and statutory holidays;
- reducing minor street patching and paving;
- implementing an account transfer fee as well as an account refund fee (effective January 1, 2026);
- implementing a Section 57 discharge fee (effective January 1, 2026);

The District invites residents to provide feedback on the proposed 2026 Financial Plan at an Open House at the Summerland Arena Banquet Room (8820 Jubilee Road East) on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm with a presentation at 6:00 pm. Written feedback can be sent to [budget@summerland.ca](mailto:budget@summerland.ca).

The Open House is an opportunity to learn about the priority projects planned for 2026, 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

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**For further information**

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