

<p style="text-align: center;">Property Tax Deferment Changes – 2009/2010</p>
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In light of recent global economic events, the provincial government recently announced amendments to the *Land Tax Deferment Act* creating a new temporary program which will allow eligible homeowners facing financial hardship, and who have at least 15 per cent equity in their homes, to defer their 2009 and 2010 property taxes.

Details for applying and eligibility requirements will be made available before tax notices are issued starting in May 2009.

[Quick Links](#)

Announcement from Premier Campbell

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2008OTP0264-001663.htm

Legislation Introduced to Maintain Strong Economy

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/>

Current Property Tax Deferment Program

http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/individuals/Property_Taxes/Property_Tax_Deferment/ptd.htm

Q & A's

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP PROPERTY TAX DEFERMENT PROGRAM

Why is the B.C. government doing this?

Government is implementing a number of initiatives to assist British Columbians during this time of global economic uncertainty. The financial hardship property tax deferment program will provide financial relief to homeowners in need while ensuring local governments are able to meet their financial commitments.

Will local governments be out of pocket?

No, the province will pay property taxes deferred under this program to ensure local governments receive funds required to provide services to property owners.

What is the program?

The new financial hardship property tax deferment program will allow homeowners, who have at least 15 per cent equity in their home and who attest that they are experiencing financial hardship due to current economic conditions, to defer their property tax payment for each of the 2009 and 2010 tax years.

How does this program relate to the existing Property Tax Deferment program?

The new financial hardship property tax deferral program is available to homeowners facing financial hardship due to current economic conditions, and is for 2009 and 2010 property taxes only. Other requirements are the same as the current Property Tax Deferral program, except that the hardship program is available to those under 55 years of age and the equity requirement is only 15 per cent compared to 25 per cent for the existing program.

Who will be eligible for the program?

Homeowners with at least 15 per cent equity in their home, based on assessed values as determined by BC Assessment, who attest that they are experiencing financial hardship due to current economic conditions, and who meet the program eligibility requirements, will be eligible to apply. Details for applying and eligibility requirements will be made available before tax notices are issued starting in May 2009.

How will serious financial difficulties due to current economic conditions be determined?

Homeowners will have to attest that they are experiencing financial hardship due to current economic conditions.

Will interest be calculated on the deferred taxes?

The province will charge simple interest at the prime rate on the tax balance outstanding on the tax deferral loan. Interest will not be charged on the interest portion of the account. The interest rate will be adjusted to the current prime rate every 6 months.

For how long can taxes be deferred?

The deferred taxes will not have to be paid back to the Province until the homeowner sells their home or makes a registered change to ownership other than to a surviving spouse. However, the deferred balance owing may be paid back earlier without penalty.

How can I apply for financial hardship property tax deferral?

Homeowners could apply for the program only after the 2009 tax notices have been levied by their municipal or rural tax authorities. Details for applying and eligibility requirements will be made available before tax notices are issued starting in May 2009..

How can I find out more about this new temporary program?

Please book-mark this page and check back frequently. Details for applying and eligibility requirements will be posted here.