



Property Tax & Utility Relief Program Deadlines Approaching

(June 25, 2020 – Ponoka, Alberta) – Ponoka citizens who are struggling financially due to the COVID-19 pandemic can still apply for the Town of Ponoka Property Tax and Utility Relief Programs. The programs offer residents and businesses most in need of help extra time to pay their 2020 property taxes and utility bills. Ponoka Town Council also approved a zero per cent municipal property tax increase in the 2020 Town Budget to provide citizens with much needed tax relief during the pandemic.

The deadline to apply for the Utility Payment Relief Program is July 10. The deadline to apply for the Property Tax Relief Program is July 31. Businesses and residents who are able to pay their bills on time are encouraged to do so to minimize the impact on cash flows needed to provide essential services.

The details of the relief programs are outlined below.

Property Tax Relief Program

- The August 1, 2020 property tax penalty of 3% may be waived upon application for the program, giving citizens up to two months longer (until the end of September) to pay their property taxes without penalty.
- Citizens who are on the monthly TIPPS payment program can apply to defer their June, July and August property tax payments if needed. Their remaining monthly payments in 2020 will then be adjusted so their property taxes are paid in full by December 31, 2020.

Utility Payment Relief Program

- Businesses and residents can defer payments on their Town utility bills until June 30, 2020. Late payment fees on those utility bills will be waived until the end of June 2020. Utility customers are encouraged to make full or partial payments as they are able to keep their utility accounts as current as possible.
- Upon application for the program, the outstanding balance of utility bill payments owing as of June 30 may be divided equally among customers' utility payments from July through December, bringing their account balance to zero by December 31, 2020.
- Utility customers who apply for the Utility Payment Relief Program must be willing to sign up for the Town's pre-authorized monthly payment plan.

If you have questions or wish to apply for the Utility Payment Relief Program, please contact the Utility Department at 403-783-0111 or utilities@ponoka.ca. For questions or to apply for the Property Tax Relief program, please contact the Tax Department at 403-783-0127 or taxes@ponoka.ca.