



## **City of Duncan 2011 Financial Plan and Tax Rates Incorporate year three of Policing Costs phase in**

RELEASE DATE- April 18, 2011

Duncan – The City of Duncan gave First, Second and Third Reading to its Financial Plan and Tax Rate Bylaws on Monday, April 18, 2011 which incorporate increases due to providing Municipal Police services.

“The 2011 budget was the third challenging year in a row due to new costs of providing Municipal Police Services. Council wished to ensure that these costs would be implemented over a number of years, rather than all at once”, commented Mayor Phil Kent, “Taxes for police services now total \$938,850 or 25% of municipal taxes collected in 2011.”

The 2011 Municipal tax increase on the average home is 11.47%. The 2011 Municipal tax increase on the average commercial property is 8.94%. These increases are largely due to the implementation of Municipal Policing. The Province has increased the Home Owner Grant by \$200 for 2011 which may help to offset increases for most residential home owners. In keeping with Council policy, the business class multiple has been lowered to 3.09 for 2011 (was 3.44 in 2008). The policy goal is achieve a multiple at the 50th percentile of other BC municipalities (2.74 in 2010).

Significant Capital items for 2011 include:

- Borrowing for a new flood pump for the fish gut alley area, and dike improvements, debt payments to begin in 2012
- Improvements to the traffic light at the Cowichan Way, Trunk Rd, Duncan Street intersection, estimated at \$50,000 from current year taxes capital spending.
- First phase of multi-use gravel trail from Downtown Duncan to the Cowichan Commons along the rail right-of-way funded by Public Transit grants and gas tax reserve funds.
- Possible City Hall accessibility modifications of \$75,000 dependant on possible grant announcement.

Attached is a background document for further information.

If you have any questions regarding the budget or tax rates please contact:

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