

7 August 2019

Dept of Municipal Affairs
BC Government
403-771 Vernon Ave
Victoria, BC V8W 9R5

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am having an issue with the City of Kelowna which has been suggested I refer to the BC office of Municipal Affairs.

I am the homeowner of my single family residence in Kelowna, which I own outright. With no mortgage company involved, I pay my Annual Homeowners Tax directly to the City, previously with a post-dated cheque for 2 July or whatever the due date is.

This year I was absent ^{s.22} I was aware the taxes would be due ^{s.22} on 11 July, but since I am a Senior I am required to sign the Declaration that the home is my principal residence and I was born in ^{s.22} to qualify for the Discount. On the morning of 12 July I duly went to City Hall and gave them my cheque and signed declaration.

I expect that a few days of grace are permitted, by law, and possibly a few extra days, in this case 10 days total, for a good reason.

On 25 July I received a form billing me a penalty of \$197.33 for Outstanding Taxes. The City declares that penalties are legislated. This represents 6% of my tax bill.

I wrote a letter (copy enclosed) but a telephone call, from Angie, advised me verbally that only the Law of BC Municipalities has the power to reverse. (I thought replying to a letter with a phone call rather than a letter, in kind, was inappropriate.)

I therefore request one of two options: (1) Please provide authority to reverse the penalty, in consideration of my conscientious payment in person as soon as possible upon my return to Kelowna, or (2) provide me with the details of the Law that provides that a Municipality cannot provide a discretionary remedy to a citizen in good standing.

Details of my Account are as follows:

s.22

Thank you for your consideration,
Yours truly,

s.22

1 Copy attached

COPY

City of Kelowna
1435 Water Street
Kelowna, BC V1Y 1J4

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for your notice of 17 July which I received today, 25 July 2019. This topic refers to your assessment of a penalty on my Homeowners Tax Account.

For eighteen years I have paid with a postdated cheque enclosed with my application for the Seniors Home Owner Grant. As stated on the tax statement, it is mandatory that the application be signed by the *resident* homeowner in order to qualify for the grant.

This year, the nineteenth that I've been living at the same address, I was on an extended voyage before the tax bills were sent out in May. It was a quandary for me to know what to do.

As soon as I arrived^{s.22} I went in person to the City Hall with my cheque and the signed application. There is a statute in law that a few days of grace are permitted in the payment of any promissory debt. Therefore I thought I had chosen the best method to deal with this situation – appear in person as soon as possible after the due date.

Under the circumstances, since I have complied with your terms – *to the best of my ability because I was outside the country since before the tax bill was mailed* – the terms include an original signature by the resident homeowner, after eighteen years, this being my nineteenth, although you state that there is no discretion, I appeal to your sense of fairness in making this exception.

Yours very truly,

FW: Municipal property tax penalties

From: Grant, Sean MUNI:EX <Sean.Grant@gov.bc.ca>
To: s.22
Sent: October 13, 2019 5:17:23 PM PDT
Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of August 16, 2019, to the Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, requesting a reversal of a penalty on your 2019 property taxes. As the Director of Local Government Finance, I am pleased to respond on behalf of Minister Robinson.

The requirement to pay taxes on or before a due date, including a penalty for failure to do so, is firmly set in provincial statute. Therefore, this penalty is not discretionary and must be applied by the municipality regardless of circumstance. This ensures an equitable application of the penalty to all late property taxpayers.

This also ensures that local governments throughout British Columbia receive their most important revenue source (property tax) in a timely manner in order to fund critical services and infrastructure for the broader community.

I appreciate that the penalty on late property taxes may seem somewhat unfair; however, I hope you agree that the application of penalties is a necessary component of a fair and efficient tax system. Therefore, I am sorry, but the Province cannot reverse this penalty.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Sean Grant
Director of Local Government Finance
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

From: s.22
Sent: Friday, August 16, 2019 3:16 PM
To: Robinson.MLA, Selina
Subject: Municipal property tax penalties

s.22

August 16, 2019

Honourable Selina Robinson
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Government of BC

Dear Minister Robinson;

Re: Municipal Property Taxes

We recently had a mishap regarding the payment of our property taxes in Victoria. We delivered a July 4th post-dated cheque to the City of Victoria on June 5 but being $\frac{5}{2}$ years old, having moved and in the process of renovating, had mistakenly used a cheque from a company that is being deregistered. The result was a 10% penalty and despite these penalties being extremely costly, I am advised the legislation provides no relief through an appeal process.

We feel a 10% penalty is much too harsh in some circumstances and penalties should be graduated dependant on a further delay of payment. It is reasonable to charge something given the additional work required to collect with a full 10% penalty at some point within the first 30 days but at least it is considerate of those who make a mechanical error, as in our case, or when other equally legitimate reasons get in the way. Is there any reason not to structure these penalties like parking tickets with a discounted rate within a 14 day period?

The current policy is heavy handed, unfair and should be altered.

Sincerely;

s.22

Sent from Mail for Windows 10



October 15, 2019

Ref: 249193

s.22

Dear s.22

Thank you for your letter of August 7, 2019, requesting a reversal of a penalty on your 2019 property taxes. As the Director of Local Government Finance, I am pleased to respond.

The requirement to pay taxes on or before a due date, including a penalty for failure to do so, is firmly set in provincial statute. Therefore, this penalty is not discretionary and must be applied by the municipality regardless of circumstance. This ensures an equitable application of the penalty to all late property taxpayers.

This also ensures that local governments throughout British Columbia receive their most important revenue source (property tax) in a timely manner in order to fund critical services and infrastructure for the broader community.

I appreciate that the penalty on late property taxes may seem somewhat unfair; however, I hope you agree that the application of penalties is a necessary component of a fair and efficient tax system. Therefore, I am sorry, but the Province cannot reverse this penalty.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Sean Grant
Director, Local Government Finance
Local Government Finance and Infrastructure
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Ministry of Municipal Affairs
and Housing

Local Government Infrastructure
and Finance Branch

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9838 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9T1
Phone: 250.387.4060
Fax: 250 387-7972

Location:
4th Floor, 800 Johnson Street
Victoria BC V8W 1N3
www.gov.bc.ca/mah



December 23, 2020

Ref: 258187

Honourable Katrina Chen, MLA
Burnaby-Lougheed
3-8699 10th Ave
Burnaby BC V3N 2S9

Dear Colleague:

Thank you for your email of November 25, 2020, regarding property tax penalties for late payment of taxes. I apologize for the delay in responding.

In your email, you mentioned that a seniors non-profit housing society accidentally submitted their property taxes to the wrong mailing address and were subsequently penalized by the City of Burnaby for late payment of taxes. You asked if there is a mechanism to provide an exemption from this penalty.

Unfortunately, the City is correct that there is no exemption from a penalty due to a mailing error. That said, City Council could potentially provide an offsetting grant for a portion of the penalty. This is a very unusual step but can be done under certain circumstances. This grant payment would be considered "assistance" under the Community Charter.

The City cannot provide assistance to a business; however, as the properties in question appear to be owned by a society and used for non-profit housing, the City may have some latitude and I encourage you to bring your concerns to City staff.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,



Josie Osborne
Minister

pc: Lambert Chu, City Manager, City of Burnaby



April 26, 2021

Ref: 265693

His Worship Mayor Mike Hurley
City of Burnaby
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby BC V5G 1M2

Dear Mayor Hurley:

Thank you for your letter of February 25, 2021, regarding late payment of property taxes from a non-profit society in Burnaby.

As you noted, in my letter of December 23, 2020 to Honourable Katrina Chen, MLA, I advised that while there is no exemption from a penalty due to a mailing error, the City of Burnaby Council could potentially provide an offsetting grant if it so chooses. I understand that this would be entirely at the discretion of the City based on its established policies and the circumstances of the late payment, and I appreciate your clarification and the City's rationale for not providing an offsetting grant in this case.

As this is a local decision, it of course remains entirely at the discretion of Council and City staff, and I thank you again for taking the time to provide your reply.

Sincerely,



Josie Osborne
Minister



Ref: 268954

xxxx

Address (if known)

Email: xxxx

Dear xxxx:

Thank you for your email of December 09, 2021, regarding the Ombudsperson's recent Public Report on tax sale and a vulnerable person in the City of Penticton. As the Executive Director, Local Government Infrastructure and Finance, I am pleased to respond.

I would like to first say that this loss of property is a terribly unfortunate event and I appreciate its seriousness. Please understand that the purpose of the municipal tax system, including measures such as penalties, interest, and tax sale, is not to remove people from their property. Rather, it is to ensure the timely receipt of revenue that is crucial to the support of vital services for people in an entire community – services like water, sewage, police, and fire protection.

However, the Province of B.C. fully understands that the power of government to affect private property is very significant and must only be used prudently and sparingly. The Ministry has accepted all five of the Ombudsperson's recommendations and will examine solutions to improve notice requirements to individual property owners that are in the tax sale process and will develop educational and guidance measures for local governments to improve the process. The Province supports what municipalities across B.C. are already doing to minimize tax sales and will work with them to enhance those practices with best practices guidance.

For more information on the recommendations and the Ministry's response please see Appendix D of the Ombudsperson's report. https://bcombudsperson.ca/investigative_report/a-bid-for-fairness-how-10000-in-property-tax-debt-led-to-a-vulnerable-person-losing-their-home/. Since the release of the Ombudsperson's report, the City of Penticton has taken further action in response to its recommendation. Please see the latest communication from the City of Penticton: <https://www.penticton.ca/city-hall/news-alerts/council-passes-motion-reimburse-home-owner>.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Local Government Infrastructure
and Finance Branch

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9838 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9T1

Phone: 250.387.4060
Fax: 250.387.7972

Location:
4th Floor - 800 Johnson Street
Victoria BC V8W 1N3

www.gov.bc.ca/muni

Lastly, please be aware that the Province of B.C. has two programs to reduce the property tax burden for senior homeowners. People aged 65 or older may be eligible for an additional Homeowner Grant to the base grant provided to all homeowners. Additionally, homeowners aged 55 or older may qualify to defer their property taxes at very low rates of interest. Both programs have been recently improved for accessibility and ease of application.

I trust you will find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

Brian Bedford
Executive Director
Local Government Infrastructure and Finance Branch
Ministry of Municipal Affairs



CITY OF BURNABY
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MIKE HURLEY
MAYOR

MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL
AFFAIRS AND HOUSING

FEB 10 2021

☐ Min Sig ☐ Reply Direct ☐ FYI / File
☐ DM Advise ☐ DM ☐ ADM

February 25, 2021

The Honourable Josie Osborne, MLA
BC Minister of Municipal Affairs
Room 310 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

SUBJECT: PROPERTY TAX PENALTIES FOR LATE PAYMENT OF TAXES

Dear Minister Osborne,

The City of Burnaby received a copy of your correspondence to the Honourable Katrina Chen, MLA, dated December 23, 2020 with respect to concerns raised by the Honourable Member in an email sent to your office in November 2020. In that email, the Honourable Member was seeking assistance from the Ministry with regards to penalties for the late payment of property taxes for a non-profit society in Burnaby. In the future, it would be appropriate that Honourable Katrina Chen contact the City directly on matters that concern the City, such as property taxation.

Your reply correctly noted that the City of Burnaby is unable to provide assistance in this situation. You then added that the City might have latitude to address the penalties the Honourable Katrina Chen was referring to, on the basis that the properties referenced in the November 2020 email were owned by a society and involved in the provision of non-profit housing.

It is with respect that on behalf of City Council, this letter is to advise that the funding of an organization for the explicit offsetting of a tax penalty charge goes against our policies for providing grants. In addition, this request would create an unfair and inequitable property taxation system with regards to late payments. I would like to add, however, that the City of Burnaby does already provide significant grant funding and/or permissive tax exemptions to several non-profit organizations that meet our application qualification criteria.

Yours truly,

Mike Hurley
MAYOR

Copied to: Honourable Katrina Chen, MLA, Burnaby - Lougheed
Swedish Canadian Rest Home Association
Lambert Chu, City Manager, City of Burnaby

Our Vision: A world-class city committed to creating and sustaining the best quality of life for our entire community

From: Grant, Sean MAH:EX
To: s.22
Bcc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Subject: Penalty on Late Payment of Municipal Property Taxes
Date: December 30, 2020 11:57:00 AM

s.22

Thank you for your email of November 5, 2020, to the Honourable John Horgan, Premier, regarding penalties and interest on late property tax payment. As the Director of Local Government Finance, I am pleased to respond on behalf of Premier Horgan. Please accept my apologies for the delay in this response.

I would first like to take this opportunity to express my sincere sympathies for your circumstances. 2020 has been a difficult year for many British Columbians.

In your email, you mentioned that you were unable to pay your 2020 taxes on time and received a 10% penalty. You asked the municipality to waive the penalty; however, they informed you that, under statute, they are unable to waive the penalties on late taxes.

I'm sorry, but the municipality is correct, there are no statutory waivers for penalties on late payment of property taxes. This is to ensure timely payment of taxes to support critical municipal services.

While the municipality cannot waive the penalty, they may be able to provide an offsetting grant for all or part of the penalty. However, this authority is entirely at the discretion of the municipality and is only exercised in unusual circumstances where late tax payment was completely unavoidable. I suggest you discuss your circumstances with staff from the municipality.

Going forward into 2021, you may have several options at your disposal to avoid late payment of taxes. If your municipality allows it, you may be able to pay your taxes in monthly or quarterly installments directly to the municipality or indirectly through your financial institution. I encourage you to discuss this with staff from the municipality and your local bank or credit union.

Also, if you have sufficient equity in your home, and if you meet the eligibility criteria, you may qualify for property tax deferral under the *Land Tax Deferral Act*. Under this Act, you can use the equity from your home to pay your annual property taxes. For more information on this program please go to: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/property-taxes/annual-property-tax/defer-taxes>

I do hope some or all of these measures will work for you. Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Sean Grant
Director, Local Government Finance

s.22

Sent: November 5, 2020 5:09 PM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: I need HELP!!!

Dear Premier Horgan:

Are there many BC residents like me who have lost their jobs in April but don't qualify for CERB because we didn't lose our jobs due to the pandemic and don't qualify for EI because we haven't worked enough hours, and can't pay the property taxes because we haven't received any employment income since April?

I was recently slapped with 10% penalty on the property taxes + interest because I failed to pay the taxes on the due date. I explained my situation and asked for a waiver on the penalty and interest but was told that the City cannot waive the penalty nor the interest because it is legislated by the Community Charter. The City's response is copied below.

Is there any way that you can help me? Can the Charter that binds the City be waived in dire circumstances like mine and allow the City to waive the penalty and interest and allow me to pay the property taxes on a monthly basis?

I suffered a concussion that prevented me from being productive at work and was let go in April. I think there are many families like me, who are struggling during the pandemic and can't pay the property taxes. During this unprecedented time, can the BC government do something that is **also unprecedented** and allow the City to waive the penalty and interest and allow the residents to pay the property taxes on a monthly basis?

Your help is greatly appreciated,

s.22

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Tax Penalty
Date: Tue, 27 Oct 2020 00:55:31 +0000
From: Wong, Ivy
s.22

Hj s.22

I'm sorry to hear of your current situation. While we empathize with your plight, there is little that

the City can offer because the City is legislated by the Community Charter, a provincial legislation that stipulates that a 10% penalty is charged on any current tax balance outstanding after the due date and daily interest must be calculated on any arrears or delinquent balances. The City does not have the authority to reverse these charges.

Once a penalty is added, there will be no additional charges to the current balance while daily interest will continue to be calculated on your arrears balance. To minimize your costs, I suggest that you pay the arrears balance as soon as possible to stop the daily interest from accumulating and pay your current balance plus penalty before December 31, 2020 through your financial institution. Any current balance outstanding will attract daily interest starting January 1, 2021.

Should you have further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

Ivy Wong
Revenue Manager
City of Richmond
604-276-4046

From: s.22
To: Olsen.MLA, Adam LASS:EX; Minister, FIN FIN:EX
Cc: s.22
Subject: s.22 Please hear me, I want to make this country better
Date: November 5, 2021 11:16:55 AM

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Adam and Selina,
I hope this message finds you well and I apologize in advance for being who I need to be in order to ensure I am not left behind. I have no choice!

I sent you Adam the email below after having a conversation with you over the phone. It appears as though I will not get any mercy from the Minister of Finance but I need to try to be heard or the same will occur in this country: the unnoticed go unnoticed and we bury what is not convenient, as we know and should be ashamed of.

Thank you for taking my call and caring about my situation. I am following up with you to state my case clearly in the hope that we make room for fairness.
I am an immigrant to Canada, and have been contributing with Canada since age 19 and although I keep my accent and may speak too fast ;) I have become 99% Canadian s.22
s.22 I am a s.22 in BC and as a s.22 I
had to work extra hard to earn a position and finally started my own business after discovering I was getting paid 40% less than my male co-workers; a pretty devastating scene since I did not think that would happen in Canada. I did not come to Canada to be treated the way I was treated but perhaps I needed that in order to understand that my work in the world is needed to set better standards for the minorities and particularly for women.

When I decided to go on my own with my business, my wonderful born Canadian husband decided to join me and then the pandemic hit and with that we had to make changes such as reducing any debt (mortgage matters since we are pretty good otherwise) in order to cast our own future rather than waiting for the government handouts or watching a financial crisis go by. We sold our houses in s.22, went down to s.22 in October 2020 while we decided what to do and during that time, our Prime Minister decided to restrict movement which put us in a very difficult situation since our flights got cancelled constantly back from January-April 2021 at which point we had decided that agreeing with the government unreasonable decisions would not benefit us and/or help us with our situation. Neither my fully Canadian husband or I were willing to pay \$2000+ thousand dollars to come back to OUR COUNTRY. Regardless, we know how to endure difficult situations so we decided to anchor ourselves in s.22 which would allow us to continue with our plans at a lower cost; we bought a property over the net located at s.22 s.22 (my amazing s.22 husband) and I are professionals, s.22
s.22 allows him to be very aware of the current situation and together we make a great team... s.22 will give us everything we need!

With the uncertainty caused by our Prime Minister, we decided to stop trying to get back

to Canada and from April to August we continued with our lives in ^{s.22} managing some of our business matters there, family situations, hospitalizations, and COVID-19 for the second time (vaccinated, first time in Canada unvaccinated back in March 2020). I can give you many details and I am eager to share so that at least some people know that COVID-19 is dangerous but fear of it and fear in general is worse. Thanks to the fear indulged by our government, we lost a lot of opportunities and I want to be a part of the solutions for this country. Next year, I am attending the ^{s.22} and I know my experiences will add to the richness of the efforts that this event desires to drive.

The reason to contact you is because in the process of purchasing the land, dealing with many other matters while away, my land taxes (attached) got misplaced or misdelivered and when I finally got them, I had late fees. I paid the taxes on September 27, 2021 and never EVER have been late with anything; in fact, I pay the bills before they even show up. With no notification or call, I was unable to understand I was incurring late fees. When I came back, I called the Ministry of Finance to request that those fees were waived (\$52.97) but I was told that would never happen even though I explained my situation. I contacted the Property Assessment Appeal Board and they may be able to help in January 2022 but the Registrar Jason Bowman said I should contact you since you can speak on my behalf. Not only I was certain that in Canada our representatives actually do take phone calls but I was excited to have the opportunity to connect with a member of the Green Party, a party I believe in and hope to contribute with one day in the near future. I am somewhat cautious with politics since I have had nothing but bad experiences being born in a corrupted country and have not been able to desire to participate in a deeper way in Canada (my country of choice) but it is never too late.

My kind request to you is that you help me to advocate for the waiving of the late fees since I need some compassion for my situation and do not want to let the government act against me when I am a benefit to this country Adam. I want some respect for my efforts, I need to believe in our system, and I want to highlight situations that may help our servants be more in tune with the needs of the people they are supposed to serve and care for. Having a government employee tell me that there are many people claiming to get late fees waived tells me two things: 1) people are struggling for whatever reason, 2) every case should be looked at in a one to one basis, we don't all go to spend our money on new toys to overcome the pandemic.

I hope I can get your support on this and I look forward to meeting you in person prior to me having to go back to ^{s.22} to attend matters that are still calling for my attention right now."

I decided to pay the late fees today because otherwise the situation will get worse and I don't want the Ministry of Finance to categorize me as a debtor, but I hope that someone can hear me and give me back the \$55.62 dollars that out of compassion for my situation should be waived. We are all managing difficult times and my taxes help pay the salaries of many employed Canadians such as yourselves. I am having a hard time getting my business up to speed and cannot comprehend why I cannot get some mercy; it is more about the principle than it is about the dollars. I have proof of getting Canada Post to reroute my mail and likely what happened is that it simply got delivered late in the process of getting it to the right address (I never got an email to remind me of anything), I have proof of my ^{s.22} and I have ^{s.22} I have proof of my husband ^{s.22}

proof of being ill with COVID-19, and there is more than enough evidence of Mr. Trudeau's decisions to restrict movement that affected us greatly.

I will not stop until I am heard and I hope that within your values there is room for mercy and compassion.

Regards,
s.22

s.22

From: Craig, Joshua MUNI:EX
To: s.22
Cc: "FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca"
Subject: Ref: 268953 RE: s.22 Please hear me, I want to make this country better
Date: January 6, 2022 4:42:00 PM

Dear s.22

Thank you for your email of November 05, 2021. As the Acting Director of Local Government Finance, I am pleased to respond.

The requirement to pay taxes on or before a due date, including a penalty for failure to do so, is firmly set in provincial statute. To ensure taxpayers are aware of the property tax due date, regardless of receiving the notice, it has been legislated as July 2 each year. I am sympathetic to your issue, however as the due date is static, taxpayers should be aware that they are required to pay their property taxes before July 2 through their own due diligence as property owners.

The tax penalty is not discretionary and must be applied regardless of circumstance. The Province cannot reverse penalties that have been correctly applied to property taxes owing after a due date. This ensures an equitable application of the penalty to all late property taxpayers. This also ensures that local governments throughout British Columbia receive their most important revenue source (property tax) to fund critical services and infrastructure for the broader community.

I encourage you to visit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/property-taxes/annual-property-tax/important-dates> as it provides the annual property tax due date and penalty dates. If you are unable to access your property tax notice in the future, you can contact the Surveyor of Taxes to request this information to avoid late payment. Contact information is provided on the web-page.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Joshua Craig, CPA, CGA
Acting Director
Local Government Finance
Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Ph: 778-698-3231 Fax 250-387-7972
Joshua.Craig@gov.bc.ca

I respectfully acknowledge that I live & work in the traditional territory of the Lekwungen people. This includes the Songhees & Esquimalt First Nations whose historical relationship with the land continues to this day.

From: Minister, MUNI MUNI:EX
To: Chen.MLA, Katrina LASS:EX
Cc: "lambert.chu@burnaby.ca"
Subject: Seniors Non-Profit Housing Society's Property Tax Penalty (Ref: 258187)
Date: December 23, 2020 8:24:45 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[258187 Chen Signed Final.pdf](#)

Good morning,

Please find attached a letter from the Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Thank you.

From: Chen.MLA, Katrina LASS:EX
Sent: November 25, 2020 10:03 AM
To: Minister, MAH MAH:EX
Subject: FW: Property Tax Penalty

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

From: "Chen.MLA, Katrina"
Date: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at 10:00 AM
To: "Williams, Erica MAH:EX"
Subject: Property Tax Penalty

Hi Erica,

A local seniors non-profit housing society, whose buildings are funded by BC Housing and Fraser Health, submitted their property taxes to the wrong mailing address by mistake and are being penalized 10% for their late submission, as legislated by the provincial Community Charter. This is a huge cost burden for them and covid-19 has presented major challenges and financial pressures. I checked with the city but they mentioned they can't provide exemptions as it's provincial, do you know if they're able to apply for an exemption?

Swedish Canadian Rest Home Association Folio: 1210-7230-0000

Gustav Wasa Housing Society (Swedish Canadian Rest Home Association) Folio: 1210-7250-5000

Swedish Canadian Manor Society Folio: 6995-1812-5000

Any guidance you can provide would be appreciated!

Best,

Surveen Dhaliwal | Constituency Assistant | Hon. Katrina Chen, MLA Burnaby-Lougheed

E: surveen.dhaliwal@leg.bc.ca | P: 604-660-5070 | F: 604-660-5074 | #3-8699 10th Avenue,
Burnaby, V3N 2S9





December 23, 2020

Ref: 258187

Honourable Katrina Chen, MLA
Burnaby-Lougheed
3-8699 10th Ave
Burnaby BC V3N 2S9

Dear Colleague:

Thank you for your email of November 25, 2020, regarding property tax penalties for late payment of taxes. I apologize for the delay in responding.

In your email, you mentioned that a seniors non-profit housing society accidentally submitted their property taxes to the wrong mailing address and were subsequently penalized by the City of Burnaby for late payment of taxes. You asked if there is a mechanism to provide an exemption from this penalty.

Unfortunately, the City is correct that there is no exemption from a penalty due to a mailing error. That said, City Council could potentially provide an offsetting grant for a portion of the penalty. This is a very unusual step but can be done under certain circumstances. This grant payment would be considered "assistance" under the Community Charter.

The City cannot provide assistance to a business; however, as the properties in question appear to be owned by a society and used for non-profit housing, the City may have some latitude and I encourage you to bring your concerns to City staff.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,



Josie Osborne
Minister

pc: Lambert Chu, City Manager, City of Burnaby