Application for a Permissive Tax Exemption

Langley City Hall 20399 Douglas Crescent Langley, BC V3A 4B3 Email: <u>info@langleycity.ca</u>

Mayor: Val Van Den Broek Finance: Paul Gilbert Langley City Councilors: All 2020-05-22

Hello,

My name is Warren H. "Skip" Stuart Jr. and I am making this appeal to the Langley City Council for the Permissive Tax Relief benefit on behalf of The Eureka Temple Society property located at 20701 Fraser Highway. This property has been in continuous ownership of the same organization since 1927. The building is owned and managed by The Eureka Temple Society a registered Non-Profit Society in B.C and is a body of the Eureka Masonic Lodge #103 in Langley City which was established 1923. The Directors are not paid and all management and maintenance is performed on a volunteer basis.

This building was built in1927/1928 at a total cost of \$4000.00 for the land and construction, it was completed with member donations and volunteer labor, as a dedicated Lodge and Community Hall by Masons who were Civic Leaders of the time and notable Langley pioneers. These prominent civic members formed the first Masonic Lodge in 1923. A few of these memorable pioneers were P.Y. Porter, whose grandson remains a Lodge member currently, as well as Ernie Sendell, the first Mayor of Langley City. Hunter Vogel, who was an MLA and Speaker of the House in the W.A.C. Bennett government, and Reg Easingwood who was also Mayor of Langley City, just to mention a few influential Freemasons who were members of Eureka Lodge and their contributions to the City. A picture of the first City Council formed still hangs in the Langley City Council Meeting Room representing this dedication. For years it was the ONLY Community Hall in Langley Prairie. Our Hall pre-dates the existence of The City of Langley.

It has been brought to the attention of the Directors that if during the division of the City and Township boundaries our property had been placed in the Township that we would, as a community hall, qualify for a property tax exemption. The City in their infinite wisdom does not allow for this reality. However the City does offer a bylaw [#2640] entitled "Permissive Tax Exemption." Most other properties in the City that qualify for this exemption are either Churches or owned by the City.

We have no plans or have ever had any plans to sell the property. The property is Class 8 - P2 zoned, which is Public Use / Institutional and is reserved for schools, churches, private hospitals, community halls, and public assembly. This property is used as a community hall and has continued this use for the past 93 years. In the past 2 years cosmetic improvements have been undertaken to enhance the exterior appearance of the building thereby instilling a sense of civic pride and accomplishment to ourselves and the City of Langley. As you can imagine the upkeep on this 93 year old building is an ongoing project.

The Freemasons are a fraternity older than 300 years and are dedicated to improving the moral and spiritual awareness of its members and our society in general, by supporting its members, the communities and local groups. Among these are the 5 Masonic Lodges, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Jobs Daughters, the 4H, the Air Cadets and the many other civic originations and clubs that meet in the building and contribute to its support and maintenance. Amongst the Masonic Bodies that meet in this building there is a high level of local community support and involvement to remain in our Fraternal Home. I have some of these letters of their contributions attached for your perusal if you are interested.

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Due to this support and involvement in the maintenance and upkeep of the Hall all are offered an excellent meeting place as a direct benefit to their organizations and indirectly the City.

It is difficult, and I don't think paranoid to conclude that we are being taxed off our 93 year old property with the "Highest and Best Use" policy being used at this time. It seems unreasonable for this property to be assessed for its commercial potential rather that it's present status of a P2 community hall.

The purpose of assessing the property as I understand, is to give the civic government a base to establish taxation. The mill rate for this classification (Class 8) was 10.6158 in 2019 and there is no appeal open for a property owner to reduce the mill rate. In the past 93 years this property has paid its share for the goods and services provided. If the mill rate is to remain the same in 2020 as in 2019, then the taxes could be **\$45,000.00** / **\$48,000.00**, approximately as the mill rate has not been set. In the past 2 years our assessment has doubled. In 2017 our assessment was \$1,223,000.00 a 19% increase from 2016. In 2018 it was \$1,321,000.00 an 8% increase, in 2019 it rose to \$2,405,000.00 a staggering 82% increase, and in 2020 an astronomical increase of 101% up to \$4,835,000.00. All the while, in general, commercial and industrial properties only experienced a 12% - 16% jump. The logic and rational of this boggles the mind. Attached also with this letter are copies of the taxes paid to Langley City for the years 2017, 2018, and 2019.

The BC Assessment Authority and Langley City have assessed our property in a category called "Highest and Best Use". The rational of this escapes our Board. To us it appears that we are being assessed and therefore taxed on the potential of the property and not the present use, and moreover, not its present zoning. In discussions with an appraisal officer in the Abbotsford office, their rational and comparison was with 3 strictly commercial properties and a Church across the street. To our mind this is an apples and oranges comparison. It seems that with the City's Master Plan in mind that all commercial property will be multi-story retail and/or residentially assessed. However we are zoned Class 8 recreational/non-profit and P2 private institutional; ie: assembly hall, private school community service. Nowhere are we listed as commercial, and yet we are assessed as such. Furthermore in talks with Mayor Val Van Den Broek and an appraiser at the Abbotsford office, each lay the blame for these increases at the others doorstep:

"Not my fault it's the City – Not my fault it's the BC Assessment Authority".

It is our request that The Langley City Council give this request the time and consideration that in our opinion it deserves. Thank you for the opportunity for me on behalf of the Eureka Temple Society to present this case for the Permissive Tax Reduction.

Regards. und

Eureka Temple Society W.H. "skip" Stuart Jr. [2020 President] 20310 Grade Crescent Langley, BC 604-539-5015 <u>sskip@shaw.ca</u>

ATTACHMENTS

<u>5 different Masonic Lodges meet in the building:</u>

- Eureka 103
- Dogwood 192
- Cloverdale 168
- Langley 184
- Westminster 174

Many Masonic and Concordant Bodies also meet in the building:

- The Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon
- Order of the Eastern Star
- Jobs Daughters
- Gizeh Shrine Club
- Royal Arch
- Cryptic Rite
- Red Cross of Constantine

Many Civic and Religious groups meet in the building:

- SGI Buddhists
- Fraser Valley Artists
- Girl Guides
- Port Kells Art Group
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- 4H
- Air Cadets

As a Community Hall:

- Day Care w/ 23 children
- Weddings
- Birthday Parties
- Retirement Parties
- Banquets
- Etc.

Letters of Support

Masonic Cancer Car Project

Freemasons of British Columbia and Yukon care about those who are fighting cancer. Launched on 6 April 1989 in the Lower Mainland, the Cancer Car Project has since expanded to Vancouver Island (1991) and the Thompson- Okanagan area of the Interior (1998) as Cancer Treatment Centers were established.

These freemasons collectively launched the program to enable cancer patients to get to treatment centers with a minimum amount of difficulty. In 1988 a committee was struck. They approached the Canadian Cancer Society with the idea that a volunteer driver would pick patients up from their homes and take them to a treatment centre and back again, or, in the case of out-of-town patients, from the airport or bus depot to the Cancer Lodge or other accommodation near the Cancer clinic. This was to be at no cost to either the patient or the Cancer Society.

Every freemason in the Grand Lodge jurisdiction contributes annually an assessed amount towards the capital fund to purchase and replace the sixteen vehicles currently in use. This assessment also pays for the fuel, insurance and maintenance of the vehicles. Cellular telephones in each vehicle (and the airtime) are donated and all donations are gratefully received by the Masonic Community Charities Fund, which administers the project

Currently the freemasons cover an area that includes Vancouver, Richmond, Burnaby, New Westminster and Port Moody on the Lower Mainland (seven vehicles); from Campbell River to Victoria on Vancouver Island (five vehicles); and from Kamloops to the USA border in the Okanagan (four vehicles). There are approximately 375 volunteers in the three areas, some 60% of whom are non-masons.

Since the inception of the program, volunteers have driven over ten million kilometers. In the Lower Mainland they work shifts from 7:00 am to noon or from noon to 5:00 pm once a week. In other areas, where a trip might take most of the day, once a month is the average shift.

Dispatchers also work regular shifts in the Vancouver, Kelowna and Island dispatch offices.

The reputation of the freemason's Volunteer Driver program has spread through the Cancer Societies in North America as well as the Masonic fraternity on this continent and in Europe. In 1992 the National Board of Directors of the Canadian Cancer Society awarded the Freemasons of British Columbia & Yukon the Citation of Merit Award. So successful is the program that requests have been received from fraternities in both Canada and the Unites States who wish to start similar programs in their areas.

Those wishing information on transportation to the various treatment centers should call one of the following telephone numbers:

Greater Vancouver:	+1-604-87	72-2034 or +1-800-663-2524
Vancouver Island:	+1-800-66	53-7892
Thompson-Okanagan (Kel	owna):	+1-250-712-1101 or +1-800-299-0188

LANGLEY CHAPTER NO. 50 ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR Sue Pfaff P.M. - Secretary 6256 187 Street Surrey, B.C. V3S 7N8 604-785-4676 pfaffsue@gmail.com

February 7, 2020

To whom it may concern,

Langley Chapter# 50, Order of the Eastern Star meets at the Langley Masonic Hall, 20701 Fraser Hwy, Langley *B.C.* a minimum of once a month.

Who is the Eastern star? We are the largest fraternal organization for men and woman in the world. The organization was formed in the 1800's and today there is over five hundred thousand members worldwide, with 3,222 members in B.C. and the Yukon alone.

The members of the Order of the Eastern Star are dedicated women and men who sincerely reflect the spirit of fraternal love and the desire to work together for good. The moral and social purposes of the Order are designed to build character, to promote friendship and harmony among the members, and to practice charity. The Order provides them the opportunity to give a part of their time to the many projects that benefit all mankind.

We are a non-profit organization and in our Chapter we raise funds for the following different organizations to help out with any needs they may require.

At the present time we are supporting the following organizations with our fundraising efforts.

<u>B.C. Cancer Foundation</u>. The most time and energy expended is in the making of dressings provided by the Eastern Star Chapters free of charge to all cancer patients who require them, at the request of their doctors.

<u>Istar House</u> - Donations from Langley Chapter are collected over the year and given to Istar house in Langley. Along with our donations of money, we also collect soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, and other toiletries to help the women in the community.

We even buy little things for the children in the event they are there with their Mother.

<u>Langley Hospital</u>-Donations from Langley Chapter are collected at our meetings and presented to Langley Hospital throughout the year. A couple of months ago we gave a donation by holding a coin march at our meeting with all proceeds to go towards the new Emergency Room Wing that is being built.

<u>BC/Alberta Guide Dogs/Autism Support Dogs</u> - Donations are donated from our members throughout the year and presented to BC/Alberta Guide Dogs. We even have puppies in training that our members are supporting. These puppies will be going to help some people in the Langley area in the way they needed the most.

<u>Honor House</u> - Honor House is another project that our members support. Honor House is a refuge, a "home away from home" or member of our Canadian Armed Forces, Veterans, Emergency Services, Personnel and their families to stay, completely free of charge, while they are receiving medical care and treatment in the Metro Vancouver area.

<u>We raise funds for our Bursaries</u>. We have one bursary available to families of our members who have completed at least two years of Regular University courses or equivalent towards an undergraduate degree.

<u>Another Bursary we have is for ESTARL</u>. Eastern Star Training Awards for Religions Training Leadership. In Langley we are pleased to say that we sponsored a Pastor from a local church in Langley and were able to help her out with her studies.

As you see we help out our community of Langley out whenever we can along with other communities in B.C.

With the raise of taxes that we have been told about that are effecting our landlord's building. We are almost certain that some of the costs will be passed on to the tenants in the building, and we will not be able to fill our obligations to the different projects we support.

Should you require meinformation please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely, Sue Pfaff - Past Matron Secretary - Langley Chapter #50

Langley Job's Daughters

January 27, 2020

Re: BC Assessment Eureka Temple 20701 Fraser Hwy Langley

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter on the behalf of Bethel 52 Langley Job's Daughters. We are one of the organizations that meets at the Eureka Temple.

Our group has been meeting at this hall for over 50 years. Over a course of a year, we use the hall for 18 meetings, 2 installations, practices, projects, etc... And for the last several years, in support of our group, we have not been charged rent.

Job's Daughters is an organization for girls ages 10 to 19. It is where girls gain self-confidence, leadership skills, project-management skills, life-long friends and so much more. We do community service as well. We raise money and awareness for The H.I.K.E. Fund (Canada) – Hearing Impaired Kids Equipment. Over the 50+ years we have supported many other charities and community service projects, eg. Critter Care, Canadian Cancer Society, Adopt-A-Street, Canadian Breast Cancer Society, Food Banks, etc... To find out more about us, you can go to http://www.bcjobsdaughters.org/

Thank you,

Tara Porter Guardian Secretary Bethel 52 Langley Job's Daughters jdbethel52@gmail.com

Langley Masonic Lodge #184

Our charitable contribution annually has been mainly been the "**Shaun Simmonds Bursary** " where we have been donating for the past 25 years to Kwantlen College University \$1,500.00 – \$2,000 annually an approximate total of \$40,000 – \$50,000 over the period there is also the annual contribution to our Cancer Car foundation approximately \$1,400.00 there are donations of various societies that we have contributed to "Battered Women's Shelter, Langley Hospital, Langley School projects , Food Bank our Members have contributed their businesses and time to helping when requested for help.

It is difficult to itemize our contributions over the years to all the charities they have not all been catalogued and detailed.

I have no idea the presentation being formulated however Rt. W. Bro. John McTaggart of St. James Lodge has been on the Building Committee for Grand Lodge and he got their assessment which was estimated at a staggering \$50,000,000 and they renegotiated down to \$26,000,000 I mentioned it to him and he said he would help if required. I informed him about the meeting at the Lodge Hall on February 8th.at 10:00 a.m.

Langley Lodge No.184 has been contributing to our community for 40 years and some of our founder members were prime business men in Langley.

Regards,

Bob Park

Below are the last 3 years tax notices that we have paid.

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RECEIVED

MAR 3 0 2020

ADMINISTRATION DEPT CITY OF LANGLEY



March 23, 2020

Mayor Val van Den Broek and Council members Langley City Hall 20399 Douglas Crescent Langley, BC, V3A 4B3

Dear Mayor van Den Broek and Council Members

Re: Permissive Tax Exemptions - 2021

Inclusion Langley Society is a non-profit society supporting adults with intellectual disabilities and children with special needs who live in Langley. Our previous name was the Langley Association for Community Living.

On behalf of Inclusion Langley, I am writing to request permissive tax exemptions for the 2020 property tax year for the following properties owned by the Society within the City of Langley:

Property	<u>Folio</u> #
#208 20239 Michaud Crescent Langley V3A 8L1	044065
#210 20239 Michaud Crescent Langley V3A 8L1	044066
19977 45A Avenue Langley V3A 8C7	072151
4570 209A Street Langley V3A 2K9	100970
4830 196 th Street Langley V3A 7Z7	113253





23535, 44 avenue langley, b.c. V2Z 2V2

Property	<u>Folio</u> #
#210 5650 201A Street Langley V3A 0B3	052730
#218 5650 201A Street Langley V3A 0B3	052737
#312 5650 201A Street Langley V3A 0B3	052754

At this time, we do not receive permissive exemption for the 3 units in the Heritage Centre on Fraser Highway that the Association owns, but would like to be considered.

These units increase the delivery of some of our vital services directly in the city. Services include employment coaching and mentoring, home sharing placements, and meeting and training space. Permissive Exemption would enable our organization to provide additional services to our community. Previous requests for permissive exemptions for this site have been denied. We respectfully ask for reconsideration.

The details are as follows:

<u>Property</u> Heritage Centre Unit 101 20689 Fraser Highway Langley V3A 4G4	<u>Folio</u> # 000972
Heritage Centre Unit 102 20689 Fraser Highway Langley V3A 4G4	000972
Heritage Centre Unit 103 20689 Fraser Highway Langley V3A 4G4	000972

Thank you for your time in consideration of this application.

Sincerely

Daniel Collins Executive Director

Dear Mayor and Council,

Thank you for being the Leaders of Langley City and making it a good and safe place to be.

I am writing you once again to have you consider granting the Langley Food Bank a Permissive Tax Exemption for the year of 2021 at the address of 5768 203 St.

At the Langley Food Bank we try to meet the needs of whoever comes as long a they are a Langley resident. No one is turned away because of race, creed, color, religion or sexual preference. It has come to my attention that we are the only Food Bank in the Lower Mainland that does not have a Permissive Tax Exemption. This should not be and I would like to be granted a time in the near future to make a presentation to the Council. The Langley Food bank helps over 700 family units now with many more family units signing up weekly because of Covid.

I would appreciate 10-15 minutes of your time to try again to allow you to see that we are helping the community in ways that will make Langley truly the "Place to Be" for everyone not just those who have means.

Kindest Regards- Jim Calamunce- Executive Director of the Langley Food Bank.



Langley Memorial Hospita ECEIVED 22051 Fraser Highway

Langley, B.C. V3A 4H4

AUG 1 2 2019

ADMINISTRATION DEPT

Email:Auxiliary.LMH@fraserhealth.ca www.langleymemorialhospitalauxiliary.ca Join us on Facebook

August 7, 2019

604 514-6161

Mayor Val Van den Broek and CounciL 20399 Douglas Crescent Langley, BC V3A 4B3

Dear Mayor Van den Broek and Council:

Re: Application for Exemption of 2020 Property Taxes Legal Lot Address: Lot A, District Lot 36; Group 2 NWD Plan LMP13697 PID#018-582-842

The Langley Memorial Hospital Auxiliary is requesting that the City of Langley Council consider exempting the property taxes for the above mentioned property, Penny Pincher Thrift Store, which is owned and operated by the Hospital Auxiliary and its volunteers. As it is totally volunteer run there are no wages that are taken out of the income generated by the store.

The Hospital Auxiliary is in its 72nd year and over the past 27 years we have contributed 8.5 million dollars to the hospital with a further 1.5 million pledged to the new Emergency Ward. Last year alone, the Auxiliary contributed over \$500,000.00 towards the hospital and Community Health. The Auxiliary raises money through the gift shop located in the hospital but by far the largest amount of contributions comes from Penny Pincher. Should Council grant the exemption on property taxes a further \$56,000.00 would be available to purchase hospital equipment. \$56,000.00 would purchase a ceiling mounted lift to assist in transferring patients from a bed to a wheelchair or 10 Isoflex mattresses which prevent and treat pressure injuries, plus numerous other less costly items like cribs for pediatrics or a water purification system for the lab. This year we partnered with the Hospital Foundation and purchased a Pulmonary Lung Function machine at the cost of \$45,000.00 each. The hospital has not had this piece of equipment and this meant that patients were waiting up to eight weeks to have the testing done at a facility outside of their community.

While the hospital is not in the City of Langley, it certainly is there to meet the needs of both city and township residents and it is a facility that most residents visit at some time in their life. Having a

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renovated and modern hospital with up to date hospital equipment and able to meet the needs of residents is a valid consideration for people looking to move to the area.

We also support Community Health Care by providing equipment that aids in providing in home care to the residents of Langley. Home Health is located in downtown Langley.

Not only does the Auxiliary raise funds for the hospital it helps enhance the quality and meaning of life for many seniors in Langley who are involved in knitting and crocheting much needed items for patients and those in residential care, as well as providing a great venue for volunteering. Penny Pincher is a supporter of Avia Employment Services in Langley and we regularly help individuals out by learning or honing skills that will assist with their search for employment.

The Cities of Delta, White Rock and most recently North Vancouver have recognized the valuable part that their hospital auxiliaries play in the community and have granted tax exemptions for their Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Stores.

We are unique among the thrift stores in that we own our building and all of our income goes towards health care in Langley. No funds leave the community.

In closing, we the Langley Memorial Hospital Auxiliary would like to thank you for your careful consideration of this request,

Yours truly,

Wanda Williams

President, LMHA Cc: Paul Albrecht, Councillor Teri James, Councillor Gayle Martin, Councillor Nathan Pachal, Councillor Rudy Storteboom, Councillor Rosemary Wallace, Councillor

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