BC Assessment

2013 Quality Initiative:

Data Cleansing of Suppress Assessment and Suppress Tax Notice Flags

Summary

In the past, BC Assessment (BCA) often "suppressed" the delivery of assessment and tax notices for exempt properties or when requested by an owner. In 2009, the Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO), formerly the Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB), requested the removal of all suppress flags on Crown Provincial properties. In 2010, the Property Taxation Branch (PTB) of the Ministry of Finance also requested BCA to remove rural Crown Provincial and Federal "suppress tax notice" flags on BCA folios as the PTB has a legislative requirement to provide tax notices to all owners on their taxation roll.

BCA Legal Services also recommended that both the suppress assessment and tax notice flags be removed for the majority of properties. This decision was based on the *Assessment Act*, section 3(1)(b) and the *Taxation (Rural Area) Act*, section 21(0.1)(2).

Only in very limited cases will BC Assessment suppress assessment and/or tax notices. These may include:

- Certain Canadian Natural Rail, Ministry of Finance or First Nation agreement situations;
- City of Vancouver residential properties with *Municipalities Enabling and Validating Act* (*MEVA*) registered leases;
- Mount Washington Condominium and Resort Ltd. properties leased to individuals, if a lease\affidavit has been provided to the assessor;
- University of British Columbia (UBC) Endowment Lands (only assessment notice suppressed);
- Oil and gas well site leases on private property (only tax notice suppressed);
- Extremely remote unoccupied Crown Land that is difficult or impossible to reach, describe or value; and
- Agents or individuals who act on behalf of a property owner including property managers.

Optional Delivery Methods

Rather than receiving paper copies of their assessment notices, property owners within municipal or rural jurisdiction can also choose to receive their notices in the following formats:

- **epost™** is a secure service offered by Canada Post to receive their assessment notices (and other mailings) in an electronic format.
- **Electronic Assessment Notice (EAN)** is a service that BC Assessment offers to bulk mail clients (i.e. property owners who receive greater than 5 properties) that provides assessment notice information in an Excel format. Subscription requests can be sent to our Customer Services department.

Timing

Work on this Quality Initiative will be ongoing until the 2014 Assessment Roll close in December 2013.

Purpose

This activity is being undertaken to improve the overall quality of the 2014 Assessment Roll and in compliance with the *Assessment Act*, the *Taxation (Rural Area) Act* and the various entities who have requested it.

Impact

Weekly and Monthly Data Advice and RC900 Folio Activity Reports will be impacted as these changes will appear as changes in these products. This announcement provides an alert to our Data Advice clients that any folios with these changes will report out on Data Advice.

Contact Information

If you have any questions about how any of the scheduled projects may affect your jurisdiction or the timing for the activities, please contact your local BC Assessment office.

If you have any Data Advice questions or concerns, please contact our Customer Services department:

Customer Services | Business & Customer Services **|** BC Assessment
400-3450 Uptown Blvd | Victoria, BC V8Z 0B9 **| TF:** 1.866.valueBC (or 1.866.825.8322) ext. 00119
E: bcacustomer.services@bcassessment.ca **| W:** www.bcassessment.ca

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Previous Related Quality Initiatives or Bulletins

None.