

# Huu-ay-aht First Nations

## Frequently Asked Questions about Taxation

**Q:** When Huu-ay-aht signed treaty, one of the negotiations we agreed on was to eventually pay taxes on purchases. What does this mean?

**A:** As of May 1, 2019 Treaty Enrolled Huu-ay-aht Citizens will begin paying GST, PST, Fuel Tax, Motor Fuel Tax, Carbon Tax, and Tobacco Tax.

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**Q:** Will this affect all Huu-ay-aht Citizens?

**A:** No, this will only affect **enrolled** Huu-ay-aht Citizens, those who chose not to enroll are not affected. If you are **not** enrolled and have questions, please contact Crystal Jack at [crystal.j@huuayaht.org](mailto:crystal.j@huuayaht.org) or 250-723-0100

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**Q:** Why is the exemption ending?

**A:** Taxation and control over taxation is an important part of self-government. Huu-ay-aht will have direct taxation powers on Treaty Settlement Lands. This allows the Huu-ay-aht government to determine how to spend the collected taxes based on the needs of the community. In order to do this, the tax exemptions in Section 87 of the Indian Act are being phased out over time.

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**Q:** Is my “Indian Status” Expiring?

**A:** No, you will still need your Status Card. It is still considered valid identification, and you also need it to access other supports and services. Examples: Plan W (Pharmacare), to cross the US border, Chiropractor, Clinical Counsellor, Physiotherapy, etc.



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**Q:** Will the change affect medical services provided by the government?

**A:** No, you will still be eligible for Plan W (Pharmacare), Chiropractor, Clinical Counsellor, Physiotherapy, etc. (there may be charges above what is provided that the practitioner/pharmacy will charge to you directly).

**Q:** What does this mean for day-to-day life?

**A:** When purchasing fuel, tobacco and delivery of big-ticket items to or on a reserve there will be charge with taxes (gasoline fuel tax, motor fuel tax, carbon tax, tobacco, GST and PST).

Former reserves on Treaty Settlement Lands (TSL) are no longer reserves for the purposes of tax exemption. All purchases on TSL are subject to transaction taxes for everyone, including "Status Indians".

Purchased Item	As of April 30, 2019 (\$)	As of May 1, 2019	Overall increase	Tax breakdown
Unleaded Fuel (per litre)	\$1.42	\$1.56	9%	(\$0.03/litre Motor Fuel Tax & \$0.0889/litre Carbo Tax)
Unleaded Fuel (Fill for full-size truck)	\$123.51	\$135.72	9%	(\$0.03/litre Motor Fuel Tax & \$0.0889/litre Carbo Tax)
Furniture Appliances	\$1,599.99	\$1,791.99	12%	(5% GST & 7% PST)
Vehicle	\$32,999.99	\$36,959.99	12%	(5% GST & 7% PST)
Cigarettes-20pk	\$8.99	\$14.49	38%	(\$5.50/20pk)



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**Q** • How will stores,retailers,businesses know if they are to charge Huu-ay-aht citizens these taxes?

**A** • *The responsibility falls on the stores,retailers,and business owners to be aware that Maa-nulth Nations and Maa-nulth-aht Citizens are no longer tax exempt. When current status cards expire, new ones issued will disclose that the cardholder is not eligible for Indian Act tax exemption.*

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**Q** • What is considered TSL? How is it different then the term “Reserve”?

**A** • *Treaty Settlement Lands (TSL) are the lands defined in the Maa-nulth Final Agreement. These lands have not been considered a “Reserve” since effective date in 2011. However, they were considered “Reserves” during this delayed transition time for the purpose of tax exemption. The transition delay expired May 1, 2019.*

- *A “Reserve” is a term used in the Indian Act. It is land that is owned by the Crown and reserved for “Indians” to live on.*

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**Q** • What if you are Non-Huu-ay-aht “Status Indian” living on Huu-ay-aht TSL?

**A** • *You will have to pay taxes on services provided on TSL. Example, Hydro, Cable, and other services will charge taxes. This only applies to Goods Purchased or Services provided on TSL.*



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### Taxation Timeline

- Effective Date  
April 1, 2011
- End of transaction tax exemption  
May 1, 2019
- End of income and property tax exemption  
May 1, 2023



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