

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why is it necessary for BC Assessment to undertake a re-inspection program?

A. BC Assessment has found that property owners believe that it is important to have an assessment that is fair and equitable with those of their neighbours. In order to achieve this, it is important for BC Assessment to have complete and accurate property assessment information. Since many residential property owners are not at home during our business hours, our appraisers can not always collect all the necessary information during an on-site inspection.

Q. Is BC Assessment legally entitled to request this information?

A. Yes – Sections 15 and 16 of the *Assessment Act* permit BC Assessment to ask property owners for information to ensure fair and equitable assessments. To read the *Assessment Act* on the Internet, please refer to:

http://www.qp.gov.bc.ca/statreg/stat/A/96020_01.htm

Q. Why does BC Assessment need my personal information?

A. The personal information on this form is collected for the purpose of administering the *Assessment Act* (RSBC 1996, c. 20) under the authority of both this Act [section 69 (3)] and section 26 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Questions about the collection or use of this information can be directed to the Policy Analyst (Information and Privacy), Legal Services and Government Relations, BC Assessment, 1537 Hillside Avenue, Victoria, BC V8T 4Y2. Telephone: Victoria at 250 595-6211 (local 282) or toll-free through Enquiry BC at 1 800 663-7867 and ask to be re-directed to BC Assessment.

Q. Is everyone in my neighbourhood being asked to complete the questionnaire?

A. All property owners in your neighbourhood, except those whose properties were inspected in the last two years, are being asked to complete this questionnaire.

Q. If I haven't made any changes since I have lived in my home, do I still have to complete the questionnaire?

A. Yes. BC Assessment may not be aware of changes made by a previous owner. In order to confirm our database information, we need you to complete the questionnaire.

Q. Why should I complete the questionnaire?

A. If BC Assessment does not have accurate property assessment information, individual property owners could end up paying more or less than their fair share of property taxes. Complete and accurate assessment information helps to ensure that all residents are taxed fairly.

Q. Will my property taxes change as a result of this re-inspection programme?

A. Each year, BC Assessment provides property assessments to the municipal governments who set the tax rates based on their budget requirements. Since there are many factors which can cause changes in property taxes, BC Assessment cannot predict whether your taxes will change as result of this re-inspection programme. Please consult the taxing authority for your area for more information about how property taxes are calculated.