

Photo credit: Julian Giordano

Penticton City Council offers relief options

Message from the Mayor

COVID-19 has turned our world upside down and every single one of us has been affected in some way.

Speaking on behalf of Penticton City Council, we want you to know that we are listening. We know this health crisis has taken a huge financial toll. We have heard your stories and appreciate your feedback. After considering various options during our recent April 23 Special Council meeting, we have agreed on a package of options to help provide relief.

I am deeply thankful for your patience, kindness and community spirit as we work together to get through this. Thank you and stay strong!

- Penticton Mayor John Vassilaki

Property taxes: The 2020 property tax increase of 2.9% has been offset with a one-time grant to all taxpayers effectively reducing the increase to 0%. While taxes are due July 31, a penalty-free grace period for payment is available to Sept. 30, 2020.

Utility bills (electric, water and sewer): All utility bills will see a 10% discount regardless of when they are paid. Also, you can defer payment



until June 30. The City is seeking an electrical subsidy funding from the Province, which would enable us to match BC Hydro's three-month credit.

Building permit fees: Planning a homeowner renovation? These fees are being waived for projects up to \$100,000 in construction value until October 2020.

Business tax multiplier: A neutral effect will be applied to the tax amount, providing relief to businesses.

Want to find out about these, and other, relief options? Visit penticton.ca/covid19toolkit for further details as well as other community support information.

Option to Defer Property Taxes

The City would like to remind homeowners about the option to defer your property taxes through the Government of B.C.'s Property Tax Deferment program. This is a low-interest loan that is available to people over the age of 55 and families with children.

Citywide fire ban in place



The Fire Department has issued a citywide fire ban, effective until further notice. This is to protect your safety and health amid COVID-19 and drier temperatures.

This means backyard fire pits are not allowed at this time, nor are open fires of any kind, fireworks, the use of sky lanterns, burn barrels or burn cages of any size or description. However, propane burning units are acceptable.

These measures are being taken to reduce exposure to air pollution and to prevent the risk of potential wildfires. This order is in alignment with Provincial measures and is being conducted with the goal of reducing anticipated human-caused wildfires.

For more information, please visit penticton.ca/fire.

Recreation Penticton launches 'Family P.L.A.Y. Kits'

The City of Penticton's Recreation department is taking new steps to offer active options for families during the COVID-19 public health crisis through the launch of its Family P.L.A.Y. Kits.

"In addition to the online resource guide we implemented in late April, we wanted to provide something for the whole family and doesn't have to be online," says Recreation Business Supervisor, Kelsey Johnson. "We understand that it can be a challenge to keep children and youth engaged, especially as we move into the warmer months, so we are happy to be able to offer something that is more hands-on."

The kits will have different themes such as sport and adventure, and will contain resources for games, physical literacy tools, printable



worksheets, crafts and equipment.

"Each kit will be lent out to a family for one week at no charge and can be booked online through our recreation booking system. Pick-up will be curbside with all items cleaned and sanitized before being

offered to another family."

Families that are interested in using a Family P.L.A.Y. Kit could register for one starting April 30 and check out more recreation options, including a weekly recreation blog, by visiting www.penticton.ca/covid19rec.



Domestic water in unoccupied buildings

Due to COVID-19 protocols, some buildings have been left unoccupied for some time now. Once Provincial Governments lift restrictions, and put in new regulations, these building may become occupied and put into use again.

It is recommended that the domestic water system be flushed to expel any stagnant water in the system, debris from natural scaling inside metallic piping and stop the growth of legionella bacteria. This will apply mainly to Commercial (production, warehouse, etc.) and Light Commercial buildings (small businesses etc.).

It is recommended to hire a Trade Qualified Plumber to perform these tasks. If an owner or maintenance personnel choose to do this themselves, here is the recommended process:

1. Bypass and separately flush any filter systems.
2. Remove all aerators from any faucets (bath tubs and outside taps do not have them), and any shower heads.
3. Begin by running the **cold water** faucet or fixture closest to where the water line enters the building.

4. Then open all the cold water faucets or fixtures sequentially moving to the furthest Faucet or Fixture.

5. Allow them to run for a minimum of 20 minutes and then shut them off in the same order they were turned on.

6. Flush any toilets at least once. Flush any ice machines, coffee machines, refrigerator water dispensers and any **other appliances** with a cold water connection, for a minimum of 5 minutes

7. Flush any outside taps for a minimum of 10 minutes.

8. Repeat the process for all **hot water** fixtures.

9. Allow them to flush for a minimum of 45 minutes for a typical 40 us gallon Hot Water Tank (1.125 x ___ us gallons = minutes to flush). Ensure your hot water tank or tank-less units are operating at a minimum temperature of **50 deg. C** for gas units and **60 deg. C** for electric units.

10. Replace any aerators and shower heads

The City of Penticton is encourages residents to subscribe for online updates providing information on recently issued announcements and emergency alerts. Visit www.penticton.ca/subscribe to sign up.