

DOWNTOWN BUSINESS INFORMATION

December 2011

Welcome to historic Downtown Chilliwack! This information sheet will provide a framework that outlines the role of the Downtown Business Improvement Association (BIA), programs in place to support Downtown businesses and regulations that govern land-use in the Downtown.

Revitalization Tax Exemption Program

To help facilitate revitalization of the Downtown, tax exemption certificates are available to downtown businesses that choose to undertake new improvements or do alterations (in excess of \$200,000) of existing improvements. Such improvements are exempted from municipal property value taxes for up to 5 years with a possible single renewal period of 1 year.

For additional information on this program, please refer to the “**Revitalization Tax Exemption Bylaw 2004, No. 3012**” on the City of Chilliwack website at www.chilliwack.com.

BIA

The BIA is a non-profit organization representing over 350 businesses and merchants in Chilliwack’s Downtown.

The BIA is actively involved in a number of initiatives including:

- Marketing and Promotion of the Downtown Businesses
- Organizing Special Events such as the Party in the Park, Christmas in the City and the Village Classic Car Show
- Working with Businesses to address areas of concern such as traffic flow, parking and security
- Downtown Redevelopment
- Streetscape Improvements

We encourage you to learn more about the BIA and upcoming events and initiatives!

Website: www.downtownchilliwack.com

Twitter: [@ChilliwackBIA](https://twitter.com/ChilliwackBIA)

Facebook: **Downtown Chilliwack BIA**

Telephone: 604-792-4576

BIA Façade Improvement Program

The BIA offers grants to eligible commercial property owners for the improvements to downtown building façades. This could include replacing or repairing windows, doors, lighting, awnings, brickwork, or creating wheelchair accessible entrances. For additional information on this program, please contact the BIA by telephone at 604-792-4576.

Development Permit Area No.6

The objective of the Development Permit Area is to enhance the area’s retail and service centre image, through the use of quality design standards that emphasize the historic and natural attributes of the downtown area. In order to undertake work on the exterior of a building located within D.P. Area No.6, a proposal must be submitted to the City of Chilliwack and approved through a design review process.

The Downtown Area is divided into two sub-areas of D.P. Area No. 6:

The Downtown Historic Core Area – Building facades are to include design elements dating from the Victorian to WWII era, the period of original construction in this area.

The Contemporary Commercial Area – Designs may be “historically inspired” or may be entirely modern but with a goal of visual harmony with adjacent landscapes and structures.

For further information please contact:

City of Chilliwack
Planning & Strategic Initiatives Department
8550 Young Road
Chilliwack BC V2P 8A4

Telephone: 604-793-2906
Fax: 604-793-2285

This brochure has been prepared to provide guidance only. It is neither a bylaw nor legal document. Please consult the *Local Government Act* and its Regulations, and the City of Chilliwack applicable bylaws for definite requirements and procedures.