

## Tax Payment Options

### ONLINE:

BVCU                      CIBC  
RBC                         SCOTIABANK

- Search for bill payee “Smithers”
- Select the “Property Taxes” payee
- Account number is 478 plus your 7 digit roll number without the decimals

Please allow 3 - 5 business days for processing.

### CHEQUES:

- Make payable to “Town of Smithers”. To avoid a penalty we must **receive** your cheque by **July 4, 2023**. Post marks on envelopes are not acceptable. Post-dated cheques up to July 4, 2023 are accepted.

### DEBIT AT TOWN HALL:

- To protect their clients, banks impose a daily debit limit unless you ask for an increase. Check with your bank to confirm your transaction and daily limits.

### MORTGAGE HOLDER PAYS TAX BILL:

- Claim your Home Owner Grant every year (if eligible) by the tax due date to avoid a penalty.

## 2023 Seniors’ Water & Sewer Fee Exemption Program

The 100% Seniors’ Water and Sewer Fee Exemption is available for seniors who declare that they are undergoing financial hardship. Eligibility will continue to be tied to the Senior Provincial Home Owner Grant Program (for those 65 years or older).

If the form has not been provided with your tax notice, please download a Seniors’ Water/ Sewer Exemption Claim Form on our website [www.smithers.ca/propertytaxes](http://www.smithers.ca/propertytaxes) under Property Tax Savings.

# Signup Online eDoc for Property Taxes

at [www.smithers.ca/propertytaxes](http://www.smithers.ca/propertytaxes)

### Step 1:



Register & View Your  
Property Tax Notice

Click Here

### Step 2:

Online account registration gives you the freedom to access all of your accounts through a single, safe, and secure access point

Show Me How

Click Here

### Step 3:

Select Account Type ▾  
AR-Accounts Receivable  
BL-Business Licences  
PT-Property Taxes  
UB-Utility Billing

Choose  
Property Taxes  
from the drop  
down menu

### Step 4:

Jurisdiction: 478 Town of Smithers  
Roll: 0000.000  
Access Code/Pin:

Cancel

Save

From your  
Property Tax  
Notice

Save

### Step 4:

User Name:   
Email Address:   
Password:   
Confirm Password:

Fill in your  
user name  
and email

Cancel

Save

Then Save

## Message for Taxpayers – May 2023

Dear Smithers Taxpayers:

Over the last year we have seen so many good things return to normal in our community after the COVID-19 pandemic. While the economic supply issues and rising prices that followed the pandemic surprised us, those challenges are starting to turn for the better too. We encourage all residents and visitors to keep on working with Council and staff to make “**this Town**” the best place it can be for everyone.

Now to business, after two consecutive years of large tax increases, members of the community asked Council for a time-out on another big increase. The Town heard you and its own portion of total taxes is increasing **5.2% in 2023**. However, the Town also collects taxes for the School, Hospital, and Regional District, and their 2023 budget increases are higher than the Town’s this year.

From Airport to Waste, our **Services cost \$19.7M/yr** and the Town delivers its services cost effectively. The Town’s own **5.2% “average tax increase”** includes:

- 1.8% increase for RCMP (Policing Tax)
- 1.1% increase for Road Capital (Road Tax)
- 2.3% increase to maintain Municipal Services

Please note that your property value is determined by BC Assessment and is a key factor in a tax calculation. If your property value increased more than the 14% average for Smithers, the Town increase will be higher.

On the property tax notices, many are also billed their annual **Utility and Waste fees**. Those fees are being **increased at 10% per year** through 2025 when fees should equal the full lifecycle cost of services – lifecycle includes the cost of **reinvesting \$1M/yr** in existing delivery infrastructure. Separately, new/upgraded Utility system assets are paid for by senior government.

Continued...

## Message for Taxpayers continued...

Town staff and consulting professionals have been working on the details of select core infrastructure and natural asset projects for funding since 2021. Major grant applications were prepared and submitted to BC and Canada in 2022. With **MLA Nathan Cullen's and MP Taylor Bachrach's support** the Town has been awarded (or anticipates being awarded) funds for:

- **\$3.1M** Airport and Area Water System Upgrade
- **\$4.1M** Bulkley Riverbank Erosion Protection
- **\$8.0M** Wastewater Treatment System Upgrade

Starting in 2023, the Town will be investing much more into its Roads and Sidewalks Capital Programs. Thanks to the Road Tax we have **\$1M+/yr Paving** going forward (actual 2022 - \$384K). And thanks to Canada's annual Community Works Grant, we have **\$375K+/yr Sidewalks** going forward (2022 - \$236K).

We are a community that values its recreation and cultural opportunities and assets. Investments being made over 2022-2024 and paid for by senior government grants include:

- **\$2.2M** Civic Centre – New Roof and Ice Plant
- **\$1M** Perimeter Trail “Completion” (Renewal)
- **\$1M** Cycle 16 “Connector” (from Town to Trail)

Council and staff are striving to engage with, learn from, and to improve on the working relationships the Town has with its regional partners. The **Office of the Wet'suwet'en** and the **Regional District of Bulkley Nechako** have responded positively to the Town's efforts. The Town's budget includes funds for this work.

The implementation of the Town's **Climate Action** plans, aided by funding support from BC, is ongoing so as to achieve the Town's 2030 and 2050 commitments.

If you have questions or comments, please contact me at [mayor@smithers.ca](mailto:mayor@smithers.ca).

Sincerely,  
Gladys Atrill  
Mayor

## Changes in Utility Fees (2023-2025)

Utility services include Water and Sewer (Sanitary and Storm & Drainage). Waste services include Garbage and Recycling. The cost of Town delivered Utility and Waste services are paid by fees and not Town taxes. Solid Waste transfer and facility services are delivered by Regional District of Bulkley Nechako and are part of RDBN property taxes charged on the tax notice.

RDBN plans to increase its Waste charges with new tipping fees of up to 25% as early as 2025. A large part of the Town's Green House Gas (“GHG”) emissions come from organic waste, which is 25%-50% of the waste shipped to the RDBN. **The Town is developing an organics diversion service to reduce taxes/fees and GHG emissions.**

Council annually reviews Utility and Waste service levels, plans, and budgets. The Town sets the Utility and Waste fees to recover the full lifecycle cost of service delivery including equipment and infrastructure. **Fees are being increased at a rate of 10% per year to 2025** to cover lifecycle costs and fund reinvestment plans.

**Home-based businesses** are to join commercial businesses as utility rate payers starting 2024 at \$120/yr. The basis for fee charges to **Secondary Suites** has also changed. While Single Family Dwellings (“SFD”) and Carriage Houses pay the same rate, Suites are paying 40% of SFD although size constraints are now minimal. **Suite SFD%: 2024=55%, 2025=70%, 2026=85%, 2027=100%.**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
<b><u>Water Fee</u></b>			
SFD/ CH	\$325	\$358	\$394
Suite	\$130	\$197	\$276
<b><u>Sewer Fees</u></b>			
SFD/ CH	\$424	\$466	\$513
Suite	\$170	\$256	\$359
<b><u>Waste Fee</u></b>			
SFD/ CH	\$148	\$163	\$179
Suite	\$59	\$90	\$125

## Property Tax Bill – Tax Breakdown

Town municipal tax is one part of the tax bill.

39% of what the Town collects is on behalf of other taxing authorities over which the Town has no control.

It all goes on one tax notice so you don't deal with multiple bills.

	<u>Taxes</u>	<u>%</u>
Town – General	5,747,000	41
Town – RCMP Tax	2,102,000	15
Town – Road Tax	750,000	5
	<b>\$8,599,000</b>	<b>61%</b>
RDBN – Waste Disposal	766,000	5
RDBN – BV Pool	634,000	5
RDBN – Other	540,000	4
	<b>\$1,940,000</b>	<b>14%</b>
NW Reg. Hospital District	<b>\$792,000</b>	<b>6%</b>
BC School Tax	<b>\$2,755,000</b>	<b>19%</b>
BC Assessment/MFA	<b>\$62,000</b>	-
<b>Total Taxation</b>	<b><u>\$14,148,000</u></b>	<b><u>100%</u></b>

## Town of Smithers Info

If you have any questions about the Town's budget, property taxes, your tax notice, and/or tax payments, please contact:

William Wallace, Director of Finance, or  
Nese Walker, Senior Accounting Clerk

**Phone:** 250-847-1600

**Email:** [propertytaxes@smithers.ca](mailto:propertytaxes@smithers.ca)

**Website:** [www.smithers.ca/propertytaxes](http://www.smithers.ca/propertytaxes)

**Business Hours:** Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed Statutory Holidays

**Location:** 1027 Aldous Street, Smithers

**Mailing:** PO Box 879, Smithers BC V0J 2N0