

**Village of Ashcroft
2015-2019 Financial Plan
Statement of Objectives and Policies
Schedule 'B' of Bylaw No. 800**

In accordance with Section 165(3.1) of the *Community Charter*, the Village of Ashcroft (Town) is required to include in the Five Year Financial Plan, objectives and policies regarding each of the following:

1. The proportion of total revenue that comes from each of the funding sources described in Section 165(7) of the *Community Charter*,
2. The distribution of property taxes among the property classes, and
3. The use of permissive tax exemptions.

Funding Sources

Table 1 shows the proportion of total revenue proposed to be raised from each funding source in 2015. Property taxes form the greatest proportion of revenue. As a revenue source, property taxation offers a number of advantages, for example, it is simple to administer and it is fairly easy for residents to understand. It offers a stable and reliable source of revenue for services that are difficult to fund on a user-pay basis. These include services such as general administration, fire protection, police services, bylaw enforcement and street lighting.

User fees and charges form the second largest portion of planned revenue. Many services can be measured and charged on a user basis. Services where fees and charges can be easily administered include water and sewer usage, building permits, business licenses, and sale of services – these are charged on a user pay basis. User fees attempt to apportion the value of a service to those who use the service.

Objective

- Over the next five years, the Village of Ashcroft will balance the proportion of revenue that is received from user fees and charges with the projected funds operations require.

Policies

- The Village will review all user fee levels to ensure they are adequately meeting both the capital and delivery costs of the service.
- Where possible, the Village will endeavor to supplement revenues from user fees and charges, rather than taxation, to lessen the burden on its limited property tax base.

Table 1: Sources of Revenue

Revenue Sources	% of Total Revenue	Dollar Value
Property Taxes	28%*	\$ 1,084,232
Parcel Taxes	4%	\$ 168,500
Sales of Service	18%	\$ 706,925
Grants/Transfers	38%	\$ 1,464,214
Other Sources	11%	\$ 402,385
Total	100%	\$ 3,826,256

* contains 15% (\$161,861) Capital Replacement Reserve funds

Distribution of Property Tax Rates

Table 2 outlines the distribution of property taxes among the property classes. The residential property class provides the largest proportion of property tax revenue. This is appropriate as this class also forms the largest portion of the assessment base and consumes the majority of Town services.

Objectives

- Maintain the property tax rate as low as possible while still providing for future needs.

Policies

- Continue to maintain and encourage economic development initiatives designed to attract more retail and commercial businesses to invest in the community. New investment from these areas will help offset tax increases while providing more revenue for the Village.
- Align the distribution of tax rates among the property classes with the social and economic goals of the community, particularly to encourage a range of employment opportunities.
- Regularly review and compare the Village of Ashcroft’s tax burden relative to other municipalities in British Columbia.

Table 2: Distribution of Property Tax Rates

Property Class	% of Total Property Taxation	Dollar Value
Residential (1)	64%	\$ 693,286
Utilities (2)	11%	\$ 119,033
Light Industrial (5)	0%	\$ 3,034
Business and Other (6)*	23%	\$ 253,082
Recreation/Non-profit (8)	0%	\$ 588
Farmland (9)	1%	\$ 15,209
Total	100%	\$ 1,084,232

Permissive Tax Exemptions

- The Annual Municipal Report for 2013 contains a list of permissive exemptions granted for the taxation year and the amount of revenue foregone. The list demonstrates the policy of council that permissive exemptions are granted to not-for-profit institutions that form a valuable part of our community. These include religious institutions and some recreational facilities and service organizations.

Objective

- To ensure permissive tax exemptions are utilized to maximize the benefit to the municipality and citizens.

Policy

- To maintain permissive exemptions for religious institutions, recreational facilities, and service organizations.

Capital Asset Reserve

- In 2011 the Village recognized the need to accumulate funds to pay for future replacement of infrastructure. Accordingly a separate tax was established and funds collected are accounted for separately from general municipal taxes.

Objective

- To establish a reserve to fund future infrastructure replacement.

Policy

- To supplement revenues from government grants wherever possible to lessen the amount of funds utilized from the reserve fund.
- To seek out projects which will reduce the operating costs of the Village enabling them to repay funds back into the reserve over time.