

4733 McVicker Rd,
Victoria. B.C.

December 6, 2025

Mayor & Council,
District of Metchosin
4450 Happy Valley Road,
Victoria, B.C.
V9C 3Z3

By E-Mail

Dear Mayor & Council,

Re: Potential Solutions to the 'Tax Exemption' Issue

On behalf of the Association for the Protection of Rural Metchosin (APRM), I send this letter to urge Council to consider adopting a revised approach to charitable tax exemptions, an issue that clearly cuts to the heart of the Metchosin community.

As it now appears too late to reinstate the tax exemption for non-profit organizations for 2026, Council should resolve, at the earliest opportunity, to re-imburse the additional taxes being paid by all impacted non-profits in 2026. This would involve re-imbursing the amounts paid by these organizations which will be due at the end of June 2026 and accordingly, should be included in the budget. It is acknowledged that those amounts will not be known until assessments are known, as well as tax rates of other agencies. Please also note that this does not preclude a formal decision that they will be covered.

We further suggest that Council agree on a clear timetable and action plan to handle tax exemptions for future years (2027 and thereafter). This could include making exemptions automatic for extended periods, e.g., 5 years, or the term of the subsequent council. Actions should be agreed upon before the summer to avoid a last minute rush as happened this year.

Additionally, we suggest Council study, agree, and pass a resolution on the criteria and procedures to be followed in determining eligibility for future exemptions. This should include: 1) describing the benefits to the community provided by the non-profit, and 2) the financial capacity and ability of the non-profit to pay the tax. With respect to Item 1 above, please note that a recent analysis by the Victoria Foundation cites a net economic benefit to the CRD of \$5.4 billion from non-profits, a number of which operate within Metchosis. Without factoring in social benefits, religious and environmentally focussed organizations alone, generated \$156.4 million.

We trust that the above suggestions/recommendations will lead to a revised approach on the part of Council to this highly important and strategic item.

Sincerely,

Rick Worrall.
President. APRM