

HOME OWNER GRANT

The provincial Home Owner Grant is designed to help homeowners reduce their property taxes.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Canadian citizens or landed immigrants who are B.C. residents and who own and reside in the property as their principal residence.
- You and your spouse together may qualify for only one grant on one residence in B.C. in any one calendar year, even if you live in separate residences (unless you are legally separated).

There are **two** grant categories:

- The regular grant may reduce your taxes by as much as **\$470**.
- The additional grant may reduce your taxes by as much as **\$745**.

DO I QUALIFY FOR THE \$745 GRANT?

You may qualify for the additional grant if you meet the regular grant qualifications and are:

- **65 or older during the calendar year. If your home is jointly owned, only one owner must be 65 to qualify for the additional grant. The qualifying owner's birthdate and signature must appear on the grant application;** *or*
- A veteran, or the spouse or widow/widower of a veteran receiving an allowance under the War Veterans Allowance Act (Canada) or the Civilian War-related Benefits Act; *or*
- A person with disabilities and receiving disability assistance, hardship assistance or a supplement under the BC Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act; *or*
- A person with disabilities who does not receive disability assistance under the BC Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act **or** the spouse or relative of a person with disabilities and the person with disabilities resides with you.

HOME OWNER GRANT

For more information on the provincial Home Owner Grant program visit:

www.rev.gov.bc.ca/hog

Or call toll free:

1-888-355-2700

Contact City Hall (469-8757) if:

- You forgot to claim your grant in 2004
- You have moved and/or wish your tax notice to be sent to a different address.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can now apply for your Home Owner Grant online through the City's website:

www.kelowna.ca

Use the access code printed on your tax notice.

Seniors turning 65 in 2005, or who are over 65, must enter their date of birth on the grant application as per the example below.

1940	09	15
Year	Month	Day



2005 BUDGET, PROPERTY TAX & HOME OWNER GRANT INFORMATION

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor:

Walter Gray

Councillors:

Andre Blanleil	Ron Cannan
Barrie Clark	Colin Day
Brian Given	Robert Hobson
Al Horning	Sharon Shepherd

City Hall
1435 Water Street
Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 1J4
250-469-8757

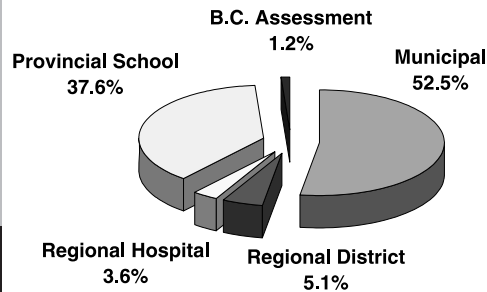
Monday to Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

www.kelowna.ca

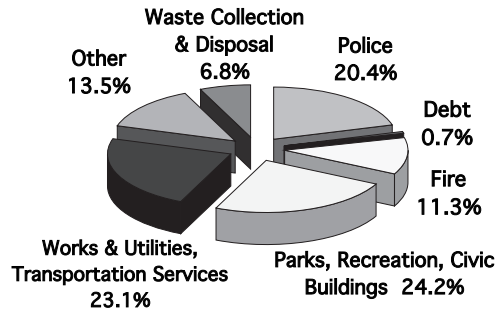
2005 CITY BUDGET

The City's budget for 2005 is \$280.5 million of which \$70.2 million is met by property taxation.

The chart below indicates how your property taxes are split between the City of Kelowna (52.5%) and other independent taxing authorities that also receive a portion of property tax dollars.



The chart below indicates how the City of Kelowna allocates the municipal portion of that \$70.2 million (52.5%).



Other (13.5%) includes: library (4.6%), grants (3.9%), development services (2.8%) and transit (2.2%).

TAX PAYMENT INFORMATION

2005 Property Taxes are due Monday July 4th.
City Hall closes at 4:00 p.m.

HOW TO AVOID PENALTIES

- Ensure your payment and/or Home Owner Grant application is received on or before the due date of July 4th.
- Two 5% penalties will be charged on unpaid taxes, unclaimed Home Owner Grant amounts and balances outstanding due to dishonoured cheques (July 5th & Aug. 3rd).
- A \$20 service charge and penalty will be applied to all dishonoured payments.

HOW TO PAY

Canada Post:

- Cheques post-dated to July 4, 2005 are accepted. Postmark dates are not accepted as proof of payment.

Chartered Banks, Credit Unions:

- In person, internet and telephone banking
- Submit your completed Home Owner Grant Application at time of payment, or claim it online through www.kelowna.ca

City Hall:

- Drop boxes at the Water Street entrance or the Doyle Avenue parking lot exit.
- Tax counter, first floor.

Parkinson Recreation Centre:

- A collection box will be available at the front counter.

MY MORTGAGE COMPANY PAYS MY TAXES. CAN I RECEIVE THE GRANT?

You may qualify for the grant. It is your responsibility to complete and submit the Home Owner Grant application to City Hall by July 4th.

TAX PAYMENT INFORMATION

REFUNDS

Overpayments will be applied to your tax account unless a request for refund is made in writing. Credit balances accrue interest.

TAX DEFERMENT

If you are 60 years or older, or a surviving spouse, or disabled, you may qualify to defer payment of taxes on your principal residence.

Contact City Hall at 469-8757.

2006 TAX PREPAYMENTS

Monthly installments are automatically deducted from the property owner's specified bank account. Tax free interest is credited to the property tax account attached to the Prepayment Plan.

Application forms are available on the City's website www.kelowna.ca. All 2005 property taxes must be paid in full before 2006 tax prepayments can be accepted.

ASSESSMENT AND MUNICIPAL TAXATION

