2010 City of Port Alberni Tax Input

Council wants to hear your ideas for future revenues and expenditures including tax rates. All completed forms will be submitted to Council at their regular meeting of Monday July 12, 2010 and your input will help with next year's budget process:

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You may include additional comments on the back of this sheet or another on another page. Input received will be considered by Council when preparing the next Five Year Financial Plan.

We appreciate you providing the following information……

1. Please circle the category for your property: Business Residential Industrial

2. Were you aware before you received your tax notice that residential property taxes were increasing? _____

3. The City endeavors to provide the public with information through local media. Do you have other suggestions or methods for information to be provided to the public regarding services & taxation?
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4. Please provide your email address and we will send you updates of Council business following every Regular Council meeting._____
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Additional Comments…..

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Questions and Answers

How does the City set its tax rates?
The City sets tax rates based on a financial plan that forecasts revenue and expenditures for a five year period. The tax rates are applied to the assessed value of your property to determine the amount of property tax you pay to the City. Your assessed value is determined independently by BC Assessment Authority. The financial plan includes extensive public input, each City department provides detailed revenues and expenditures to council and the public and the City receives input and ideas. Council is aware of the tax rates charged in other communities and with the 2010 increase our rates will be equivalent to the average tax rates of similar municipalities in BC. Your tax bill includes amounts collected for other agencies, such as the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District. The City does not control these amounts, but they affect your bottom line – how much property tax you pay.

What options are available to assist me with paying my property taxes?
If you are having trouble making your payments there are options available that may assist you. There are now more ways to qualify for Tax Deferment or the City can set you up for fixed monthly payments. For more information regarding tax deferment or monthly payments contact City Hall 250 723-2146.

Catalyst paid their 2009 taxes why is the City continuing with the increase to residential taxes?
The City may have won the battle but the issue of industrial tax rates is not resolved. The City cannot depend on full payment from Catalyst in 2010. Council believes it must account for the potential revenue shortfall so the five year financial plan was prepared on the basis of receiving Catalysts 2009 taxes but experiencing a revenue shortfall in 2010.

What is being done to resolve the industrial tax issue?
The City is in discussion with Catalyst for a solution of mutual benefit. Meanwhile the province and the Union of BC municipalities have a task force reviewing industrial taxation and their recommendations are due in September. Any number of options is available to the province including legislating limits on industrial taxation.

Why is the city changing to biweekly residential garbage collection?
Bi weekly collection is a move to reduce waste, diminish green house gas emissions and reduce the City's costs. We appreciate your efforts to adjust to the changes and reduce your waste.