

# CITY VIEWS



## What your dollars pay for



Of the \$472 million in City expenses in 2016, \$120 million is funded through City of Kelowna property taxes.

Your municipal tax dollars pay for a wide variety of projects and services, including:

Service	Average monthly payment*	% of municipal tax bill
Police	\$43	25%
Fire	\$21	12%
Transportation	\$20	12%
Parks	\$18	11%
Waste Collection & Disposal	\$14	8%
Building Services	\$14	8%
Planning & Development Services	\$10	6%
Transit/Regional Services	\$9	6%
Active Living & Cultural Services	\$7	4%
Debt	\$6	4%
Grants	\$4	3%
Utility Services	\$2	1%

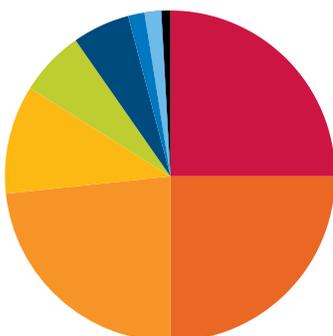
**Average Tax Levy/mth**                      **\$168**                      **100%**

\*Based on an average 2016 tax bill (municipal portion only)

## How City services & projects are funded

Through thoughtful money management, the City of Kelowna is able to provide core services, build new amenities and maintain existing infrastructure. 2015 Citizen Survey results showed that 84 per cent of residents believe they receive good value for their tax dollars.

To pay for services and projects, the City must raise money. Funding comes from a number of sources including fees and charges (22 per cent), reserve or surplus funding (25 per cent), and taxation (25 per cent).

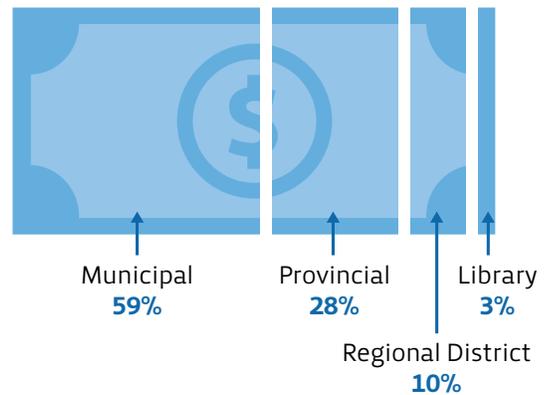


### Sources of City funding

- Taxation **25%**
- Reserves & Surplus **25%**
- Fees & Charges **22%**
- Borrowing **12%**
- Grants **7%**
- Other Revenue **4%**
- Interdept. Transfers **2%**
- General Revenue **2%**
- Parcel Taxes **1%**

## Understanding your tax bill

Your property tax bill contains amounts that the City of Kelowna collects for itself and a number of other taxing authorities, including:



- Provincial authorities (e.g. school, B.C. Assessment Authority)
- Regional District of Central Okanagan (e.g. hospital)
- Library

An average residential Kelowna tax bill (before the home owner grant is deducted) equals \$3,409, of which just over half, or \$2,023, goes toward paying for City of Kelowna services.

### Property taxes are due by midnight July 4, 2016

Do it all online!

Pay your taxes, claim the home owner grant (banks will no longer do this on your behalf, although they may have in the past) and learn to set up pre-payments for next year.

For more information, visit [kelowna.ca/propertytax](http://kelowna.ca/propertytax).

# Why taxes always seem to be on the rise



**We've all heard the question... why do taxes go up every year?**

## The cost of things

One reason taxes increase is because even without adding any new services or facilities, the cost of maintaining or replacing what we currently have increases with the impact of inflation on services and supplies.

Most citizens say they receive good value for their municipal tax dollars and citizens have consistently told us they would rather pay more taxes than see existing services reduced.

As a growing city with residents who prefer services and amenities that enhance their quality of life, mapping out a long-term plan to finance that growth keeps Kelowna among the most financially responsible cities in B.C.

## Property value

Another reason you may see an increase in your property tax bill is because of your home's market value assessment. Every year, B.C. Assessment (a provincial Crown corporation) values all real estate in British Columbia and sends property owners a Property Assessment Notice.

The City's tax rate is applied to the value of your home. For example, residential assessments for the City of Kelowna have increased, on average, 7.2 per cent, resulting in an estimated 4.11 per cent increase in the municipal portion of property taxes. Property owners who disagree with their assessment have an



opportunity to challenge it with B.C. Assessment in January.

For more information about the City of Kelowna's budget and property taxes, visit [kelowna.ca/budget](http://kelowna.ca/budget). Check out the short animated video for a simplified explanation of the budget process and careful considerations that the City needs to make every year.

## Imagine Kelowna



Nearly 25 years ago, citizens were engaged in conversation about a vision for Kelowna. A population of 76,000, Kelowna was experiencing unprecedented growth. Our city leaders established a formal direction together with the community to target focus areas specific to managing growth and defining priorities. Today, we now reap the benefits such as preserving agricultural land, establishing growth near town centres and investing in a vibrant Downtown.

Now it's time to recalibrate this vision. What kind of community do we aspire to be? What are our core community values? The world will change in ways never seen before and our community needs to be ready. These changes will be driven by shifts in technology, climate change, resources, aging population, economic factors, among other global, and local influences.

What is your vision for Kelowna? I invite you to take part in the conversation to share what you value most about your city and help us develop a vision for the next 25 years. These values will inform our future decisions to create resiliency and ensure we're positioned to thrive in an evolving world.

Imagine our future Kelowna with me. Join the conversation to help shape our city, visit [kelowna.ca/imagine](http://kelowna.ca/imagine) to get involved.

- Mayor Colin Basran



## Growing the heart of Kelowna



Great cities have great downtowns! Kelowna's city centre is a busy place these days as major investment continues to shape the downtown core.

This summer, the Library Parkade expansion project is anticipated to be complete, with an additional 197 parking stalls for a total of 668. Ground level retail space along Ellis Street is planned to create a more pedestrian friendly space and retail opportunities.

The parkade remains open during construction for short-term and monthly parking pass holders.

One block away, construction of the new Memorial Parkade continues and is expected to be open in fall. The six-storey parkade will include office space and 566 parking stalls, serving the public, and City of Kelowna and Interior Health Authority staff. This work is being coordinated with construction of the nearby Community Health and Services Centre, which is expected to be complete later this year.

Also nearby, the Okanagan Centre for Innovation is a six-storey building under construction at the corner of Doyle and Ellis in the heart of Kelowna's Cultural District. The addition of this innovation hub will continue to support economic growth and aid in the continuing revitalization of Kelowna's downtown.

Further north, the new Police Services building is under construction. Once the new 100,000-square-foot building at the corner of Clement Avenue and Richter Street opens in 2017, the centralized facility will keep pace with safety needs in our growing community and accommodate the enhanced operations of policing technologies.

With all this construction, take advantage of tools to plan your trip ahead of time or use alternative transportation options. Consider using the improved network of bike paths and walkways that connect the downtown core or conveniently access public transportation at the recently enhanced Queensway Transit Exchange. Know before you go - visit [kelowna.ca/mydowntown](http://kelowna.ca/mydowntown).

## Free summer fun



Bring the whole family to your local park for an evening of games and activities at Park and Play. Make new friends and spend quality time together. Events take place Monday to Friday throughout July and August.



Get your groove on at Dancing in the Park in Stuart Park. Don't worry about your two left feet; experienced dance instructors will be there to guide you. Events run every Wednesday throughout July and August.



Keep your eyes on [festivalskelowna.com](http://festivalskelowna.com) for great events throughout the summer, including Canada Day celebrations on July 1.

[kelowna.ca/recreation](http://kelowna.ca/recreation)



## Big ticket items



The 2016 budget focused investment on some big-ticket items such as police, construction of Ethel Street Active Transportation Corridor Phase 2, enhancements to Rutland Centennial Park, construction of the John Hindle Drive extension, road improvements, launch of a new web platform, and expansion of the City's Dark Fibre network.

- The Ethel Street Active Transportation Corridor project will enter its \$3.5-million second phase this year. Construction of a new cycle track corridor, sidewalks and parking pockets will take place between Cawston and Bernard avenues from March through to October. The first section of improvements from Bernard to Harvey avenues was completed in December 2015. Once the project is complete, Ethel Street is expected to be a busy cycling corridor.
- Rutland Centennial Park has been an important community gathering place for decades. The City acquired the park space in February 2015. Improvements in 2016 include increasing the size of the existing soccer pitches and building an inclusive playground.
- The John Hindle Drive extension is a \$10-million project jointly funded by federal, provincial and municipal governments. The two-lane roadway and multi-use pathway will connect Highway 97 to Glenmore Road via the University of British Columbia campus. Construction of the final 1.6 kilometre section of roadway begins this summer and runs through to late 2017.
- Road improvements include a new roundabout at the intersection of Valley and Cross Roads, with construction starting in June. The \$1-million project includes new sidewalks and gutters and a transit pull-out. Bernard Avenue, between Lakeview and Burtch roads, will also see improvements this year, valued at \$800,000. Construction of new sidewalks and bike lanes will begin in May, along with watermain, storm sewer and traffic light upgrades.
- With a new web platform, the City is looking to strengthen its online presence by building a Virtual City that is mobile friendly, easy to use and offers residents 24/7, self-service e-business options. The new web platform will also be accessible to all and search-optimized to connect residents with the City services and information they need, quickly. The site will be developed throughout the next several months with a planned launch in late 2016.
- Expansion of the City's Dark Fibre network and high-tech offering will continue through 2016, providing local businesses and institutions access to infrastructure that can move unlimited amounts of data instantaneously. Dark fibre also connects City facilities to reduce costs, improve response times and save money. Learn more at [kelowna.ca/darkfibre](http://kelowna.ca/darkfibre).

## Stay informed. Get engaged.

With so many ways to contact, get information and engage with the City of Kelowna, it can be overwhelming. So, here are some great options to get you started:



Visit [kelowna.ca](http://kelowna.ca) and search for what you're looking for or just explore. You'll be joining more than 3,000 daily visitors.



From [kelowna.ca/connect](http://kelowna.ca/connect) you can subscribe to a number of topics to receive regular e-updates



If you see something that you think the City should know about, submit a service request online or via your smartphone at [kelowna.ca/servicerequests](http://kelowna.ca/servicerequests)

### Follow or like us on:



Facebook ([cityofkelowna](https://www.facebook.com/cityofkelowna))



Twitter ([@cityofkelowna](https://twitter.com/cityofkelowna))



Instagram ([@cityofkelowna](https://www.instagram.com/cityofkelowna))

Sign up to get involved and weigh in on a number of community issues at [getinvolved.kelowna.ca](http://getinvolved.kelowna.ca).

Still interested in speaking to someone? You can call the main reception line at 250-469-8500 or visit City Hall at 1435 Water Street during regular business hours – Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., excluding statutory holidays.





## Your link to the world



Serving 1.6 million passengers annually, Kelowna International Airport (YLW) offers more than 60 daily non-stop commercial flights with six airline partners.

Even though operations and projects at YLW are not funded through property taxes (it's funded through various tenant and passenger fees), the airport provides a great service to our community and draws interest and investment from all over the world, positively impacting Kelowna's economy.

YLW's total economic impact is 2,730 jobs and \$610 million in total economic output to the province of British Columbia.

Development projects in 2016 include the Outbound Baggage Hall expansion, Departures Lounge enhancements, a new Airport Plaza that will include a gas station and additional food options, development of the west lands for servicing and a new non-passenger vehicle screening facility.

For more information, visit [ylw.kelowna.ca](http://ylw.kelowna.ca).

## Active by Nature, something for everyone



Whether you like to run, walk, hike, cycle, or roll and whether you prefer groomed trails, gravel, or pavement, Active by Nature has something for everyone.

To get started on your next adventure, visit [kelowna.ca/activebynature](http://kelowna.ca/activebynature), click on the interactive map and tailor your outdoor experience by distance, activity, or featured view. You can also check to ensure that amenities, such as drinking water and washrooms, can be found along your route.

Get outside and enjoy our awesome, four-season, natural playground – it's all right outside your doorstep.

Want to share your epic outdoor experiences? Use #ActivebyNature and post your photos, thoughts and ideas for new routes to Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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