



ATTENTION LOCAL BUSINESSES: URGENT ACTION NEEDED RE: PROPERTY TAX ISSUES & SMALL BUSINESS NEIGHBOURHOOD

Commercial property taxes are resulting in business closures and threatening the livelihood of your neighbourhood.

The West Broadway BIA is advocating in support of the local business area to address these issues and help keep small businesses alive.

There is an immediate need for local businesses to contact the municipal and provincial government. We have provided a sample letter (attached) for your convenience. Please revise as needed. **It is advised to send letters ASAP, prior to June 30th, 2017.**

BIAs, in partnership with the Fair Tax Coalition, have achieved positive change through advocacy. We need to continue to act together to make an impact. There is time sensitive work being done to address the issue, and **the voices of local businesses can make a difference.**

Core Issues:

Tax Distribution

In Vancouver, the commercial property tax rate is 4.2x that of residential, yet commercial properties only account for 16% of the taxable value compared to residential properties at 84%.

Hot Spots

increased potential density in areas of development has resulted in properties being taxed at their highest and best potential use, rather than their current use.

For more information, please visit the property tax section at www.kitsonbroadway.com/resources.

What you can do about it:

Write Mayor and Council and the Minister of Small Business and let them know how this issue affects your business and community. Please see reverse for email contacts, and sample Mayor & Council letter attached.

Please contact government representatives ASAP with your input:

1. Mayor and Council

- **Emails** (Please note direct e-mails to each person are most effective):

Councillor George Affleck, email: CLRaffleck@vancouver.ca

Councillor Elizabeth Ball, email: CLRball@vancouver.ca

Councillor Adriane Carr, email: CLRcarr@vancouver.ca

Councillor Melissa De Genova, email: CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca

Councillor Heather Deal, email: CLRdeal@vancouver.ca

Councillor Kerry Jang, email: CLRjang@vancouver.ca

Councillor Raymond Louie, email: CLRlouie@vancouver.ca

Councillor Geoff Meggs, email: CLRmeggs@vancouver.ca

Councillor Raymond Louie, email: CLRreimer@vancouver.ca

Councillor Tim Stevenson, email: CLRstevenson@vancouver.ca

- **Mailing Address:**

Mayor and Council
City of Vancouver
3rd Floor, City Hall
453 West 12th Ave
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

2. Honourable Coralee Oakes, Minister of Small Business, Red-Tape Reduction and Minister Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch

- **Email:** SBRT.Minister@gov.bc.ca

- **Mailing Address:**

Honourable Coralee Oakes, The Honourable Coralee Oakes, M.L.A., Minister of Small Business, Red-Tape Reduction and Minister Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch, Room 124, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4.

"The civic property tax system in the City imposes a significant burden on the businesses in the community, a very large majority of which are small businesses. Current policies put local businesses at a serious competitive disadvantage in the region. They threaten the viability of local merchants and services providers and ultimately the local community shopping experience."

- Vancouver Fair Tax Coalition