




First Nations Tax Commission
Commission de la fiscalité des premières nations

The First Nations Tax Commission, pursuant to the *First Nations Fiscal and Statistical Management Act*, hereby approves the following law made by the Splitsin First Nation in the Province of British Columbia,

Splitsin First Nation Property Taxation Law, 2011

Dated at Victoria, British Columbia this 14th day of December, 2011.

On behalf of the First Nations Tax Commission



C.T. (Manny) Jules - Chief Commissioner
First Nations Tax Commission



**SPLATSIN FIRST NATION
PROPERTY TAXATION LAW, 2011**

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WHEREAS:

A. Pursuant to section 5 of the *First Nations Fiscal and Statistical Management Act*, the council of a first nation may make laws respecting taxation for local purposes of reserve lands, interests in reserve lands or rights to occupy, possess or use reserve lands;

B. The Council of the Splatsin First Nation deems it to be in the best interests of the First

Nation to make a law for such purposes; and

C. The Council of the Splatstsin First Nation has given notice of this law and has considered any representations received by the Council, in accordance with the requirements of the *First Nations Fiscal and Statistical Management Act*;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Splatstsin First Nation duly enacts as follows:

PART I CITATION

Citation

1. This Law may be cited as the *Splatstsin First Nation Property Taxation Law, 2011*.

PART II DEFINITIONS AND REFERENCES

Definitions and References

2.(1) In this Law:

“Act” means the *First Nations Fiscal and Statistical Management Act*, S.C. 2005, c.9, and the regulations enacted under that Act;

“assessed value” has the meaning given to that term in the Assessment Law;

“Assessment Law” means the *Splatstsin First Nation Property Assessment Law, 2011*;

“Assessment Review Board” means the assessment review board established under the Assessment Law;

“assessment roll” has the meaning given to that term in the Assessment Law;

“assessor” means a person appointed to that position under the Assessment Law;

“Commission” means the First Nations Tax Commission established under the Act;

“Council” has the meaning given to that term in the Act;

“debtor” means a person liable for unpaid taxes imposed under this Law;

“expenditure law” means an expenditure law enacted under paragraph 5(1)(b) of the Act;

“FMB” means the First Nations Financial Management Board established under the Act;

“holder” means a person in possession of an interest in land or a person who, for the time being,

- (a) is entitled through a lease, licence or other legal means to possess or occupy the interest in land,
- (b) is in actual occupation of the interest in land,
- (c) has any right, title, estate or interest in the interest in land, or
- (d) is a trustee of the interest in land;

“improvement” means any building, fixture, structure or similar thing constructed, placed or affixed on, in or to land, or water over land, or on, in or to another improvement and includes a manufactured home;

“interest in land” or “property” means land or improvements, or both, in the reserve and, without limitation, includes any interest in land or improvements, any occupation, possession or use of land or improvements, and any right to occupy, possess or use land or improvements;

- “local revenue account” means the local revenue account referred to in section 13 of the Act;
- “locatee” means a person who is in lawful possession of land in the reserve under subsections 20(1) and (2) of the *Indian Act*;
- “manufactured home” has the meaning given to that term in the Assessment Law;
- “Notice of Discontinuance of Services” means a notice containing the information set out in Schedule X;
- “Notice of Sale of a Right to Assignment of Taxable Property” means a notice containing the information set out in Schedule IX;
- “Notice of Sale of Seized Personal Property” means a notice containing the information set out in Schedule VII;
- “Notice of Seizure and Assignment of Taxable Property” means a notice containing the information set out in Schedule VIII;
- “Notice of Seizure and Sale” means a notice containing the information set out in Schedule VI;
- “person” includes a partnership, syndicate, association, corporation and the personal or other legal representatives of a person;
- “property class” has the meaning given to that term in the Assessment Law;
- “Province” means the province of British Columbia;
- “registry” means any land registry in which interests in land are registered;
- “reserve” means any land set apart for the use and benefit of the Splatshin First Nation within the meaning of the *Indian Act*;
- “resolution” means a motion passed and approved by a majority of Council present at a duly convened meeting;
- “Splatshin First Nation” means the Splatshin First Nation, being a band named in the schedule to the Act;
- “Splatshin First Nation Corporation” means a corporation in which at least a majority of the shares are held in trust for the benefit of the Splatshin First Nation or all of the members of the Splatshin First Nation;
- “tax administrator” means a person appointed by Council under subsection 3(1) to administer this Law;
- “Tax Arrears Certificate” means a certificate containing the information set out in Schedule V;
- “Tax Certificate” means a certificate containing the information set out in Schedule IV;
- “Tax Notice” means a notice containing the information set out in Schedule II;
- “tax roll” means a list prepared pursuant to this Law of persons liable to pay tax on taxable property;
- “taxable property” means an interest in land that is subject to taxation under this Law;
- “taxation year” means the calendar year to which an assessment roll applies for the purposes of taxation;
- “taxes” include
- (a) all taxes imposed, levied, assessed or assessable under this Law, and all penalties, interest and costs added to taxes under this Law, and

(b) for the purposes of collection and enforcement, all taxes imposed, levied, assessed or assessable under any other local revenue law of the Splitsin First Nation, and all penalties, interest and costs added to taxes under such a law; and

“taxpayer” means a person liable for taxes in respect of taxable property.

(2) In this Law, references to a Part (e.g. Part I), section (e.g. section 1), subsection (e.g. subsection 2(1)), paragraph (e.g. paragraph 3(4)(a)) or Schedule (e.g. Schedule I) is a reference to the specified Part, section, subsection, paragraph or Schedule of this Law, except where otherwise stated.

PART III ADMINISTRATION

Tax Administrator

3.(1) Council must, by resolution, appoint a tax administrator to administer this Law on the terms and conditions set out in the resolution.

(2) The tax administrator must fulfill the responsibilities given to the tax administrator under this Law and the Assessment Law.

(3) The tax administrator may, with the consent of the senior administrator for the Splitsin First Nation, assign the performance of any duties of the tax administrator to any officer, employee, contractor or agent of the Splitsin First Nation.

(4) The tax administrator’s responsibilities include

(a) the collection of taxes and the enforcement of payment under this Law; and

(b) the day to day management of the local revenue account of the Splitsin First Nation.

Authorization of Financial Management Board

4. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Law, if the FMB gives notice to Council pursuant to the Act that third-party management of the revenues raised under this Law is required, Council authorizes the FMB to act as agent of the Splitsin First Nation to fulfill any of the powers and obligations of the Council under this Law and the Act.

PART IV LIABILITY FOR TAXATION

Application of Law

5. This Law applies to all interests in land.

Tax Liability

6.(1) Except as provided in Part V, all interests in land are subject to taxation under this Law.

(2) Taxes levied under this Law are a debt owed to the Splitsin First Nation, recoverable by the Splitsin First Nation in any manner provided for in this Law or in a court of competent jurisdiction.

(3) Where an interest in land is not subject to taxation, the liability for taxation of any other interest in the same property is not affected.

(4) Taxes are due and payable under this Law notwithstanding any proceeding initiated or remedy sought by a taxpayer respecting his or her liability to taxation under this Law.

(5) Any person who shares the same interest in taxable property is jointly and severally liable

to the Splat-sin First Nation for all taxes imposed on that taxable property under this Law during the taxation year and for all unpaid taxes imposed in a previous taxation year, including, for clarity, interest, penalties and costs as provided in this Law.

Tax Refunds

7.(1) Where a person is taxed in excess of the proper amount in a taxation year, the tax administrator must refund to that person any excess taxes paid by that person.

(2) Where a person is entitled to a refund of taxes, Council may direct the tax administrator to refund the amount in whole or in part by applying it as a credit on account of taxes or other unpaid amounts that are due or accruing due to the Splat-sin First Nation in respect of taxable property held by that person.

(3) Where a person is entitled to be refunded an amount of taxes paid under this Law, the tax administrator must pay the person interest as follows:

- (a) interest accrues from the date that the taxes were originally paid to the Splat-sin First Nation;
- (b) the interest rate during each successive three (3) month period beginning on January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 in every year, is two percent (2%) below the prime lending rate of the principal banker to the Splat-sin First Nation on the 15th day of the month immediately preceding that three (3) month period;
- (c) interest will not be compounded; and
- (d) interest stops running on the day payment of the money owed is delivered or mailed to the person to whom it is owed, or is actually paid.

PART V

EXEMPTIONS FROM TAXATION

Exemptions

8.(1) The following interests in land are exempt from taxation under this Law to the extent indicated:

- (a) subject to subsection (2), any interest in land held or occupied by a member of the Splat-sin First Nation;
- (b) subject to subsection (2), any interest in land held or occupied by the Splat-sin First Nation or a Splat-sin First Nation Corporation;
- (c) a building used for public school purposes or for a purpose ancillary to the operation of a public school, and the land on which the building stands;
- (d) a building used or occupied by a religious body and used for public worship, religious education or as a church hall, and the land on which the building stands;
- (e) a building used solely as a hospital, not operated for profit, and the land on which the building stands;
- (f) a building used as a university, technical institute or public college, not operated for profit, and the land on which the building stands;
- (g) an institutional building used to provide housing accommodation for the elderly or persons suffering from physical or mental disability, not operated for profit, and the land on which the building stands; and

(h) that land of a cemetery actually used for burial purposes.

(2) The exemptions in paragraphs (1)(a) and (b) do not apply to interests in land that are held by a member of the Splat-sin First Nation, the Splat-sin First Nation, or a Splat-sin First Nation Corporation, as the case may be, where that interest in land is actually occupied by someone other than a member of the Splat-sin First Nation, the Splat-sin First Nation, or a Splat-sin First Nation Corporation.

(3) An exemption from taxation applies only to that portion of a building occupied or used for the purpose for which the exemption is granted, and a proportionate part of the land on which the building stands.

PART VI GRANTS AND TAX ABATEMENT

Grants for Surrounding Land

9. Where a building is exempted from taxation under this Law, Council may provide to the holder a grant equivalent to the taxes payable on that area of land surrounding the building determined by Council to be reasonably necessary in connection with it.

Annual Grants

10.(1) Council may provide for a grant to a holder:

(a) where the holder is a charitable, philanthropic or other not-for-profit corporation, and Council considers that the property is used for a purpose that is directly related to the purposes of the corporation;

(b) where the holder would be entitled to a grant under the provisions of the *Home Owner Grant Act* (British Columbia) if the holder's property was subject to taxation by a local government.

(2) Grants provided under subsection (1)

(a) may be given only to a holder of property that is taxable in the current taxation year;

(b) must be in an amount equal to or less than the taxes payable on the property in the current taxation year, less any other grants, abatements and offsets; and

(c) must be used only for the purposes of paying the taxes owing on the property in the current taxation year.

(3) A grant under paragraph (1)(b) must be in an amount that is not more than the amount to which a person would be entitled under the *Home Owner Grant Act* (British Columbia) if the holder's property was subject to taxation by a local government.

(4) Council will in each taxation year determine all grants that will be given under this Part and will authorize those grants in an expenditure law.

PART VII LEVY OF TAX

Tax Levy

11.(1) On or before May 28 in each taxation year, Council must adopt a law setting the rate of tax to be applied to each property class.

(2) A law setting the rate of tax may establish different tax rates for each property class.

(3) Taxes must be levied by applying the rate of tax against each one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) of assessed value of the interest in land.

(4) Taxes levied under this Law are deemed to be imposed on January 1 of the taxation year in which the levy is first made.

(5) Notwithstanding subsection (3), Council may establish, in its annual law setting the rate of tax, a minimum tax payable in respect of a taxable interest in land.

(6) A minimum tax established under the authority of subsection (5) may be established in respect of one or more property classes.

Tax Payments

12.(1) Taxes are due and payable on or before July 2 of the taxation year in which they are levied.

(2) Taxes must be paid at the office of the Splatshin First Nation during normal business hours, by cheque, money order or cash.

(3) Payment of taxes made by cheque or money order must be made payable to the Splatshin First Nation.

PART VIII TAX ROLL AND TAX NOTICE

Tax Roll

13.(1) On or before June 1 in each taxation year, the tax administrator must create a tax roll for that taxation year.

(2) The tax roll must be in paper or electronic form and must contain the following information:

- (a) a description of the property as it appears on the assessment roll;
- (b) the name and address of the holder entered on the assessment roll with respect to the property;
- (c) the name and address of every person entered on the assessment roll with respect to the property;
- (d) the assessed value by classification of the land and the improvements as it appears in the assessment roll, exclusive of exemptions, if any;
- (e) the amount of taxes levied on the property in the current taxation year under this Law; and
- (f) the amount of any unpaid taxes from previous taxation years.

(3) The tax administrator may use the certified assessment roll as the tax roll by adding the following information to the assessment roll:

- (a) the amount of taxes levied on the property in the current taxation year under this Law; and
- (b) the amount of any unpaid taxes from previous taxation years.

Annual Tax Notices

14.(1) On or before June 1 in each taxation year, the tax administrator must mail a Tax Notice to

(a) each holder of taxable property under this Law, and
 (b) each person whose name appears on the tax roll in respect of the property,
 to the address of the person as shown on the tax roll.

(2) The tax administrator must enter on the tax roll the date of mailing a Tax Notice.

(3) The mailing of the Tax Notice by the tax administrator constitutes a statement of and demand for payment of the taxes.

(4) If a number of properties are assessed in the name of the same holder, any number of those properties may be included in one Tax Notice.

(5) Where the holder of a charge on taxable property gives notice to the assessor of the charge under the Assessment Law and the assessor enters the holder's name on the assessment roll, the tax administrator must mail a copy of all tax notices issued in respect of the property to the holder of the charge during the duration of the charge.

(6) Where applicable, a Tax Notice must state that taxes are payable in conjunction with periodic lease payments under Part IX.

Amendments to Tax Roll and Tax Notices

15.(1) Where the assessment roll has been revised in accordance with the Assessment Law, or where a supplementary assessment roll is issued in accordance with the Assessment Law, the tax administrator must amend the tax roll or create a supplementary tax roll, as necessary, and mail an amended Tax Notice to every person affected by the amendment.

(2) The duties imposed on the tax administrator with respect to the tax roll and the provisions of this Law relating to tax rolls, so far as they are applicable, apply to supplementary tax rolls.

(3) Where an amended Tax Notice indicates a reduction in the amount of taxes owing, the tax administrator must forthwith refund any excess taxes that have been paid, in accordance with section 7.

(4) Where an amended Tax Notice indicates an increase in the amount of taxes owing, the taxes are due and payable on the date of mailing of the amended Tax Notice; however, the taxpayer must be given thirty (30) days to pay those taxes and a penalty and interest must not be added in that period.

Subdivision

16.(1) If a property is subdivided, by lease or other legal instrument, before June 1 in the taxation year, the tax administrator may

(a) apportion the taxes payable in that year among the properties created by the subdivision in the same proportions as taxes would have been payable in respect of the properties had the subdivision occurred on or before the assessment roll was certified under the Assessment Law; and

(b) on making an apportionment under paragraph (a), record the apportionment on the tax roll in the manner that the tax administrator considers necessary.

(2) Taxes apportioned to a property under subsection (1) are the taxes payable in respect of the property in the year for which they are apportioned.

(3) The assessor must provide the tax administrator with the assessed values necessary to calculate the proportions of taxes referred to in subsection (1).

Requests for Information

17.(1) The tax administrator may deliver a Request for Information containing the information set out in Schedule I, to a holder or a person who has disposed of property, and that person must provide to the tax administrator, within fourteen (14) days or a longer period as specified in the notice, information for any purpose related to the administration of this Law.

(2) The tax administrator is not bound by the information provided under subsection (1).

PART IX

PERIODIC PAYMENTS

Taxes as Percentage of Rental Payment

18.(1) Council, with the consent of the locatee where applicable, may by resolution declare that taxes respecting an interest in land that is leased be expressed as a percentage of the rent payment and collected with it in accordance with the terms of a lease agreement or the terms of an agreement with the landlord.

(2) Where the Splatsin First Nation has entered an agreement with the Crown or with any person entitled to receive rents, for the collection of tax under this Part, the receipt by the Crown or such person of payment on account of tax will be a discharge of the liability for tax to the extent of the payment.

(3) Where taxes are due and payable in conjunction with payment of rent under this Part, the proportionate payment is due and payable on the date that the rent is due and payable.

PART X

PAYMENT RECEIPTS AND TAX CERTIFICATES

Receipts for Payments

19. On receipt of a payment of taxes, the tax administrator must issue a receipt to the taxpayer and must enter the receipt number on the tax roll opposite the interest in land for which the taxes are paid.

Tax Certificate

20.(1) On receipt of a written request and payment of the fee set out in subsection (2), the tax administrator must issue a Tax Certificate showing whether taxes have been paid in respect of an interest in land, and if not, the amount of taxes outstanding.

(2) The fee for a Tax Certificate is thirty dollars (\$30.00) for each tax roll folio searched.

PART XI

PENALTIES AND INTEREST

Penalty

21.(1) If all or any portion of taxes levied under this Law remain unpaid after July 2 of the year in which they are levied, a penalty of five percent (5 %) of the portion that remains unpaid will be added to the amount of the unpaid taxes and the amount so added is, for all purposes, deemed to be part of the taxes.

(2) If all or any portion of taxes levied under this Law remain unpaid after October 31 of the year in which they are levied, a further penalty of five percent (5%) of the portion that remains unpaid will be added to the amount of the unpaid taxes and the amount so added is, for all

purposes, deemed to be part of the taxes.

Interest

22. If all or any portion of taxes remains unpaid after July 2 of the year levied, the unpaid portion accrues interest at fifteen percent (15%) per year.

Application of Payments

23. Payments for taxes must be credited by the tax administrator first, to taxes, including interest, from previous taxation years, second, to a penalty added in the current taxation year, and third, to unpaid taxes for the current taxation year.

PART XII REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

Revenues and Expenditures

24.(1) All revenues raised under this Law must be placed into a local revenue account, separate from other moneys of the Splantsin First Nation.

(2) Revenues raised include

(a) taxes, including, for clarity, interest, penalties and costs, as set out in this Law; and

(b) payments-in-lieu of taxes.

(3) An expenditure of revenue raised under this Law must be made under the authority of an expenditure law.

Reserve Funds

25.(1) Reserve funds established by Council must

(a) be established in an expenditure law; and

(b) comply with this section.

(2) Except as provided in this section, moneys in a reserve fund must be deposited in a separate account and the moneys and interest earned on it must be used only for the purpose for which the reserve fund was established.

(3) Council may, by expenditure law,

(a) transfer moneys in a capital purpose reserve fund to another reserve fund or account provided that all projects for which the reserve fund was established have been completed;

(b) transfer moneys in a non-capital purpose reserve fund to another reserve fund or account; and

(c) borrow moneys from a reserve fund where not immediately required, on condition that the Splantsin First Nation repay the amount borrowed plus interest on that amount at a rate that is at or above the prime lending rate set from time to time by the principal banker to the Splantsin First Nation, no later than the time when the moneys are needed for the purposes of that reserve fund.

(4) As an exception to paragraph (3)(c), where the FMB has

(a) assumed third-party management of the local revenue account of the Splantsin First Nation, and

(b) determined that moneys must be borrowed from a reserve fund to meet the financial obligations of the Splantsin First Nation,

the FMB may, acting in the place of Council, borrow moneys from a reserve fund by expenditure law.

(5) Council must authorize all payments into a reserve fund and all expenditures from a reserve fund in an expenditure law.

(6) Where moneys in a reserve fund are not immediately required, the tax administrator may invest those moneys only in one or more of the following:

- (a) securities of Canada or of a province;
- (b) securities guaranteed for principal and interest by Canada or by a province;
- (c) securities of a municipal finance authority or the First Nations Finance Authority;
- (d) investments guaranteed by a bank, trust company or credit union; or
- (e) deposits in a bank or trust company in Canada or non-equity or membership shares in a credit union.

PART XIII

COLLECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

Recovery of Unpaid Taxes

26.(1) The liability referred to in subsection 6(2) is a debt recoverable by the Splatins First Nation in a court of competent jurisdiction and may be recovered by any other method authorized in this Law and, unless otherwise provided, the use of one method does not prevent seeking recovery by one or more other methods.

(2) A copy of the Tax Notice that refers to the taxes payable by a person, certified as a true copy by the tax administrator, is evidence of that person's debt for the taxes.

(3) Where the tax administrator has reasonable grounds to believe that a debtor intends to remove his or her personal property from the reserve, or intends to dismantle or remove his or her improvements on the reserve, or take any other actions that may prevent or impede the collection of unpaid taxes owing under this Law, the tax administrator may apply to a court of competent jurisdiction for a remedy, notwithstanding that the time for payment of taxes has not yet expired.

(4) Before commencing enforcement proceedings under Parts XIV, XV and XVI, the tax administrator must request authorization from Council by resolution.

Tax Arrears Certificate

27.(1) Before taking any enforcement measures or commencing any enforcement proceedings under Parts XIV, XV and XVI and subject to subsection (2), the tax administrator must issue a Tax Arrears Certificate and deliver it to every person named on the tax roll in respect of that property.

(2) A Tax Arrears Certificate must not be issued for at least six (6) months after the day on which the taxes became due.

Creation of Lien

28.(1) Unpaid taxes are a lien on the interest in land to which they pertain that attaches to the interest in land and binds subsequent holders of the interest in land.

(2) The tax administrator must maintain a list of all liens created under this Law.

(3) A lien listed under subsection (2) has priority over any unregistered or registered charge,

claim, privilege, lien or security interest in respect of the interest in land.

(4) The tax administrator may apply to a court of competent jurisdiction to protect or enforce a lien under subsection (1) where the tax administrator determines such action is necessary or advisable.

(5) On receiving payment in full of the taxes owing in respect of which a lien was created, the tax administrator must register a discharge of the lien without delay.

(6) Discharge of a lien by the tax administrator is evidence of payment of the taxes with respect to the interest in land.

(7) A lien is not lost or impaired by reason of any technical error or omission in its creation or recording in the list of liens.

Delivery of Documents in Enforcement Proceedings

29.(1) This section applies to this Part and Parts XIV, XV and XVI.

(2) Delivery of a document may be made personally or by sending it by registered mail.

(3) Personal delivery of a document is made

(a) in the case of an individual, by leaving the document with that individual or with an individual at least eighteen (18) years of age residing at that individual's place of residence;

(b) in the case of a first nation, by leaving the document with the individual apparently in charge, at the time of delivery, of the main administrative office of the first nation, or with the first nation's legal counsel; and

(c) in the case of a corporation, by leaving the document with the individual apparently in charge, at the time of delivery, of the head office or one of its branch offices, or with an officer or director of the corporation or the corporation's legal counsel.

(4) A document is considered to have been delivered

(a) if delivered personally, on the day that personal delivery is made; and

(b) if sent by registered mail, on the fifth day after it is mailed.

(5) Copies of notices must be delivered

(a) where the notice is in respect of taxable property, to all persons named on the tax roll in respect of that taxable property; and

(b) where the notice is in respect of personal property, to all holders of security interests in the personal property registered under the laws of the Province.

PART XIV

SEIZURE AND SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Seizure and Sale of Personal Property

30.(1) Where taxes remain unpaid more than thirty (30) days after a Tax Arrears Certificate is issued to a debtor, the tax administrator may recover the amount of unpaid taxes, with costs, by seizure and sale of personal property of the debtor that is located on the reserve.

(2) As a limitation on subsection (1), personal property of a debtor that would be exempt from seizure under a writ of execution issued by a superior court in the Province is exempt from seizure under this Law.

(3) The costs payable by the debtor under this section are set out in Schedule III.

Notice of Seizure and Sale

31.(1) Before proceeding under subsection 30(1), the tax administrator must deliver to the debtor a Notice of Seizure and Sale.

(2) If the taxes remain unpaid more than seven (7) days after delivery of a Notice of Seizure and Sale, the tax administrator may request a sheriff, bailiff or by-law enforcement officer to seize any personal property described in the Notice of Seizure and Sale that is in the possession of the debtor and is located on the reserve.

(3) The person who seizes personal property must deliver to the debtor a receipt for the personal property seized.

Notice of Sale of Seized Personal Property

32.(1) The tax administrator must publish a Notice of Sale of Seized Personal Property in two (2) consecutive issues of the local newspaper with the largest circulation.

(2) The first publication of the Notice of Sale of Seized Personal Property must not occur until at least sixty (60) days after the personal property was seized.

Conduct of Sale

33.(1) A sale of personal property must be conducted by public auction.

(2) Subject to subsection (4), at any time after the second publication of the Notice of Sale of Seized Personal Property, the seized property may be sold by auction.

(3) The tax administrator must conduct the public auction at the time and place set out in the Notice of Sale of Seized Personal Property, unless it is necessary to adjourn the public auction, in which case a further notice must be published in the manner set out in subsection 32(1).

(4) If at any time before the seized property is sold a challenge to the seizure is made to a court of competent jurisdiction, the sale must be postponed until after the court rules on the challenge.

Registered Security Interests

34. The application of this Part to the seizure and sale of personal property subject to a registered security interest is subject to any laws of the Province regarding the seizure and sale of such property.

Proceeds of Sale

35.(1) The proceeds from the sale of seized personal property must be paid to any holders of registered security interests in the property and to the Splatwin First Nation in order of their priority under the laws applicable in the Province, and any remaining proceeds must be paid to the debtor.

(2) If claim to the surplus is made by another person and such claim is contested, or if the tax administrator is uncertain who is entitled to such surplus, the tax administrator must retain such money until the rights of the parties have been determined or, pursuant to any applicable rules of court, pay it into a court of competent jurisdiction.

PART XV

SEIZURE AND ASSIGNMENT OF TAXABLE PROPERTY

Seizure and Assignment of Taxable Property

36.(1) Where taxes remain unpaid more than nine (9) months after a Tax Arrears Certificate is issued, the tax administrator may levy the amount of unpaid taxes by way of the seizure and

assignment of the taxable property.

(2) Before proceeding under subsection (1), the tax administrator must serve a Notice of Seizure and Assignment of Taxable Property on the debtor and deliver a copy to any locatee with an interest in the taxable property.

(3) Not less than six (6) months after a Notice of Seizure and Assignment of Taxable Property is delivered to the debtor, the tax administrator may sell the right to an assignment of the taxable property by public tender or auction.

(4) Council must, by resolution, prescribe the method of public tender or auction, including the conditions that are attached to the acceptance of an offer.

Upset Price

37.(1) The tax administrator must set an upset price for the sale of the right to an assignment of the taxable property that is not less than the total amount of the taxes payable on the taxable property, calculated to the end of the redemption period set out in subsection 41(1), plus five percent (5%) of that total.

(2) The upset price is the lowest price for which the taxable property may be sold.

Notice of Sale of a Right to Assignment of Taxable Property

38.(1) A Notice of Sale of a Right to Assignment of Taxable Property must be

(a) published in the local newspaper with the largest circulation at least once in each of the four (4) weeks preceding the date of the public tender or auction; and

(b) posted in a prominent place on the reserve not less than ten (10) days before the date of the public tender or auction.

(2) The tax administrator must conduct a public auction or tender at the time and place set out in the Notice of Sale of a Right to Assignment of Taxable Property, unless it is necessary to adjourn the public tender or auction, in which case a further notice must be published in the manner set out in subsection (1).

(3) If no bid is equal to or greater than the upset price, the Splatsin First Nation is deemed to have purchased the right to an assignment of the taxable property for the amount of the upset price.

Notice to Minister

39. The tax administrator must, without delay, notify the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs in writing of the sale of a right to an assignment of taxable property made under this Law.

Subsisting Rights

40. When taxable property is sold by public tender or auction, all rights in it held by the holder of the taxable property or a holder of a charge immediately cease to exist, except as follows:

(a) the taxable property is subject to redemption as provided in subsection 41(1);

(b) the right to possession of the taxable property is not affected during the time allowed for redemption, subject, however, to

(i) impeachment for waste, and

(ii) the right of the highest bidder to enter on the taxable property to maintain it in a proper condition and to prevent waste;

(c) an easement, restrictive covenant, building scheme or right-of-way registered against the interest in land subsists; and

(d) during the period allowed for redemption, an action may be brought in a court of competent jurisdiction to have the sale of the right to an assignment of the taxable property set aside and declared invalid.

Redemption Period

41.(1) At any time within three (3) months after the holding of a public tender or auction in respect of taxable property, the debtor may redeem the taxable property by paying to the Splatsin First Nation the amount of the upset price plus three percent (3%).

(2) On redemption of the taxable property under subsection (1),

(a) if the right to an assignment was sold to a bidder, the Splatsin First Nation must, without delay, repay to that bidder the amount of the bid; and

(b) the tax administrator must notify the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs in writing of the redemption.

(3) No assignment of taxable property must be made until the end of the redemption period provided for in subsection (1).

(4) Subject to a redemption under subsection (2), at the end of the redemption period, the Splatsin First Nation must assign the taxable property to the highest bidder in the public tender or auction, or to itself as the deemed purchaser in accordance with subsection 38(3).

Assignment of Taxable Property

42.(1) Taxable property must not be assigned to any person or entity who would not have been entitled under the *Indian Act* or the *First Nations Land Management Act*, as the case may be, to obtain the interest or right constituting the taxable property.

(2) The tax administrator must register an assignment of any taxable property assigned in accordance with this Law in every registry in which the taxable property is registered at the time of the assignment.

(3) An assignment under subsection 41(4) operates

(a) as a transfer of the taxable property to the bidder from the debtor, without an attestation or proof of execution; and

(b) to extinguish all the right, title and interest of every previous holder of the taxable property, or those claiming under a previous holder, and all claims, demands, payments, charges, liens, judgments, mortgages and encumbrances of every type, and whether or not registered, subsisting at the time the assignment is registered under subsection (2), except an easement, restrictive covenant, building scheme or right-of-way registered against the interest in land.

(4) Upon assignment under subsection 41(4), any remaining debt of the debtor with respect to the taxable property is extinguished.

Proceeds of Sale

43.(1) At the end of the redemption period, the proceeds from the sale of a right to assignment of taxable property must be paid

(a) first, to the Splatsin First Nation, and

(b) second, to any other holders of registered interests in the property in order of their priority at law,

and any remaining proceeds must be paid to the debtor.

(2) If claim to the surplus is made by another person and such claim is contested, or if the tax administrator is uncertain who is entitled to such surplus, the tax administrator must retain such money until the rights of the parties have been determined or, pursuant to any applicable rules of court, pay it into a court of competent jurisdiction.

Resale by Splantsin First Nation

44.(1) If the right to assignment of taxable property is purchased by the Splantsin First Nation under subsection 38(3), the tax administrator may, during the redemption period, sell the assignment of the taxable property to any person for not less than the upset price and the purchaser is thereafter considered the bidder under this Part.

(2) A sale under subsection (1) does not affect the period for or the right of redemption by the debtor as provided in this Law.

PART XVI

DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICES

Discontinuance of Services

45.(1) Subject to this section, the Splantsin First Nation may discontinue any service it provides to the taxable property of a debtor if

- (a) revenues from this Law or any property taxation law enacted by the Splantsin First Nation are used to provide that service to taxpayers; and
- (b) taxes remain unpaid by a debtor more than thirty (30) days after a Tax Arrears Certificate was delivered to the debtor.

(2) At least thirty (30) days before discontinuing any service, the tax administrator must deliver to the debtor and to any locatee with an interest in the taxable property a Notice of Discontinuance of Services.

(3) The Splantsin First Nation must not discontinue

- (a) fire protection or police services to the taxable property of a debtor;
- (b) water or garbage collection services to taxable property that is a residential dwelling; or
- (c) electrical or natural gas services to taxable property that is a residential dwelling during the period from November 1 in any year to March 31 in the following year.

PART XVII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Disclosure of Information

46.(1) The tax administrator or any other person who has custody or control of information or records obtained or created under this Law must not disclose the information or records except

- (a) in the course of administering this Law or performing functions under it;
- (b) in proceedings before the Assessment Review Board, a court of law or pursuant to a court order; or
- (c) in accordance with subsection (2).

(2) The tax administrator may disclose to the agent of a holder confidential information relating to the property if the disclosure has been authorized in writing by the holder.

(3) An agent must not use information disclosed under subsection (2) except for the purposes authorized by the holder in writing referred to in that subsection.

Disclosure for Research Purposes

47. Notwithstanding section 46, Council may disclose information and records to a third party for research purposes, including statistical research, provided

- (a) the information and records do not contain information in an individually identifiable form or business information in an identifiable form; or
- (b) where the research cannot reasonably be accomplished unless the information is provided in an identifiable form, the third party has signed an agreement with Council to comply with Council's requirements respecting the use, confidentiality and security of the information.

Validity

48. Nothing under this Law must be rendered void or invalid, nor must the liability of any person to pay tax or any other amount under this Law be affected by

- (a) an error or omission in a valuation or a valuation based solely on information in the hands of an assessor or the tax administrator;
- (b) an error or omission in a tax roll, Tax Notice, or any notice given under this Law; or
- (c) a failure of the Splatsin First Nation, tax administrator or the assessor to do something within the required time.

Limitation on Proceedings

49.(1) No person may commence an action or proceeding for the return of money paid to the Splatsin First Nation, whether under protest or otherwise, on account of a demand, whether valid or invalid, for taxes or any other amount paid under this Law, after the expiration of six (6) months from the date the cause of action first arose.

(2) If a person fails to start an action or proceeding within the time limit prescribed in this section, then money paid to the Splatsin First Nation must be deemed to have been voluntarily paid.

Notices

50.(1) Where in this Law a notice is required to be given by mail or where the method of giving the notice is not otherwise specified, it must be given

- (a) by mail to the recipient's ordinary mailing address or the address for the recipient shown on the tax roll;
- (b) where the recipient's address is unknown, by posting a copy of the notice in a conspicuous place on the recipient's property; or
- (c) by personal delivery or courier to the recipient or to the recipient's ordinary mailing address or the address for the recipient shown on the tax roll.

(2) Except where otherwise provided in this Law,

- (a) a notice given by mail is deemed received on the fifth day after it is posted;
- (b) a notice posted on property is deemed received on the second day after it is posted; and
- (c) a notice given by personal delivery is deemed received upon delivery.

Interpretation

51.(1) The provisions of this Law are severable, and where any provision of this Law is for any reason held to be invalid by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalid portion must be severed from the remainder of this Law and the decision that it is invalid must not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Law.

(2) Where a provision in this Law is expressed in the present tense, the provision applies to the circumstances as they arise.

(3) Words in this Law that are in the singular include the plural, and words in the plural include the singular.

(4) This Law must be construed as being remedial and must be given such fair, large and liberal construction and interpretation as best ensures the attainment of its objectives.

(5) Reference in this Law to an enactment is a reference to the enactment as it exists from time to time and includes any regulations made under the enactment.

(6) Headings form no part of the enactment and must be construed as being inserted for convenience of reference only.

Force and Effect

52. This Law comes into force and effect on the day after it is approved by the First Nations Tax Commission.

THIS LAW IS HEREBY DULY ENACTED by Council on the 9th day of December, 2011, at Enderby, in the Province of British Columbia.


A quorum of Council consists of four (4) members of Council.



Chief Wayne M. Christian



Councillor Ron Christian



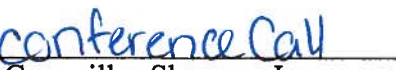
Councillor Lawrence (Randy) Williams



Councillor George William



Councillor Jean M. Brown



Councillor Shannon Jones