

CITY OF SURREY

BY-LAW NO. 16828

A by-law to provide for the adoption of the Surrey 2009 – 2013  
Consolidated Financial Plan.

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 165 of the “Community Charter” being Chapter 26 of the Statutes of BC 2003, as amended, the City Council is required to adopt, annually by by-law, the five-year financial plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Surrey, in open meeting assembled, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Council authorize the objectives and policies of the municipality in relation to each of the proposed funding sources, the proportion of total revenue, the distribution of property value taxes among property classes, and the use of permissive exemptions as set out in Schedule 1 hereto and forming part of this bylaw.
2. Council authorize the following:
  - (a) the proposed funding sources;
  - (b) the proposed expenditures, and
  - (c) the proposed transfers between funds.

As set out for each year in the planning period as shown in Schedule 2 attached hereto and forming part of this by-law.

3. This by-law shall be cited for all purposes as “Surrey 2009 – 2013 Consolidated Financial Plan By-law, 2008, No. 16828”.

PASSED THREE READINGS on the 15th day of December, 2008.

RECONSIDERED AND FINALLY ADOPTED, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and sealed with the Corporate Seal on the 19th day of January, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_ MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_ CLERK

## City of Surrey

**Consolidated 2009 – 2013 Financial Plan**

As per section 165 of the Community Charter, this schedule will address the objectives and policies that relate to the proposed funding sources, and the proportion of revenue collected from them, the distribution of property value taxes among the property classes, and the use of permissive exemptions.

**1. Property Tax**

Property Taxes are generated to support City Services that are not covered by fees, charges, the parcel tax, and the new local roads and traffic safety levy. These taxes are determined based on property assessment by property class. The types of services that these revenues support include; Protection Services, Library Services, Parks, Recreation and Culture, and some Engineering Services, along with administrative services such as Legislative Services, Finance and Technology, and Human Resources. The City of Surrey has adopted a policy of collecting the same amount of taxes each year from each property class category after the property class has been adjusted for non-market activity and before a Council approved rate increase is applied. As non-market activity can fluctuate between property classes, the distribution between property classes can vary from one year to the next. The property classes ratios used in 2008 were as follows:

Class 1 : Residential	1.00 to 1.00
Class 2 : Utilities	13.73 to 1.00
Class 4 : Major Industry	5.30 to 1.00
Class 5 : Light Industry	3.23 to 1.00
Class 6 : Business	3.23 to 1.00
Class 8: Recreational	1.00 to 1.00
Class 9: Agricultural	1.00 to 1.00

These ratios will be amended when the final assessment roll becomes available in April, to reflect the current year non-market activity. Property Taxes currently account for 33% of consolidated revenues collected.

Permissive property tax exemptions are provided for in the Community Charter and can be applied at the discretion of Council to reduce the assessed value of certain types of properties. The City of Surrey Council has adopted a policy (Q-27) that guides the use of permissive property tax exemptions. This policy allows Council to consider the approval of permissive property tax exemptions for: church halls and lands surround the building, the lands surrounding hospitals, the lands surrounding schools, land or improvements for certain parks, recreation and athletic purposes provided that organizations can demonstrate that their facilities are open to Surrey residents, and some non-profit or charitable organizations provided that organizations can demonstrate that their facilities are open to Surrey residents. The 2009 Council approved permissive tax exemptions are estimated to be valued at approximately \$1,093,000.

## **2. Local Roads and Traffic Safety Levy**

The City of Surrey adopted a “Local Roads and Traffic Safety Levy” in 2008. This levy is intended to fund the ongoing maintenance needs of the City’s local road pavement and to accelerate the implementation of safety-related infrastructure on the road system. The “Local Roads and Traffic Safety Levy” was established at the equivalent of a one percent property tax increase and will increase at an equivalent rate of one percent per year over the next four years. The “Local Roads and Traffic Safety Levy” will be distributed to properties using an assessment tax basis and will use the same taxation class ratios as general property taxes. Properties that are eligible for a full statutory and permissive property tax exemption are also exempt from this levy. In 2009, this levy will generate less than 0.65% of consolidated revenues collected within the City; this revenue is expected to increase to approximately 1.3% by 2013.

## **3. Parcel Tax**

The City of Surrey has adopted a “Drainage Parcel Tax” to fund the construction and operation of the storm drainage system for the convenience and safety of the residents and businesses within the City. The “Drainage Parcel Tax” is applied at the same rate for all properties within classes one through eight, while property class nine (agricultural lands) is applied at a reduced rate, reflecting the contribution that these properties make to the various Dyking Districts throughout the City. Properties that are eligible for a full statutory and permissive property tax exemption are also exempt from this parcel tax. The “Drainage Parcel Tax” accounts for approximately 4% of the consolidated revenue collected by the City.

## **4. Fees**

The City of Surrey has adopted a “User-Pay” philosophy where this can practically be applied. Where the provision of a service can be directly related back to the consumer, a fee is developed and charged for that service. All fees are established through a bylaw that the fee charged and the terms and conditions of the payment. Some examples of the types of fees that the City imposes include: water, sewer and garbage fees, application fees, recreational usage fees and fees for document processing and replicating. Fee’s account for approximately 25% of the consolidated revenue collected within the City of Surrey.

## **5. Other sources**

The City of Surrey received revenue from other sources such as developer contributions, provincial and federal grants and investment income.

Developer contributions are designed to place the burden of new infrastructure on new development. These contributions are received in one year and brought into budget for spending in the following year and make up approximately 27% of the total consolidated revenue in the 2009 Financial Plan.

Provincial and federal grants are received for policing initiatives, library services and capital and infrastructure initiatives. The traffic fine sharing revenue for 2009 is anticipated to be \$5.3 million, library services are anticipating receiving \$1.0 million in provincial grants and casino revenue is anticipated to be \$4.1 million. Provincial and federal revenue is estimated to be approximately 2% of total revenue in 2009.

The City of Surrey manages an investment portfolio worth over \$720 million, returning an anticipated 4.34% in 2008. The interest earned on these investments account for approximately 5.4% of the total annual revenue.

**6. Borrowing**

The City of Surrey has adopted a principle of keeping the total debt required to finance capital projects to less than 5% of City expenditures. As of December 2008, the City has no outstanding debt.

The City’s proposed distribution of revenue is as follows:



