

# Appendix C



Finance Department  
1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

propertytax@victoria.ca

## Application Form for Permissive Exemption 2026-2028 from Property Taxation for ~~2025~~ (Section 224 of the Community Charter)

### Section 1. Organization Contact Information

Please provide the following information:

Organization Name: Royal Canadian Legion Trafalgar/Pro Patria Branch 292

Registered under the Societies Act?  Yes  No Society Registration Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Registered Charity?  Yes  No Charity Registration Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: 411 Gorge Road East Victoria BC V8T 2W1

Contact Person: Lorrie Weston, Branch Manager

Email Address: businessmanager@rcl292.ca Telephone Number: 250 384-7814

### Section 2. Property Information (COMPLETE A SEPARATE APPLICATION FORM FOR EACH PROPERTY)

Folio/Roll Number: 10748002 Address: Same as mailing address

Legal Description: Lot 1, Plan VIP57315, Section 5, Vic Land Dist

Registered Owner (if different than above): \_\_\_\_\_

### Section 3. About Your Organization

Please provide a brief description of the goals and objectives of the organization.

We are a non-profit incorporated under the Federal Government's Legions Act, extended to British Columbia under Chapter 53.

Our mission is to serve Veterans (including active military and RCMP members) and Veterans' families, to promote Remembrance of service, and to serve our community and Canada.

We deliver this mission in a direct manner providing a safe and convivial environment for our 1,745 members and their guests. The majority of our members are seniors on limited and often inflation-reduced pensions. As a result, the social interaction afforded via the Branch is a major source of both physical and mental stimulation so often lacking in seniors' lives. We are inclusive as membership is open to all.

We also pursue our mission through less direct means. We provide an average \$45,000 per year from our BC licenced gaming activities and Branch 292 volunteers are essential to the Victoria Remembrance Day poppy campaign, raising over \$520 thousand in the past two years to support local charities assisting needy veterans.

The Branch President and Service Officer are trained to bridge complexities between veterans in need (often homeless) and the various possible funding and supportive sources. The Branch provides food supplies to Veterans House Victoria; a registered charity which offers homeless local veterans housing and the opportunity to get their lives on a better path.

The Branch strives to be a positive neighbour to the Burnside Gorge community.



Finance Department  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square, Victoria, BC V8W 1P6  
propertytax@victoria.ca

## Permissive Exemption from Property Taxation for 2025 Application Form

### Section 4. Principal Use Of This Property

Please provide a brief description of the principal use of the property and how this use benefits the community.

Our building provides a welcoming environment to Members and guests for both social and recreational activities. Access to our lounge, restaurant and games room is limited to Members and their guests per our licences. Members with children can enjoy our facilities and activities whenever food is being served.

Social activities include dances, retirement and birthday parties, celebrations of life, BBQ's, family meals, travelogue presentations, life skills presentations, and various draws and bingo. The latter activities are designed to raise funds for local charities.

On-site recreational activities include dances with live local bands, dance lessons, billiards and 8-ball pool, cribbage, euchre and poker clubs, and darts. Off-site the Branch hosts three golf tournaments followed by a BBQ steak meal. Our deaf darts on Sundays is very popular.

Research has confirmed that such social engagement improves life quality and health.

Our building is a designated safe haven in the event of any major catastrophe, is used by military service, retiree and immigrant groups for social functions, provides free parking to a local Montessori school for dropoff and pickup of children and to special events in Burnside/Gorge and the Gorge waterway, and our lot is the muster station for several BC government offices in the event of an emergency.

### Section 5. Commercial Activity

Please provide a brief description of any commercial activities that your organization conducts on this property.

The Lounge and Poppy Restaurant are the main revenue streams for the Branch. These revenues underwrite our operating costs and provide for maintenance costs.

Our restaurant, open 6 days of the week, served about 18,000 modestly priced meals in 2024 to Members and guests, many of whom are living on low incomes. We host special dinners for veterans, families, unions, military & service groups, shut-ins, volunteers and ethnic groups.

Our rental options provide a home for the Victoria poppy campaign, 28 different unions and organizations for their meetings and training sessions, and a host of various parties and events. Frontline responders using our facilities include Victoria police and firefighters, BC Transit and the Canadian military.

Our facilities are booked for celebrations of life, birthdays, weddings, family and military reunions, first aid and trades training, ethnic celebrations, and a range of senior gaming events. We host a Remembrance Day evening meal at the Branch for Victoria.



Finance Department  
 City of Victoria  
 1 Centennial Square, Victoria, BC V8W 1P6  
[propertytax@victoria.ca](mailto:propertytax@victoria.ca)

## Permissive Exemption from Property Taxation for 2025 Application Form

### Section 6. Volunteer Information

Please provide a brief description of how your organization incorporates volunteers to deliver services.

Although the Branch employs 12 people (Branch Manager, bartenders, servers and cooks) the engine moving us forward are the dedicated volunteers. The skill sets volunteers bring greatly reduce operating and maintenance costs, provide for efficient delivery of our various events, satisfy reporting requirements from various government levels, and deliver the financial administration and reporting critical to a successful non-profit.

We work hard to ensure our Members have the opportunity to volunteer without the fear of being overwhelmed with time demands and responsibility. Success with volunteerism requires the volunteer to want to do the task, to enjoy doing the task and to come away feeling comfortable with their contribution.

Eleven Branch members are elected annually to the Executive and all of these are volunteers. The Executive is charged with delivering Branch administration, policy and programs.

### Section 7. Permissive Tax Exemption Category

Please select the applicable permissive tax exemption category for which you are applying. For further information on the permissive tax exemption categories, please view the Permissive Tax Exemption Policy found on the City of Victoria's website at [Property Taxes](#) | City of Victoria.

- Arts and Cultural Facility
- Athletic/Recreational Facility
- Social Service
- Rail/Track Property
- Place of Worship

Educational Facility: Independent School Classification: Group 1  2  3  4

#### Supportive Housing

- Temporary or transitional housing
- Supportive staff
- Treatment program
- Group home
- Permanent facility
- Special needs/disability housing



Finance Department  
 City of Victoria  
 1 Centennial Square, Victoria, BC V8W 1P6  
 propertytax@victoria.ca

## Permissive Exemption from Property Taxation for 2025 Application Form

### Section 8. Public Acknowledgement

Recipients of a City of Victoria permissive tax exemption are required to publicly acknowledge the exemption. Please briefly describe how your organization will acknowledge the exemption.

The Branch will publically recognize any tax exemption discussing with our Membership at our AGM and monthly GMs, a recognition on our website, interviews with local media (the latter having shown strong interest in our Branch) and a letter to our supportive local unions and organizations sharing the news.

We would be highly positive in publicly communicating any support afforded by the City of Victoria through the Permissive Tax Exemption.

### Section 9. Documents Required

- Submit a copy of your organization's most recent financial statements
- Submit all lease agreements for any portion of the property that your organization rents or leases to another organization or individual. Please note that lease agreements may be provided to BC Assessment for the purpose of determining eligibility for a permissive tax exemption.

### Section 10. Property Ownership

2026-2028

Do you plan on selling any portion of the property in ~~2025~~?

- Yes  No

### Section 11. Declaration

I am an authorized signing officer of the organization and I certify that the information given in this application is correct. I agree to the following terms:

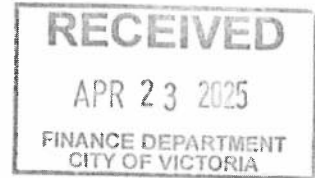
1. If the property is sold prior to the exemption expiration, the organization will remit to the City an amount equal to the taxes that would have otherwise been payable to the City by a non-exempt owner.
2. The property use will be in compliance with all applicable municipal policies and bylaws.
3. The organization will publicly acknowledge the permissive tax exemption granted by the City.
4. The information collected on this application form and any supporting documents may be subject to a request made under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA)*. Any personal information that is included on this form is collected under the authority of s. 26(a) and (c) of *FOIPPA*.
5. The application form will be made publicly available through the online Council meeting agenda.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: President, RCL Branch 292

Name: William Wilson

Date: April 10, 2025



**Trafalgar/ProPatria Legion**  
**Branch 292**  
**411 Gorge Rd. East**  
**Victoria, B.C.**  
**V8T 2W1**  
**250-384-7814**  
**Email - [rcl292@shaw.ca](mailto:rcl292@shaw.ca)**

City of Victoria

1 Centennial Square

Victoria, B.C. V8W 1P6

**Re: Permissive Exemption from Property Tax for 10 Years**

April 10, 2025

Dear City of Victoria Mayor and Councillors:

With respect, I am writing on behalf of the Members and Executive of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 292 (Trafalgar/Pro Patria) to again thank the City of Victoria and our Councillors for the demonstrated support via the 2003-2005 period permissive tax relief and to submit our request for continued tax relief. This financial support has complemented Branch efforts to serve the needs of local veterans and their families, RCMP members, Victoria first responders and the local community.

Indeed, we are pleased to report that during the first two years of tax relief, with funds raised under our four B.C. gaming licences and the poppy campaign we donated in excess of \$564 thousand back into the local community to support veterans and a variety of local charities ( Branch 292 is the main player in the Victoria poppy campaign and in the Remembrance Day ceremony). I want to make it clear these funds are NOT available to underwrite the financial needs of the Branch. A list of local charities supported from Branch gaming funds is attached.

As a non-profit organization the Branch is committed to business-like operation. However, any profits do NOT accrue to individuals but instead are dedicated to helping meet the needs of local veterans and their community. The Branch is managed by volunteers, but we do have eleven paid employees (some with health challenges). Total volunteerism is estimated in excess of 10,000 hours.

The re-zonation of our property produced a quantum leap in property taxes, so much so that it does threaten Branch existence. We are requesting renewal of our permissive exemption of property taxes for a ten-year period.

In addition to financial support the Branch provides a safe and friendly location for Membership and guests. Our membership in 2024 was 1,754. These folks are typically retired and on pensions with diminishing purchasing power. Our Branch provides options aplenty for both mental and physical stimulus, both of which are well-recognized as contributing to a more positive aging. In addition to our licenced gaming activities the Branch delivers golf, darts, snooker, dances with live bands, and a variety of card games. We enjoy hosting a large deaf dart league. Also, in the past year we served in excess of 18,000 meals.

The Branch is a hub for union and social meetings, training and information sessions, celebrations of life, family parties, weddings, and ethnic events (see attached for a list of groups using our facilities). The Branch is 'home' for the Britannia Legion, Army/Navy/Air Force Association, Korean Veterans Association, and the Victoria Remembrance Day Committee.

In addition, the Branch property is used by the City of Victoria and CRD for training courses, local government offices as a muster station, and as a Social Service Emergency Location for the community area (including the local school). We also open our parking space for safe drop-off and pick-up of children at the local Montessori school reducing local traffic congestion and for local events on the Gorge Waterway. Attached are letters of support for our submission from the Burnside Gorge Community Association and the Selkirk Montessori School.

There have been no changes to Branch operations in the last two years, none are planned, and there have been no changes to the status or legal description of the property.

We appreciate the opportunity to share these insights on our Branch and what we bring to improving the quality of life for local veterans and our community.

Thank you in advance for this opportunity and for your time in reviewing our submission.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Bill Wilson  
President, Branch 292  
Royal Canadian Legion

March 3, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Burnside Gorge Community Association to lend our support of the Pro Patria Legion Branch 292. It is my understanding that the Legion is applying for a continued permissive tax exemption for the building they occupy at 211 Gorge Rd East. The Legion has shown Burnside Gorge and its City of Victoria residents much support for more than 20 years; I truly hope the support for them is there when it is needed.

During the time that Burnside School operated as an Elementary School, the Legion was a dedicated partner in sharing special events and ceremonies with the children. Even after the closure of the school, the Legion continued to support children, youth and families in the neighborhood through generous annual donations to our senior and youth programming as well as our Christmas Hamper programs. The community donations are made available through the Legion's meat draws and other fundraising events. As a contributing community member, the Legion generously shares their parking lot and building space to assist others such as the Montessori School and supports community events such the Selkirk Waterfront Festival. The Legion is a strong presence and giving member of the Burnside Gorge Community and dedicates its efforts to supporting those less fortunate in our communities.

BGCA supports the Legion receiving a permissive tax exemption for the longest term possible and provide the assurance the Legion doors can stay open. If the Legion were to close their doors, the Burnside Gorge Community Association and many other community agencies, would lose the valuable assistance that the Legion funds provide and the community would lose a most valued presence in the neighborhood. It is our hope that the Legion will receive the financial relief required to continue in their efforts to provide a high level of community service.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Cole  
Executive Director

March 11, 2025



To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of Selkirk Montessori School, I am writing to express our strong support for the continued preservation of the local Legion located at Gorge and Jutland. The Legion is an integral part of our community, providing essential services and fostering meaningful connections across generations. We are deeply concerned about the recent rezoning of their lot for high-rise development and expiring property tax exemption and subsequent property tax burden, which would jeopardize the critical role they play in our neighborhood.

The Legion is much more than a building; it is a safe and welcoming space for elderly patrons, many of whom rely on its services for social connection and support. Each year, the Legion provides over 18,000 meals locally, ensuring that some of our most vulnerable community members have access to nutritious food. This incredible contribution not only addresses food insecurity but also fosters a spirit of care and community.

Beyond their direct services, the Legion plays a vital role in building connections within our neighborhood. They provide a place where residents of all ages can gather, share experiences, and support one another. As a school, we have a unique and valued relationship with the Legion. It serves as a designated muster station for our students in case of emergency, ensuring their safety in critical situations. Furthermore, the Legion facilitates educational opportunities for our students, offering regular visits where our children engage with veterans, learn about local history, and understand the importance of service and community. Finally, the legion provides a safe drop off and parking area for families to collect their children while avoiding disruption to the parking and traffic in the area. Without their lot, the traffic and parking strategies in the neighbourhood would need to be addressed carefully.

The recent rezoning and the resulting property tax obligations threaten the Legion's ability to continue offering these essential services. The increased financial burden would significantly impact their capacity to provide meals, maintain a safe space for seniors, and support educational initiatives. Without relief, these invaluable programs are at risk of being reduced or lost altogether.

The loss of the Legion would have a profound impact not only on the seniors and vulnerable populations they serve but also on our students and the broader community. Their presence enhances the quality of life in our neighborhood and fosters an intergenerational spirit of collaboration and learning that cannot easily be replaced.

2970 Jutland Road  
Victoria, BC V8T 5K2  
Tel 250-384-3414  
Fax 250-384-3420  
reception@selkirkmontessori.ca  
www.selkirkmontessori.ca

OPERATED BY THE  
PACIFIC MONTESSORI SOCIETY

The following groups meet and/or train at Branch 292: **all of whom when contacted committed to supporting Branch efforts to secure continued tax relief.**

Union of National Defense Employees	Victoria Police Union
BC Council of Carpenters	BCG Retired Employees Association
BC Transit (Operations)	BC Transit (Finance)
BC Transit (Information Tech.)	BC Transit (Education & Training)
BC Transit (Capital Dept.)	BC Transit (People & Development)
BC Transit (Strategy & Public Affairs)	Carrington Court Strata
CRD Edgewater Strata Corp.	CUPE Local 211
District of Saanich	Elections BC (voting station)
Hospital Employees Union	Int'l Association of Fire Fighters
Int'l Association of Machinists Local 250	Int'l Union of Elevator Contractors (82)
LIUNA! Local 1611	Machinists & Aerospace Workers Union
National Association of Federal Retirees	Retired Teachers Association
Teamsters Local 31	Down's First Aid
Victoria Poppy Fund	Britannia Legion Branch
Korean Veterans Association	Army, Navy & Air Force Association

Branch 292 strives to support ethnic groups within Victoria including such events as Jamaican Independence Day, Philippines fete, Korean Community Association celebration, and US veterans' remembrance.

Branch 292 is a lead player in Victoria's Remembrance Day ceremony and hosts a large-scale veteran and serving military members night at the Branch. We also host Canada Day and a variety of events on national and international holidays.