Expiry of Tsawwassen First Nations Exemption


Latest Revision: The revision bar ( | ) identifies changes to the previous version of this notice dated March 2017. For a summary of the changes, see Latest Revision at the bottom of this page.

If you are a Tsawwassen Nation member or a business that makes sales or leases to Tsawwassen Nation members, you need to be aware of important changes to how provincial sales taxes apply to your purchases, sales and leases, effective May 1, 2017.

In general, First Nations individuals and bands are exempt from sales taxes when they purchase or lease goods or purchase services on First Nations land (i.e. reserve land or former reserve land now part of treaty lands).

The Tsawwassen First Nation Final Agreement, which came into force on April 3, 2009, provided a transitional exemption for provincial sales taxes (carbon tax, motor fuel tax, provincial sales tax and tobacco tax). This exemption will expire at the end of day on April 30, 2017.

This means that, effective May 1, 2017:

- All sales and leases of taxable goods and services to First Nations individuals and bands on all Tsawwassen First Nation land will be subject to provincial sales taxes
- Tsawwassen Nation members will no longer qualify for provincial sales tax exemptions as First Nations individuals (including sales and leases on Tsawwassen land or on other First Nations lands)

If you are a business you must charge provincial tax on:

- All sales and leases of taxable goods and services to Tsawwassen Nation members and the Tsawwassen First Nation government, whether the sale or lease occurs on, or delivery is made to, former Tsawwassen reserve land or reserve lands of other First Nations
- All sales and leases of taxable goods and services to other First Nations individuals and bands if the sale occurs on, or delivery is made to, former Tsawwassen reserve land
Find more information about how provincial sales taxes apply to goods and services, and available exemptions, at govt.bc.ca/salestaxes

Further Information
Online: govt.bc.ca/salestaxes
Toll free in Canada: 1 877 388-4440
Email: CTBTaxQuestions@gov.bc.ca

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The information in this notice is for your convenience and guidance and is not a replacement for the legislation.

Latest Revision
April 2017
- Reference to the Tsawwassen band changed to the Tsawwassen First Nation government.