

# INTRODUCTION TO THE 2017 HOME OWNER GRANT APPLICATION FORM



# Background

- A new Application for Home Owner Grant form will replace the existing version in January 2017.
- It will be available on the gov.bc.ca website on January 3, 2017, for use by homeowners who want to apply early for their home owner grant.
- The purpose of the new form is to **make it easier for a homeowner to receive the grant they are entitled to.**
- This presentation highlights the major changes that have been made to the form.
- Information on administering the new form will be provided in the 2017 Home Owner Grant Manual currently being developed.

# Consultations

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- Finance received valuable comments and suggestions from the Municipal-Finance Working Group, which have been incorporated into the design of the new form.
- Finance also consulted with the Office of the Seniors Advocate. The Office's 30-member volunteer Council of Advisors group provided feedback on how to improve the form, including
  - Use larger font size
  - Use simpler language



# Major Changes - Agency

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- The new form enables a person to apply on behalf of the homeowner without the homeowner having to prepare a power of attorney for that purpose.
- There is no need for the person to provide proof they have the homeowner's permission to complete the application form, but they must identify themselves as the agent of the owner by providing their name and contact telephone number on the form.
- This change only applies to home owner grant applications - it does not give the person authority to act as the agent of the homeowner for other tax-related matters.

# Major Changes – Provincial disability assistance recipients

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- Applicants in receipt of provincial disability assistance will only need to provide documentation once from the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation confirming they are in receipt of benefits.
- An applicant who provided proof in 2016 will not have to provide it for their 2017 grant application.

# Major Changes - Other

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- The new form is two pages to enable:
  - ▣ More use of white space.
  - ▣ Larger font to be used.
  - ▣ Better information and instructions.
- It uses simplified language to assist homeowners in understanding their entitlement.
- It provides for collection of email address so that the tax collector can contact an applicant by email if there is an issue with the application.




# Impact on municipalities

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- The home owner grant application included with the property tax notice, as well as the eHOG application, will need updating to:
  - ▣ Reflect the simplified language used on the new form, and
  - ▣ Include space for an agent to provide their name and phone number.

# Application for Home Owner Grant



BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Finance  
Home Owner Grant Administration  
[gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant](http://gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant)

**APPLICATION FOR HOME OWNER GRANT**  
under the *Home Owner Grant Act*

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**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Find out if you qualify for the home owner grant at [gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant](http://gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant)
- Complete this form to apply for the home owner grant for the current tax year.
- Send your completed application and supporting document(s) to the address on your property tax notice. To avoid penalties, your application must be received by the due date stated on your property tax notice.
- If you miss the due date, you may apply for the home owner grant until December 31; however, penalties may apply.
- If you did not claim the home owner grant for the previous year, you may apply using the *Application for Retroactive Home Owner Grant (FIN 92)*.

**INFORMATION**

- Only one home owner grant can be claimed by you or your spouse each year.
- You may be required to submit additional documentation to establish your eligibility and home owner grants are audited for up to seven years to ensure applicants are eligible for the grants they receive.
- The information provided on this form may be shared for the purposes of administering the *Land Tax Deferment Act, Property Transfer Tax Act and Taxation (Rural Area) Act*.

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP/PA)**  
The personal information on this form is collected for the purpose of administering the Home Owner Grant Act (HOGA) under the authority of sections 8(1)(3) and 10(4) of the HOGA and under sections 26(a) and (c) of the FOIP/PA. Questions about the collection, use or disclosure of this information can be directed to the Manager, Home Owner Grant Administration, PO Box 9991 5th Prov Govt, Victoria BC V8W 9R7 (telephone: Victoria at 250-366-6904 or toll-free at 1 866-355-2700). Email: [HOGADMIN@gov.bc.ca](mailto:HOGADMIN@gov.bc.ca)

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**PART A – APPLICANT INFORMATION (owner, or the spouse or relative of the deceased owner living in the residence)**

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL
PROPERTY FOLIO NUMBER (see your property tax notice)	DATE OF BIRTH (complete only if 65 years or older this year) YYYY / MM / DD	
EMAIL ADDRESS (optional)	TELEPHONE NUMBER ( )	
PROPERTY ADDRESS (house number, street and city of residence)	PROVINCE BC	POSTAL CODE

If you are applying on behalf of the applicant with their permission, enter your last name, first name and telephone number below:

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	TELEPHONE NUMBER ( )
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**PART B – HOME OWNER GRANT CLAIM**

To qualify for the home owner grant, you must:

- be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada,
- live in BC, and
- occupy this residence as your principal residence.

Complete section 1 to apply for the regular home owner grant amount.  
Complete sections 1 and 2 to apply for the additional grant amount.

1. I qualify for the home owner grant and:

I am the registered owner of the residence, or the spouse or relative of the deceased owner and at the date the owner passed away we both occupied this residence as our principal residence.

2. I also qualify for the additional grant amount as [if eligible, check (✓) only one below]:

(a) I am a senior aged 65 or older this year,

(b) I receive provincial disability assistance, hardship assistance or a supplement under the *Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act*,  
[If this is your first year applying for the home owner grant for this residence, provide supporting documentation such as a copy of your *Confirmation of Assistance* from the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation or the *Home Owner Grant Consent for Release of Information (FIN 81)*]

(c) I do not receive assistance as above, but I am a person with disabilities or I am living with a spouse or relative with disabilities,  
[If this is your first year applying for the home owner grant for this residence, attach a completed *Form B – Certificate of Physician and Property Owner (FIN 74)*]

(d) I am a surviving spouse of a veteran who received a War Veterans Allowance, or

(e) I am a spouse or relative of a deceased owner who passed away this year and the owner would have been eligible as a senior or a person with disabilities.

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**PART C – CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the information on this form is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNATURE	DATE SIGNED YYYY / MM / DD
X	

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It is an offence (subject to a penalty of up to \$10,000) to make a false application for a home owner grant.





# Instructions and Information



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Finance

Home Owner Grant Administration  
[gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant](http://gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant)

## APPLICATION FOR HOME OWNER GRANT

under the *Home Owner Grant Act*

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# Part A – Applicant Information

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# Part B – Home Owner Grant Claim

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# Part B – Home Owner Grant Claim

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# Part C – Certification

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