

MESSAGE FROM ABBOTSFORD CITY COUNCIL

Abbotsford City Council is now well into our second year of service, and overall our time together has been very positive. As we look back, we are pleased with the progress we've made and the great collaboration that has taken place in our City as we worked to advance several goals and priority actions of our 2022-2026 Strategic Plan.

For example, we have implemented key components of our Culture Connect Strategy, advanced many park amenities, adopted the McKee Neighbourhood Plan, completed terminal expansions at Abbotsford International Airport, modernized many City services, and of course, submitted a \$1.6 billion application for the urgent works related to our long-term flood mitigation plan to ensure our community remains safe and resilient. After nearly two years of advocating, the City received \$76.6 million for upgrades to Barrowtown Pump Station in March 2024. You can see more of our key accomplishments from 2023 below, or online at abbotsford.ca/strategic.

Like many City Councils in neighbouring communities, we have had some challenging issues to address, including homelessness, affordable housing, the impacts of mental health and substance abuse crises in our region, the effects of inflation, high interest rates and rising prices, to name a few. These issues remain important areas of focus and advocacy for us, and we will continue pushing for more resources and support to help the most vulnerable among us, and to keep Abbotsford a great place to live, now and in the future.

Abbotsford has been growing at a rapid pace, and this growth shows no signs of slowing down.

To support this growth, and that to come over the next 25 years, we have started the process of updating our Official Community Plan, and in May began engaging with residents and businesses to learn what's important to you and what your vision is for the future of our community.

We know that ensuring our community has adequate housing options will be a big part of our future, and we have committed to enhancing housing opportunities for all our residents through the implementation of our Affordable Housing Strategy. We also digitized our building permits and inspections to streamline the approvals and permitting process to help construction on new homes start sooner, and make housing more accessible in Abbotsford.

This is a city that all of us on Council love very much. It's our home. It's where we have set down roots and are raising our families. It's a privilege for each of us to serve this dynamic and vibrant community and we will continue working toward improving the quality of life for all residents in our community, as we build up our City as the cultural and economic Hub of the Fraser Valley.

Ross Siemens
Mayor



2022-2026 ABBOTSFORD CITY COUNCIL

OUR MISSION: We strive to continually improve the quality of life within our community by delivering key services for current and future generations.



MAYOR
ROSS SIEMENS



COUNCILLOR
LES BARKMAN



COUNCILLOR
KELLY CHAHAL



COUNCILLOR
PATRICIA DRIESSEN



COUNCILLOR
SIMON GIBSON



COUNCILLOR
DAVE LOEWEN



COUNCILLOR
PATRICIA ROSS



COUNCILLOR
DAVE SIDHU



COUNCILLOR
MARK WARKENTIN

COUNCIL'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES



INCLUSIVE & CONNECTED COMMUNITY



SUSTAINABLE & SAFE CITY



VIBRANT & GROWING ECONOMY



ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE & INTEGRITY

2023 STRATEGIC PLAN COMPLETED PRIORITIES



INCLUSIVE & CONNECTED COMMUNITY

- Secured funding for Montrose Transit Exchange
- Advanced park amenities
- Developed Community Amenity Contributions and Density-Bonus policy
- Introduced McKee Neighbourhood Plan
- Implemented Culture Connect Strategy
- Advocated (BC Transit/Translink) to extend transit to Skytrain in Langley



SUSTAINABLE & SAFE CITY

- Reviewed Council Committees
- Applied to receive additional Federal Reaching Home Funding
- Implemented Urban Forestry Strategy
- Advocated for funding for the Flood Mitigation Strategy
- Implemented Homelessness Action Plan
- Implemented Affordable Housing Strategy



VIBRANT & GROWING ECONOMY

- Advocated and supported Agritech investment opportunities
- Continued to develop Abbotsford International Airport
- Explored revenue generating opportunities
- Updated Intergovernmental Advocacy Strategy



ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE & INTEGRITY

- Developed a Retention Strategy
- Continued to modernize City services
- Enhanced community engagement and access to information
- Reviewed resource needs for organization

STAY CONNECTED

SOCIAL MEDIA

- 📘 **FACEBOOK** /CityofAbbotsford | /AbbotsfordPRC
- 📺 **X** @City_Abbotsford | @yxairport
- 📷 **INSTAGRAM** @TheCityOfAbbotsford | @AbbotsfordPRC
- 📺 **YOUTUBE** /cityofabbotsfordbc
- 📄 **LINKED IN** @cityofabbotsford
- 🌐 **WEB** abbotsford.ca | abbotsfordairport.ca | ourwatermatters.ca

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Mayor and Council are actively involved in our community. View some of the important work being done by your City Council and sign up to receive Council Briefs, Council Blogs, and other updates right to your inbox at abbotsford.ca/council/your-council-community.

City Council Meetings are scheduled on Tuesdays. The full Council Meeting Schedule can be found online at abbotsford.ca/councilagenda.

ALL PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2024

NOTE: TAX PENALTIES APPLIED: First 5% Penalty Date: JULY 3, 2024 | Second 5% Penalty Date: SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

OPTIONS FOR PAYING PROPERTY TAXES

HOW TO PAY

ONLINE IS EASIEST!

Set up Abbotsford Property Tax as a bill payee through your online banking system and pay as you would any other bill. Search for "Abbotsford" and select payee with "property taxes". Use the 10 digit folio number from your tax notice as the account number.

PAYING BY CHEQUE

Payment must be received at City Hall by **July 2, 2024**. Envelopes lost, stolen or delayed will be subject to the penalty when received after the due date. Postmarks are not accepted as the date of payment. Therefore, please allow for delivery time for your mailed cheque to arrive.

Make cheques payable to the CITY OF ABBOTSFORD. Cheques post-dated to the due date are accepted

PAYING BY CREDIT CARD

Credit cards are only accepted for online tax and utility payments and are not accepted in person at City Hall. To pay online visit abbotsford.ca/creditcard. A 1.75% service fee will apply.

WHERE TO PAY

PAY ONLINE

Residents can easily pay property taxes online at any time through a financial institution's website.

DROP OFF OR MAIL TO CITY HALL

Cheques for taxes can be mailed or dropped off at a City Hall dropbox. There are 2 dropboxes, one at each entrance. **Please DO NOT include cash.** These boxes are emptied daily. **Parking is limited due to construction.**

IN PERSON AT CITY HALL

City Hall is open 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Monday - Friday, closed all Statutory Holidays, and located at 32315 South Fraser Way. City Hall accepts the following payment methods: cash, debit card and cheques. **Parking is limited due to construction.**

AT YOUR FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

Property taxes can be paid at any Canadian financial institution. Please ensure payment is processed by the due date.

NEW HOME OWNERS

New property owners are responsible for payment of their annual property taxes by the due date to avoid penalty, whether or not they receive a property tax notice.

Property owners who have not received their tax notice by the second week of June should contact the Property Tax Division at 604-864-5522.

HOME OWNER GRANT

Apply for Home Owner Grants **directly** through the Province of BC. **The City of Abbotsford cannot process your Home Owner Grant.**

HOW TO APPLY:

ONLINE:
gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant

CALL: 1-888-355-2700

NOTE ABOUT THE GRANT:

The homeowner threshold in 2024 is \$2,150,000. The grant is reduced by \$5 for each \$1,000 of assessed value over the threshold. Basic Grant is eliminated at \$2,264,000. Additional/Senior Grant is eliminated at \$2,319,000.

QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR TAX BILL?

Call **604-864-5522** between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm Monday - Friday or email cash@abbotsford.ca, or visit abbotsford.ca/propertytaxes.

NOTE: City Hall is closed on Monday, July 1, 2024 to observe Canada Day.

TAX DEFERMENT PROGRAM

You may qualify to defer your taxes on your principal residence if you meet the provincial program criteria.

HOW TO APPLY:

ONLINE:
gov.bc.ca/propertytaxdeferment

CALL: 1-888-355-2700

You cannot defer your taxes through the City of Abbotsford. You must do this through the Province of BC, online or by phone.

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HOW TAX DOLLARS & USER FEES PAY FOR CITY SERVICES

This graphic gives a snapshot of how tax revenue is divided up to support services and amenities across the community. Dollars are based on 2024 budgeted municipal taxes, for a typical single family residence with a 2023 property assessment of \$1,157,000.



TOTAL: \$3,866 | THIS YEAR'S TAX INCREASE IS 4.62% plus 0.50% INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (TOTAL 5.12%)

WHERE YOUR DOLLAR GOES

The City of Abbotsford is required to collect property taxes on behalf of the Province of BC and other authorities including the School District, BC Assessment, Municipal Finance Authority, Fraser Valley Regional District, Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District and Business Improvement Areas. 35 cents of each dollar the City collects is passed on to other authorities. 65 cents of each dollar is collected and used for City services.

35¢ PROVINCIAL & OTHER AUTHORITIES

65¢

CITY OF ABBOTSFORD



PARKING REMINDER!

Parking at City Hall is very limited due to construction. Please pay your taxes online, or be prepared to drop off a cheque with the staff at the tent outside of City Hall.

You can also drop off your payments in the drop boxes, safely and securely without waiting, 24/7.

There are 2 dropboxes, one at each entrance. Please **DO NOT** include cash.