

## Budget 2008 Tax Change Summary

On February 19, 2008, the Minister of Finance announced changes to the taxation legislation administered by the Ministry of Small Business and Revenue. This notice provides a summary list of consumer tax and property tax changes. For detailed information on these changes, please see our budget website at [www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/msbr/budget/budget.htm](http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/msbr/budget/budget.htm)

For information on other changes to legislation administered by the Income Taxation Branch, please see the [ITB Budget Bulletin](#), also available on our website.

**The ministry is Going Green!** To support government's goal to be carbon neutral by 2010 and to reduce our paper consumption, we are providing you with the options listed below for receiving information about important tax changes.

- **Mail or Fax:** You can request a paper or fax copy of [Budget Bulletin 2008](#) or any of our publications by phoning 604 660-4524 in Vancouver or toll-free at 1-877-388-4440.  
To serve you better, we have temporarily expanded our hours of service as follows:  
Weekdays from February 19 to February 29, 2008: **8:00 am - 7:00 pm**
- **Internet:** You can visit our budget website at [www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/msbr/budget/budget.htm](http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/msbr/budget/budget.htm)
- **E-mail:** You can request an electronic copy of [Budget Bulletin 2008](#) or any of our publications by e-mailing us at: [SBRpublications@gov.bc.ca](mailto:SBRpublications@gov.bc.ca)

### Consumer Taxes

#### Carbon Tax

- Proposed carbon tax

#### PST Review

- *Bona fide* farmers and aquaculturists – all-terrain vehicles
- Coloured fuel used in farm vehicles
- Work-related safety equipment
- Contracts to improve real property
- Special registration number introduced
- Trusts and amalgamations
- Partnerships

- Definition of a well site

#### Hotel Room Tax

- Increase transfer to Tourism BC

#### Motor Fuel Tax

- Biodiesel and ethanol – alternative fuels
- Rebate program for persons with disabilities
- Coloured fuel used in crew crummies
- Locomotive fuel used in high rail vehicles
- Victoria regional transit tax

## Consumer Taxes (continued)

### Provincial Sales Tax

- Charity-funded purchases of medical equipment
- Gifts given by charities in exchange for a donation
- Energy efficient residential gas-fired water heaters
- ENERGY STAR® Qualified residential refrigerators, freezers and clothes washers
- Insulation to prevent heat transfer – hot water tanks, water pipes and ductwork
- Biodiesel used for residential or commercial purposes
- Coal and coke except for residential use
- New energy efficient vehicles
- Electric bicycles and tricycles
- Electric motorcycles and scooters
- Hydrogen fuel-cell buses
- Trade-in allowance on motor vehicles purchased outside British Columbia
- Passenger vehicle rental tax
- Emission control devices for diesel vehicles
- Aerodynamic devices for commercial tractor-trailers
- Samples of dental and optical appliances
- Dedicated telecommunications services
- Catalysts and direct agents
- Production machinery and equipment exemption for local governments

## Property and Property Transfer Taxes

### Home Owner Grant

- Home owner grant threshold increase
- Property damaged or destroyed by a fire, flood or natural disaster
- Temporarily cease to occupy a residence
- New construction to accommodate a disability
- Definition of a permanent resident
- Spouse or relative of a deceased owner
- Low-income grant supplement – definition of spouse and shared-income partner

### Property Transfer Tax

- First Time Home Buyers' threshold increase
- First Time Home Buyers' financing requirements

### Rural Property Tax

- Provincial rural property tax rates
- Camp properties

### School Tax

- School property tax rates
- Major industrial property school tax rate



## Need more info?

### PST / Motor Fuel Tax /

#### Hotel Room Tax / Carbon Tax

Telephone (Vancouver): 604 660-4524

Toll free in Canada: 1 877 388-4440

E-mail: [CTBTaxQuestions@gov.bc.ca](mailto:CTBTaxQuestions@gov.bc.ca)

### Home Owner Grant / School Tax /

#### Rural Property Tax

Telephone (Victoria): 250 387-0555

Toll free: 1 800 663-7867 to Service BC

E-mail: [ruraltax@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ruraltax@gov.bc.ca)

### Income Tax

Telephone (Victoria): 250 387-3332

Toll free: 1 800 663-7867 to Service BC

E-mail: [ITBTaxQuestions@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ITBTaxQuestions@gov.bc.ca)

### Property Transfer Tax

Telephone (Victoria): 250 387-0604

Toll free: 1 800 663-7867 to Service BC

E-mail: [PTTENQ@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PTTENQ@gov.bc.ca)