



# OUR COMMUNITY Dawson Creek

JAN  
2019

## BUDGET MEETINGS

- First Budget Meeting**  
January 28<sup>th</sup> at 1pm  
Council Chambers, City Hall
- Second Budget Meeting**  
February 25<sup>th</sup> at 1pm  
Council Chambers, City Hall
- PUBLIC CONSULTATION**  
March 11<sup>th</sup> at 1pm  
Council Chambers, City Hall

## Property Assessment Time: How Does That Affect My City Taxes?

### *A primer on Assessments and Taxes and how they fit together*

The City has an annual budget to fund important services used every day in the community. Taxes are an important part of funding the budget. They are essential to operate and maintain a comfortable and functional community and are collected in a fair and equitable way so that everyone who benefits contributes.

**To calculate the amount of Property Tax you pay each year, the City takes into consideration the following:**

The **Assessed Value**, established by the provincial government, is the estimated market value of your property as of July 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous year.

The **Property Tax Rate**, set by the City, is based on the class of property you own (i.e. residential or

commercial) and is applied to each \$1,000 of taxable assessed value.

When the two are multiplied together, the result is the amount of your **Property Tax**. A portion of the property tax is distributed to the provincial government to help pay for things like schools and hospitals, and to other taxing agencies.

### YOUR PROPERTY ASSESSMENT RELATIVE TO YOUR PROPERTY TAXES\*



\*Graphics are from BC Assessment

A common misconception is that an increase in your Assessed Value will result in an increase in your Property Tax. This may not be the case. The most important factor is not how much your Assessed Value has changed, but how your Assessed Value has changed relative to the average change for your property class in your municipality.

If your Assessed Value is less than the average provincial increase, your taxes may actually decrease. An exception to this would be if the City changes its Property Tax Rate. This illustration shows how it works:



These examples show how provincial factors influence City Property Tax amounts.

More detailed information is available at the following websites or by contacting the City tax department.

tax-dept@dawsoncreek.ca  
<http://www.dawsoncreek.ca/departments/finance/taxes/>  
<http://bcassessment.ca/>

# Are You Recycling Right?

Dawson Creek residents are embracing the new curbside recycling service. Since September we've collected 111,231 kg of recyclables. That's 111 tonnes of material that won't end up in a landfill, and instead is sold for reuse.



*Recycle it right: find out what goes where and when your collection day is at [dawsoncreek.ca/recycle](http://dawsoncreek.ca/recycle) or download the Dawson Creek City app.*

With any new program, there is a learning curve. Our recycling is taken to DC Recycling for sorting and baling for resale. They were finding lots of contamination (non-recyclables), which must be removed by hand and slows the process. Some contaminants pose a safety hazard to workers – for example glass often breaks during collection.

So in early December, Northern Environmental Action Team (NEAT) members followed the recycling truck, checked carts for contaminants and spoke with residents.

NEAT's check of 400 recycling cart contents resulted in:

- 285 thumbs up/pass (no problems found)
- 91 yellow 'warning' tags (cart collected and resident provided information on how to improve)
- 24 orange 'fail' tags (cart is not collected due to serious contamination)

## THE TOP PROBLEMS:

**Soft plastic** (grocery bags, overwrap from products such as toilet paper) can't be collected curbside because it gets tangled in conveyor belts and machinery at the sorting depot. Save up soft plastics and take them to a drop-off depot. Reduce use of plastic bags by using reusable grocery bags.

**Glass** is easily broken during collection and poses a safety hazard to sorting depot workers and reduces the resale value of other recyclables. Save glass containers and take them to a drop-off depot for safe recycling.

**Garbage** is easy: It goes in your garbage cart. Bagged household garbage, diapers, pet waste, yard waste, food scraps, and wood/workshop waste go in your garbage cart. Save up extra garbage for the next collection week. Get a second garbage cart from the City if you regularly have a lot of garbage.

### All you need to know

Visit [dawsoncreek.ca/recycle](http://dawsoncreek.ca/recycle) or download the app. Pick up a guide and calendar at City Hall, DC Recycling, or call us at 250-784-3600 and we'll mail one to you.

## Kindness Meters: Your donations matched by TransCanada

In January 2018, Council chose to amend the Kindness Meter Policy and change the amount of groups that receive the donations each year.

Originally, two groups were chosen for a six month period, with a total of four groups per year. The current policy states that two groups will be chosen yearly, and receive the donations from a twelve month period – January to December.

The 2018 groups that received donations are: the Networks Ministries

and South Peace Building Learning Together (BLT) Society.

**Amount donated by citizens:**  
\$540.79

**Amount matched by TransCanada:**  
\$540.79

**Each organization received in total:**  
\$540.79

The City accepts applications on an ongoing basis from non-profit organizations that provide assistance to those in need.



*For more information, contact Melissa Love at 250-784-3632 or email [admin@dawsoncreek.ca](mailto:admin@dawsoncreek.ca)*



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