PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

REPORT

for the

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31

1973

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in right of the Province of British Columbia.
1974

To the Honourable WALTER S. OWEN, Q.C., LL.D., *Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Department of Municipal Affairs for the year ended December 31, 1973.

JAMES G. LORIMER
Minister of Municipal Affairs

Victoria, B.C., February 14, 1974.

VICTORIA, B.C., FEBRUARY 14, 1974.

The Honourable James G. Lorimer,
Minister of Municipal Affairs.

SIR: I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Department of Municipal Affairs for the year ended December 31, 1973.

This Report contains a review of Departmental activities and observations of the programmes and financial position of the municipalities and regional districts within the Province. Greater detail with respect to these areas is contained in the publications *Municipal Statistics* and *Statistics Relating to Regional and Municipal Governments in British Columbia* which are published annually by the Department from information contained in audited financial and other statements of the municipalities and regional districts.

W. K. SMITH, F.C.I.S.
Deputy Minister

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DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

THE HONOURABLE JAMES G. LORIMER
Minister of Municipal Affairs

W. K. SMITH, F.C.I.S., *Deputy Minister and Inspector of Municipalities.*
R. W. PRITTIE, *Associate Deputy Minister.*
C. H. L. WOODWARD, F.C.I.S., *Deputy Inspector of Municipalities.*
G. E. WHELEN, F.C.I.S., *Executive Officer.*
J. P. TAYLOR, *Executive Director.*
J. H. NUTTALL, *Departmental Comptroller.*
B. T. DONALDSON, *Research Officer.*
R. T. CUBBON, *Research Officer.*

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A. R. CLARKE, *Administrative Officer.*
J. G. CALLAN, *Administrative Officer.*
O. SYLVESTER, A.C.I.S., *Administrative Officer.*
N. A. MCCRIMMON, *Administrative Officer.*

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W. J. LARTER, *Administrative Officer.*
K. R. MACKAY, C.A., *Administrative Officer.*
F. J. THOMPSON, C.G.A., *Administrative Officer.*
W. J. SOMMERVILLE, *Administrative Officer.*
J. S. DIAS, *Administrative Officer.*

Planning Services

W. J. TASSIE, M.T.P.I.C., *Acting Chief Planning Officer.*
B. S. JAWANDA, M.T.P.I.C., *Senior Planning Officer.*

Transit Services

V. J. PARKER, M.T.P.I.C., *Director.*
B. E. SULLIVAN, *Assistant to the Director.*

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS

Annual Report.

Municipal Statistics.

Statistics Relating to Regional and Municipal Governments.

A Guide to Municipal Management.

A Guide to Regional District Management.

Land Use Colour and Coding Guide.

Zoning Colour and Coding Guide.

ACTS ADMINISTERED BY DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Municipal Act.

Municipalities Enabling and Validating Act.

Local Services Act.

Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia Act.

Mobile Home Tax Act.

Provincial Rapid Transit Act.

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

A few years ago it was customary to comment on the various elements contributing to rapid growth in municipalities and other areas of local government and the problems associated with this growth as if they were some sort of phenomena which were related to the year under review, had not occurred before and would not occur again. It is now acknowledged, particularly in the field of local government, that priorities and proposals must be flexible and, while certain elements of growth may be influenced and controllable to some extent, there are many others influenced by such factors as economics and geography which will have substantial effect on growth in some areas of the Province. In reports of previous years, sewer projects were indicated as requiring the major portion of over-all capital financing. It should be noted that municipalities are now anticipating applying approximately two-thirds of their capital funds to the "general" classification of expenditure. Further analysis of this category of expenditure reveals that recreational facilities and public buildings have now become priority items for proposed capital outlay. This change of priority has partly resulted from the fact that the required capital funds for sewer and water projects have either been provided by the Municipal Finance Authority or through recent Federal-Provincial loan programmes. It is also influenced by the recent change in legislation extending the powers of the Municipal Finance Authority to provide financing of capital requirements for all capital works. A further impetus to change has been that capital grants have been provided by the Provincial Government through the *Community Recreational Facilities Fund Act* to assist municipalities and regional districts in constructing recreational facilities.

The assessed value of taxable properties for municipal purposes in municipalities exceeds $9,000,000,000, an increase of approximately 14 per cent over the previous year. It is of interest to note that while property taxes are increasing the level of tax collections continues to rise to the point where approximately 97 per cent of current taxes were collected during the year in which they were levied. The matter of assessment and taxation is dealt with more fully in that part of the report relating to financial management.

One of the principal statutory roles of the Department is the supervision of municipal and regional district long-term borrowing for capital programmes. This responsibility rests with the Inspector of Municipalities and during the year under review the total borrowing authorized for a variety of projects amounted to $94,755,522. The percentage of current revenue expended to service long-term debenture debt has declined in the cities, districts, and towns, but has increased slightly in the City of Vancouver. The percentage revenue expended for this purpose is not considered excessive and is well below the amount expended in other provinces.

The Minister together with senior staff members of the Department attended the national meeting of Provincial Ministers of Municipal Affairs held in Charlottetown in August. They also participated in the Second National Federal-Provincial-Municipal Tri-level Conference in Edmonton on the 22nd and 23rd of October.

Such conferences provide a useful forum in exchanging ideas and approaches to various common problems. For example, at the ministerial conference, it was decided to undertake a joint provincial study of real property tax exemptions.

The first regional tri-level meeting was held in March with representatives of the Greater Vancouver Regional District and the Federal and Provincial Govern-

ments. The Department has been involved at the staff level in further Greater Vancouver tri-level discussions. In the future, it is hoped that more emphasis can be placed upon the Greater Vancouver tri-level mechanism as a means of co-ordinating the activities of the various levels of government.

Various senior staff members were involved in national conferences such as the Municipal Finance Officers and the Provincial Planning Officers. The Department has also been represented on the Federal-Provincial Preparatory Committees on the United Nations Conference—Exposition on Human Settlements which is to be held in Vancouver in 1976.

Departmental representatives travelled extensively throughout the Province attending committee, council, and regional board meetings and completing inspections in 181 municipalities, improvement districts, and regional districts; 455 visits were made in all. Attendance at such meetings as those of the Technical Planning Committee meets legislative requirements. Others are initiated by councils or regional boards that may wish to discuss or request assistance on specific problems. When inspections are undertaken, the visit provides an opportunity for Departmental staff and local officials to discuss financial and administrative situations that are directly related to the municipality concerned. Whenever possible, general administrative procedures can be reviewed and recommended; this practice leads to greater consistency when by-laws and other data are submitted to the Department with requests for registration or approval.

As the annual edition of *Municipal Statistics* is an important source of information to investment houses, financial institutions, and others, distribution of the publication is made as early in the year as possible; *Municipal Statistics* includes some 36 different schedules. Prior to publication, the financial and statistical returns of the municipalities and regions are closely edited to ensure conformity and adherence to statutory and other requirements.

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities held its convention at Prince George, and senior members of the staff attended to provide an opportunity for those interested to discuss local problems. Nelson was chosen as the site for the annual conference of the Municipal Officers' Association of British Columbia and, as at similar meetings, Departmental staff participated in the programme. Senior members of the staff also participated as resource personnel in a number of other seminars sponsored by the University of British Columbia and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

The annual shield award presented by the Minister of Municipal Affairs as an incentive to increase turnout at municipal elections open to all municipalities in three categories was received by the following for the year 1972:

	Per Cent
Cities and towns—Merritt	66.17
District municipalities—Kitimat	62.10
Village municipalities—Port McNeill	78.90

Second-place municipalities were Kimberley (cities and towns) with 63.50 per cent, Kent (district municipalities) with 59.82 per cent, and Fruitvale (village municipalities) with 69.27 per cent.

As part of the continuing effort to standardize procedures and data processing, the Municipal Officers' Association published the *Standard Forms and Procedures Manual* and distributed it to subscribing municipalities, regional districts, and other interested organizations. Additional sections of the manual will be developed and distributed.

Individual and groups of municipalities have undertaken studies to determine their present and future electronic data processing system and equipment needs. As a result, several have acquired new equipment or instituted major changes in existing systems. In the development of the *Standard Form and Procedures Manual* and in the electronic data processing studies, staff members were actively involved and assisted by attendance at seminars and committee meetings.

Assessment

It is known that certain inequalities occur under the present assessment system which are attributable to the multitude of assessment jurisdictions. It is believed that the assessment function could be more effectively and more equitably performed on a multiregional basis and studies are continuing in this area. This would provide uniform assessment for all municipalities, and assessment information on a common programme would be readily available for use in determining the application of various grants and cost-sharing programmes such as regional district cost-sharing, regional hospital district grants, home-owner grants, grants in lieu of taxes, health services, parks, and recreational grants.

Building Code

Under an amendment to the *Municipal Act,* a building code for the Province took effect on September 1, 1973. This building code includes parts 2 to 6, inclusive, and parts 8 and 9 of the National Building Code of Canada, the British Columbia Plumbing Code, and the Building Regulations of British Columbia. The legislation also established a Building Code Appeal Board, whose members are appointed by the Minister. This Board will determine any question respecting the interpretation or application of these codes. An Advisory Committee will assist the Board. Decisions have already been made by the Board on the several appeals received, and many inquiries have been answered concerning the interpretation of the codes.

Metric Conversion

The initial investigation phase of the Metric Conversion Programme has started with the establishment of a Provincial Government Metric System Conversion Committee with representatives from all departments. Meetings of this committee and discussions with Federal representatives have been held. As all municipalities and regional districts will be affected by any conversion, liaison is being maintained and information collected to assess the effects of such changes on local governments.

Municipal Commercial Vehicle Licensing Programme

A total of 139 municipalities participated in the Municipal Commercial Vehicle Licensing Programme during the 1972/73 licence-year. Sales of vehicle plates under this programme, which is administered by the Department on behalf of the municipalities, generated $853,802 in revenue during the year. After payment of incidental expenses, these funds were distributed to participants on a *per capita* basis. The municipalities issued 72,148 licence-plates and 83,045 exempt plates during the year under review.

By-law Approvals

All village and town by-laws must be submitted to the Department for registration in the office of the Inspector of Municipalities. In addition, many by-laws for all classes of municipalities require approval from certain governmental agencies before adoption can proceed or become effective. Included in this category are by-laws which establish consumer or user charges for water and sewer services. Such by-laws, together with supporting background material, are fully reviewed before any suggestions or recommendations are made and before being advanced to the approving authority. While many of the initial submissions may be found satisfactory, others require the exchange of considerable correspondence. A total of 980 by-laws was examined and subsequently registered—13 were district by-laws, 307 town by-laws, 599 village by-laws, 32 regional district by-laws, and 29 improvement district by-laws.

For a variety of purposes, 639 Minutes of Council were prepared and subsequently approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. Seventy-eight authorized the abandonment and vesting of portions of highway; 93 approved municipal rates by-laws for water, sewer, and electric power; 55 authorized appointment of members of municipal Boards of Variance and Boards of Commissioners of Police; 227 were for regional district purposes of which 154 approved subdivision and zoning by-laws and 14 authorized appointments of members to regional Boards of Variance; and the balance of 186 met other legislative requirements.

In addition, 33 rezoning by-laws applicable to land in the flood-plain area of the Lower Mainland were reviewed and recommended for approval by the Minister under section 187 of the *Municipalities Enabling and Validating Act*. Eight building by-laws from various regional districts were also reviewed and recommended for approval by the Minister, pursuant to section 798D.

Debenture Approvals

Certification by the Inspector of Municipalities of debenture issues of municipalities and regional districts may be completed on request. Before such certification can be completed, certificates of approval to the by-law or resolution are issued authorizing the issuance of debentures. A total of 316 certificates of approval was issued in 1973 compared to 356 in 1972. In 1973, 94 debenture issues were examined and certified, which consisted of 194 debentures with a total par value of $27,728,000. This is in addition to those debentures or agreements that were issued by municipalities and regional districts to secure undertakings financed through the Municipal Finance Authority.

Special Courses

During 1973 the Board of Examiners, on which the Department is represented, granted 12 certificates of proficiency. The following table shows the classifications of these certificates, together with the total number which have been issued:

Certificates	1973	To Date
Junior	5	92
Senior Administration	2	109
Senior Finance	4	110
Property Appraisal	1	71
Totals	12	382

Twenty-nine persons employed in the municipal field enrolled in courses offered by the Chartered Institute of Secretaries for the 1973/74 academic year. In addition to the professional degree "A.C.I.S." (Associate of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries) which may be granted to a graduate of the course, applications may be made for a certificate of proficiency in municipal administration or finance, depending upon experience and office held.

Applications for enrolment in the special undergraduate course offered by the Certified General Accountants' Association were received in the 1973/74 academic year from 26 persons employed in the municipal field. As the student completes various phases of this course, he receives recognition toward a certificate of proficiency in municipal finance. At the same time, in completing the mandatory subjects which form part of the course, he has the opportunity of continuing his studies to meet the full academic qualification requirements leading to the professional designation "C.G.A." (Certified General Accountant).

A New Course

After extensive investigations which followed the announced phase-out of the Municipal Administration Course, a short-term course in selected subjects for those employed in smaller municipalities has been introduced. It was first offered in the fall of 1972 by Malaspina College in Nanaimo. Successful completion of this two-year course will satisfy the academic requirements for the junior certificate in municipal administration issued by the Board of Examiners. Of particular interest to the student is the fact that course material will be completely portable as between the C.I.S. and C.G.A. courses.

Ten students associated with the field of local government are at present enrolled in this course. It is anticipated that arrangements will soon be made to ensure that a similar course will be available from other British Columbia educational institutions so that a greater number of prospective students will be able to gain academic qualifications in this field.

Continuing Education

During the year, seminars sponsored by the University of British Columbia, the Municipal Officers' Association of British Columbia, and the Municipal Finance Officers of the United States and Canada, on the subjects of municipal administration and management development were attended by a number of senior members of the Department.

Improvement Districts

The Department, in 1973, assumed the control and administration of 27 improvement districts which do not have as one of their objects of incorporation the supply of water service. These improvement districts were formerly administered by the Water Resources Service of the Department of Lands, Forests, and Water Resources.

Local Government Restructuring

The local government in the Kelowna and Kamloops area was restructured during 1973. The primary consideration in this restructuring was the future of the community at large. The aim was to include within the boundaries of the new

cities all potential growth areas. Planning for the future of the communities will now be undertaken by single planning authorities. These new cities were achieved by co-operation and through the exchange of ideas between the Provincial Government and local governments in the cities. The advice and council of the advisory committees in each area was of great assistance to the Provincial Government.

The restructuring of the City of Nanaimo and the City of Prince George is currently under consideration and advisory committees have been established and are actively examining all aspects of restructuring.

LEGISLATION

A number of progressive amendments were made to the *Municipal Act* during the 1973 Sessions of the Legislature. The main areas of amendment are outlined below.

Regional Elections

A new system of electing rather than appointing the municipal directors to regional boards was enacted.

Electors

New procedures for the compilation of municipal lists of electors were established creating one class of electors, with residence being the prime criteria. The procedures parallel those of the *Provincial Elections Act* and the new single class of electors is entitled to vote on all matters, including those formerly limited to owner-electors, such as borrowing by-laws. The distinction between owner, tenant, and resident electors thus disappears. After January 1, 1974, every election or vote must be held on the basis of a list of electors prepared under the new system. This requires that initially the list of voters be based on a house-to-house enumeration. Subsequently a register of electors will be maintained to produce an up-to-date list for every election.

Electoral Consent

Another significant amendment reduced the plurality required to adopt by-laws requiring electoral consent from 60 per cent to a simple majority.

Annual Elections

The date of the annual municipal elections was set back approximately one month to the third Saturday of November, and provision was also included for councils to adopt a ward system.

Public Notice

Provision was included to require councils to mail notices of public hearing to occupiers of any real property subject to a zoning by-law or land-use contract and to occupiers of real property within a distance from the area specified in the by-law.

Heritage Buildings

The enactment of section 714A empowered councils to designate heritage buildings and create a Heritage Committee.

Regional Hospital Tax Base

Municipalities are now empowered to tax the regional hospital tax base for regional district purposes, thus broadening the tax base of the regions as a whole.

Investments in Credit Unions

The permitted investments of municipal sinking and reserve funds were extended to include credit unions.

Many other amendments of a technical nature were also made to the Act.

Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia Act

At the 1973 Spring Session of the Legislature, the objects of the Municipal Finance Authority were expanded, and the restriction on financing only water, sewer, and pollution control and abatement facilities, was removed, and power given to provide financing for all capital works undertaken by municipalities and regional districts.

In addition to this the cash contribution portion of the Debt Reserve Fund was modified to require that 1 per cent of the issue be held as a cash investment, with the remainder being noninterest bearing demand notes.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

NEW INCORPORATIONS AND CHANGES IN STRUCTURE

The Cities of Kamloops and Kelowna were each incorporated with their surrounding areas to form new municipalities under the provisions of section 229 of the *Municipalities Enabling and Validating Act*. These enlarged municipalities have now been operational since May 1, 1973, and are functioning smoothly.

The Minister, at the request of the Councils of Castlegar and Kinnaird, directed that a vote be held on the question of amalgamation. The vote was held on December 8, 1973, with the majority favouring amalgamation. Letters Patent were issued incorporating the new City of Castlegar Kinnaird on and from January 1, 1974.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY EXTENSIONS

Supplementary Letters Patent authorizing extensions in boundaries for 15 municipalities were issued during the year; the municipalities affected together with the resulting adjustments in areas and changes in population are indicated in Table 1. A local census is taken in the extended area and added to the original population established under the 1971 census in order to arrive at the new municipal population after extension.

Table 1—Municipal Boundary Revisions, 1973

Municipality	Area (Acres)			Population		
	Before	Added	After	Before	Added	After
Cities						
Armstrong	1,151.00	100.00	1,251.00	1,648	23	1,671
Courtenay	1,922.04	6.02	1,928.06	7,155	4	7,159
Grand Forks	2,531.62	181.42	2,713.04	3,173	*Nil*	3,173
Kelowna	5,292.00	28.54	5,320.54	19,412	*Nil*	19,412
Kimberley	8,023.20	6,547.20	14,570.40	7,641	2	7,643
Penticton	8,558.70	286.49	8,845.19	18,146	*Nil*	18,146
Vernon	3,505.17	355.68	3,860.85	13,406	246	13,652
Districts						
Spallumcheen	65,300.00	*100.00*	65,200.00	2,302	*23*	2,279
Towns						
Quesnel	3,493.22	1.97	3,495.19	6,258	*Nil*	6,258
Villages						
Cache Creek	477.81	67.00	544.81	1,013	6	1,019
Elkford	389.74	170.20	559.94	605	60	665
Fort Nelson	2,000.00	185.60	2,185.60	2,289	28	2,317
Hazelton	74.29	1,197.66	1,271.95	351	89	440
Lillooet	677.66	71.18	748.84	1,514	*Nil*	1,514
Lumby	951.87	40.72	992.59	940	*Nil*	940
Osoyoos	452.74	195.37	648.11	1,285	408	1,693
Port McNeill	1,062.00	636.14	1,698.14	934	136	1,070

Source of base population figures is the 1971 census.

REGIONAL DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Regional government in British Columbia has, since its inception in 1965, been reviewed and discussed in previous annual reports and is now recognized in our Province and elsewhere as an important contributor to the local government system.

As in the past, further expansion of local government services was undertaken by regional districts.

Some 34 new functions were granted the 28 regional districts in 1973; Table 2 summarizes those assigned, while Table 3 sets out all functions undertaken to date.

For services required by the greater community, the regional approach has provided an acceptable solution. Provision of sewage disposal, garbage disposal, and ambulance facilities are particularly appropriate to this concept, and such functions as joint computer operations, fire protection, transit, and construction equipment-pools could conceivably be handled for the greater community by regional districts. Services can be provided by regional districts to municipal and nonmunicipal areas, either directly or by contract.

Supplementary Letters Patent were issued in several instances for purposes other than to authorize the granting of functions. Revision of the internal and external boundaries is continuing and amendments have been made to cost-sharing formulas and other changes in corporate structure.

Specified Areas

Thirty-three specified areas were established by by-law in 1973; of these areas eight were established by petition method, and 25 after the property-owners voted favourably on the proposal. Before regional government was introduced, community services administered locally in nonmunicipal areas were provided through the incorporation of improvement districts, either under the *Water Act* as administered by the Water Rights Branch of the Department of Lands, Forests, and Water Resources, or under the *Municipal Act*. In some other instances, local areas were established under the *Local Services Act*. The latter two Acts, it should be noted, are administered by this Department. New local service needs in nonmunicipal areas, with the exception of water, irrigation, and dykes, are almost all provided and financed through the facilities of regional districts.

Many of the specified areas have been established adjacent to municipal boundaries. As the demand for further services develops, the trend will be toward the incorporation of these areas within present municipal boundaries. Those specified areas in more isolated situations will probably retain their nonmunicipal status.

An Increasing Role

Regional districts are local government structures that provide services to people. As the population of the Province increases, the demands upon Regional Boards will grow. Municipalities are becoming aware of possible economies of scale where a common service is required, and the regional district is the obvious vehicle through which many of these services can be provided. The regional districts can provide such services to municipal and nonmunicipal areas alike, with those people that benefit sharing the costs on a more equitable basis.

Growth of regional districts continues to be reflected in the increase in expenditures from those over previous years. Some of these are a result of assuming new functions, while others reflect the cost of new services to nonmunicipal areas.

Provincial grants of $6,000 are made annually to assist in meeting the administrative costs of regional districts and an annual grant of 15 cents *per capita* with a minimum of $5,000 and a maximum of $25,000 is made to assist in the cost of development of an environmental management programme. The question of grant structures applicable to regional districts is under review.

Table 2—Functions Assigned to Regional Districts During 1973 (Unless Otherwise Indicated, all Member Areas of the Regional District Participate in This Function).

Alberni-Clayoquot—Garbage disposal (Port Alberni and Electoral Areas B, D, E, and F).

Capital—Garbage disposal.

Cariboo—

- Arena-community hall complex (100 Mile House and defined parts of Electoral Areas G and H).
- Library grant—(Williams Lake and defined parts of Electoral Areas D and E).
- Recreational programmes (100 Mile House and defined parts of Electoral Areas G and H).
- Arena improvements—(Williams Lake and defined parts of Electoral Areas D and E).

Central Kootenay—

- Ice arena (Kaslo and a defined part of Electoral Area D).
- Swimming-pool (Nelson, Electoral Area F and a defined part of Electoral Area E).
- Garbage disposal.

Central Okanagan—

- Mosquito control (Kelowna and Electoral Areas A and I).
- Community parks (Electoral Areas G and H).
- Recreation complex and senior citizen facility (Electoral Area H and a defined part of Electoral Area G).

Columbia-Shuswap—Garbage disposal (Revelstoke and Electoral Area B).

Comox-Strathcona—

- Arena swimming-pool recreation complex (Comox, Courtenay, Cumberland, and Electoral Areas A, B, and C).
- Recreation grant (Comox, Courtenay, Cumberland, and Electoral Areas A, B, and C).
- Garbage disposal operating deficit (Campbell River and Electoral Areas D, E, and F).
- Operation of wharves (Campbell River and Electoral Areas D, E, F, and J).
- Refuse disposal (all electoral areas).

Table 3—Regional District Functions as of December 31, 1973

	Alberni-Clayoquot	Bulkley-Nechako	Capital	Cariboo	Central Fraser Valley	Central Kootenay	Central Okanagan	Columbia-Shuswap	Comox-Strathcona	Cowichan Valley	Dewdney-Alouette	East Kootenay	Fraser-Cheam	Fraser-Fort George	Greater Vancouver	Kitimat-Stikine	Kootenay Boundary	Mount Waddington	Nanaimo	North Okanagan	Ocean Falls	Okanagan-Similkameen	Peace River-Liard	Powell River	Skeena-Queen Charlotte	Squamish-Lillooet	Sunshine Coast	Thompson-Nicola
Activity centre										P																		
Ambulance		×				P		P	P	P		P		×			P		P	P				×				
Airport facilities										P											P							
Air pollution	×													×	×													
Bus transit																			P									
Civil defence					×																×							
Control of gatherings	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Elderly citizens' housing	P			P					×						×		P											
Firearms			P			×			P	P								P						×		P		×
Fireworks	×		P			×		×	×	P								P						×		P		×
Health regulation and centre										P				×														
Home nursing												P																
House numbering										P																		
Labour negotiations															P													
Library study				P																			×					
Nuisance control	P		P	P		P	P		P					P					P									P
Okanagan Basin Water Board							×													×		×						
Operation of wharves									P																			
Park and green belt land acquisition										P									P									
Pest control						P	×				P						P			P		×						P
Public use area lighting																											P	
Recreation facilities		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			P	P			P		P	P		P	P					
Recreation programme				P	P	×		P	P				P				×	×										
Refuse disposal	×	×	×	P		×	P	P	P			P	P	P			P		P	P		P	P	P			×	P
Regional parks	×		P			×	P	P	P	×		×		×	P			×						×			P	
Sewers			×		P												P		×									
Soil removal	×		P				P							P					P			P					P	
Television rebroadcasting	P													P											P			
Urban renewal												P																
Water									P																		P	

The functions of regional planning, community planning, building inspection, contract services, local works and services, and grants-in-aid are assigned by statute to all regional districts.

×=indicates function. P=indicates application of function in part of regional district only.

Table 4—Regional District Specified Service Areas Established During 1973

Alberni-Clayoquot—
Fire protection (Sproat Lake).
Arena (Alberni Valley).

Capital—
Fire equipment (South Galiano).
Recreation (Sooke).

Central Kootenay—
Garbage disposal (Electoral Area H).
Street lighting (Ymir).
Street lighting (Robson Street).

Columbia-Shuswap—
Water (Sicamous Creek).

Comox-Strathcona—
Water (part of Electoral Area A).

Cowichan Valley—
Fire protection (Sahtlam).
Street lighting (Youbou).

Fraser-Cheam—
Street lighting (Summer Road).
Street lighting (Boston Bar).
Garbage disposal (Boston Bar).
Fire protection (Popkum).

Fraser-Fort George—
Sewer (Airport Hill-Blackburn).
Fire protection (Buckhorn).

Kitimat-Stikine—
Fire protection (Thornhill).
Recreation (part of Electoral Area C).
Cemetery (part of Electoral Area C).

Kootenay-Boundary—
Recreation (part of Electoral Area C).
Recreation (part of Electoral Area D).
Fire protection (Christina Lake).

Nanaimo—
Fire protection (Nanoose).
Water (Madrona Point).
Water (East Wellington).
Fire protection (Errington).
Street lighting (Breakwater).

North Okanagan—Fire protection (Lumby).

Okanagan-Similkameen—Community centre (part of Electoral Area D).

Powell River—Fire protection (part of Electoral Areas B and C).

Sunshine Coast—Water (West Sechelt).

Thompson-Nicola—Recreational facilities (Clearwater).

Cowichan Valley—
Housing numbering (all electoral areas).
Arena and curling rink (Electoral Areas A, B, C, and D).
Park and green belt land acquisition (all electoral areas).
Incinerator and garbage disposal (Lake Cowichan and Electoral Areas F and I).
Activity centre (Duncan, North Cowichan, and Electoral Areas D and E).

Fraser-Cheam—Refuse disposal (Electoral Area C and a defined part of Electoral Area B).

Greater Vancouver—Labour negotiations.

Kitimat-Stikine—Garbage disposal (all electoral areas).

Kootenay-Boundary—Recreational facilities (Fruitvale, Montrose, and Electoral Area A).

Nanaimo—
Ice arena (Qualicum Beach, Parksville, and Electoral Areas H and I).
Recreation complex (Nanaimo and Electoral Areas A, B, D, E, F, and G).

North Okanagan—Swimming pool (Lumby and Electoral Area D).

Okanagan-Similkameen—Ice area (Princeton and Electoral Area H).

Peace River-Liard—Garbage disposal (all electoral areas).

Squamish-Lillooet—Television rebroadcasting (Electoral Area A and a defined part of Electoral Area B).

Sunshine Coast—Park and green belt land acquisition (all electoral areas).

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

ASSESSMENT AND TAX COLLECTION

The major single revenue source for municipalities in British Columbia continues to be the real property tax. The growth in assessed values of real property and revenue from taxation of these properties over the past 10 years is illustrated in the following table. It will be noted that revenue from this source of taxation in 1972 totalled $390,368,418. Of this total, $209,251,194 represented taxation for general municipal purposes, and $181,117,224 represented taxation for school purposes.

Table 5—Growth in Combined Assessed Values and Taxes in Municipalities of British Columbia

Year	Gross Assessed Values		Assessed Values Actually Taxed		Tax Revenue
	All Properties	Taxable Properties	School	Municipal	
	(Millions)	(Millions)	(Millions)	(Millions)	(Thousands)
1964	4,188	3,534	2,878	2,295	154,074
1969	6,352[1]	5,400[1]	4,402	5,404	286,239
	8,329[2]	5,618[2]			
1970	6,972[1]	5,905[1]	4,835	6,072	323,925
	9,192[2]	6,226[2]			
1971	7,620[1]	6,456[1]	5,279	6,632	349,845
	10,076[2]	6,817[2]			
1972	8,292[1]	7,042[1]	5,753	7,744	390,368
	11,677[2]	7,950			
1973	8,869[1]	7,539[1]	6,171	8,612	430,000[3]
	12,855[2]	9,023[2]			

[1] School values. [2] Municipal values. [3] Estimated.

The following table (Table 6) provides a further analysis of the assessed value of real property and indicates the distribution of 1973 assessed values by class of municipality, with the percentage increase over 1972 shown in parentheses.

Table 6—Assessed Values by Class of Municipalities

	General Municipal Gross Assessed Values		Assessed Values Actually Taxed	
	All Properties	Taxable Properties	School	Municipal
	(Millions) $ (%)	(Millions) $ (%)	(Millions) $ (%)	(Millions) $ (%)
Cities	2,383 (9.71)	1,583 (11.09)	1,408 (6.10)	1,435 (9.54)
Districts	5,093 (10.72)	3,577 (15.65)	2,794 (8.93)	3,397 (11.45)
Towns	251 (13.06)	163 (16.43)	203 (22.29)	154 (14.07)
Villages	235 (8.29)	146 (4.29)	184 (7.60)	139 (10.32)
Subtotals	7,962 (10.41)	5,469 (14.15)	4,589 (8.51)	5,125 (10.95)
Vancouver	4,893 (9.59)	3,554 (12.54)	1,582 (3.87)	3,487 (11.66)
Totals	12,855 (10.10)	9,023 (13.51)	6,171 (7.28)	8,612 (11.24)

As a result of the continuing rapid growth in the urban communities, it is anticipated that proceeds from real property taxation for school and general municipal purposes in 1973 will reach $430,000,000. This would represent an increase of approximately 67 per cent over the revenue of five years ago. The total assessed

values actually taxed for school purposes in the Province in 1973 amounted to $8,181,393,477, an increase of approximately $643,000,000 over 1972. Of this amount, $6,170,782,780 or approximately 75 per cent, represented assessed values in the city, district, town, and village municipalities.

Tax Collection

The tax collection picture in municipalities is considered to be the primary indicator, not only of the efficiency of the administration, but also of the ability of the taxpayer to meet the municipal tax levy promptly. In the year under review, tax collections have shown an increase over the collections of 1971 and continue to maintain a very high level. During this period, collection in districts and towns exceeded 96 per cent of the levy, and cities and villages collected in excess of 97 per cent. We have established a practice of communicating with any municipality where the arrears of taxes are in excess of 10 per cent of the current levy in an effort to determine the cause and what steps may be taken to improve the position.

The collection of current taxes in British Columbia continues to be the highest among the provinces in Canada publishing statistics of a comparable nature, while the percentage of arrears is the lowest. Economic factors may have contributed substantially to the favourable position indicated in the property taxation field; however, municipal treasurers and collectors are to be congratulated for their continued efforts in maintaining this high rate of tax collection.

Chart 1, to be found at the back of this report, shows the percentage of tax collection for the period 1962 to 1972, inclusive, and Tables 7 and 8 reveal further information relative to tax collection by class of municipality for the years shown.

Table 7—Percentage Tax Collections

	Percentage of Current Levy Collected	Total Collections as a Percentage of Current Levy	Outstanding Taxes as a Percentage of Current Levy
Cities (Except Vancouver)			
1939	81.10	99.10	40.16
1946	94.13	100.46	7.85
1966	96.28	100.40	5.12
1967	96.61	100.30	4.57
1968	96.65	100.20	4.44
1969	96.82	100.32	4.15
1970	99.46	99.69	4.64
1971	96.79	100.41	4.34
1972	97.05	100.62	3.88
Vancouver			
1939	91.00	103.10	30.06
1946	95.74	100.57	5.90
1966	96.03	100.20	5.80
1967	96.36	100.15	5.04
1968	95.67	98.87	5.75
1969	96.11	99.96	5.22
1970	95.80	99.12	5.87
1971	96.29	100.17	5.28
1972	96.20	99.79	5.19
Districts			
1939	77.60	95.80	34.81
1946	92.32	99.28	9.45
1966	96.51	100.67	4.64
1967	96.69	100.17	4.22
1968	97.00	100.29	3.90
1969	96.85	100.08	3.95
1970	96.37	99.48	4.54
1971	96.80	100.54	4.15
1972	96.88	100.39	3.96

Table 7—Percentage Tax Collections—Continued

	Percentage of Current Levy Collected	Total Collections as a Percentage of Current Levy	Outstanding Taxes as a Percentage of Current Levy
Towns			
1958	89.55	97.06	13.62
1959	88.69	98.00	15.18
1966	92.81	98.90	10.16
1967	93.21	99.75	9.84
1968	93.98	100.20	9.06
1969	93.45	99.46	9.08
1970	93.56	99.36	9.35
1971	94.59	101.03	7.96
1972	96.25	102.05	5.37
Villages			
1939	76.50	98.30	38.71
1946	92.45	99.90	11.90
1966	95.21	99.08	6.48
1967	95.64	100.07	6.16
1968	95.45	99.97	6.15
1969	95.70	100.27	6.39
1970	94.85	100.72	7.00
1971	96.08	101.21	5.53
1972	97.11	101.01	4.09

Table 8—Collections, 1972 (With Comparative Figures for 1971)

	Percentage of Current Taxes Collected		Arrears as a Percentage of Adjusted Levy	
	1972	1971	1972	1971
Cities	97.05	96.79	3.88	4.34
Districts	96.88	96.80	3.96	4.15
Towns	96.25	94.59	5.37	7.96
Villages	97.11	96.08	4.09	5.53
Total	96.92	96.70	3.99	4.39
Vancouver	96.20	96.29	5.19	5.28
Grand total	96.74	96.59	4.30	4.62

It is interesting to note that, notwithstanding the fact that property taxes are increasing, the level of tax collections continues to rise, and the percentage of arrears continues to decline.

School Assessment and General Municipal Assessment

It should be noted that the difference between the school assessment and the general municipal assessment is the result of a number of municipalities using a dual roll, i.e., general assessments are based on 100 per cent of market value, while the school assessments are on 50 per cent of value.

This dual roll had the following effect in 1972:

	Millions $
School assessment	5,753
Less—Landlord and tenant, machinery and equipment	793
	4,960
General municipal assessment	7,744
Less adjusted school assessment	4,960
	2,784

The figure of $2,784,000,000 represents in part the effect of the dual roll on the general assessment. This roll is in effect in the following municipalities: Penticton, Vancouver, Burnaby, Peachland, Summerland, West Vancouver, Kamloops, City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver, City of Langley.

The balance of the difference is represented by B.C. Hydro values included in the school assessment roll, but not included in the general assessment roll. The Provincial total for B.C. Hydro is $518,000,000, but no breakdown is available at this time of the amount applicable to the incorporated areas.

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

The 1972 audited financial statements indicate that British Columbia municipalities continued to maintain a favourable financial position. Gross revenues from all sources during 1972 exceeded $640,000,000, which represents an increase of $60,000,000 over the previous year.

The major revenue sources, with comparative figures for 1971, were as follows:

	1972 (Millions)	1971 (Millions)	Increase (Millions)
	$	$	$
General municipal taxation	210	185	25
School taxation	180	165	15
Transfers from other governments	130	120	10
Revenue from own sources	120	110	10
	640	580	60

The home-owner grant payments increased by $10,000,000 in 1972 to a total of $67,000,000. When this is offset against the school tax levy of $180,000,000, a balance of $113,000,000 remains of this levy to be borne by the property owner.

The major expenditure items incurred during 1972, with comparative figures for 1971, were:

	1972 (Millions)	1971 (Millions)	Increase (Millions)
	$	$	$
General government	31	28	3
Fire protection	28	24	4
Administration of justice	42	37	5
Public works	42	36	6
Sanitation and waste removal	19	17	2
Social welfare	89	92	(3)
Education	180	167	13
Debt charges	41	38	3
Capital expenditure from revenue	43	37	6
Other*	125	104	21
	640	580	60

* Includes recreation, public health, environmental development, utilities, and contributions to reserves and other funds.

Table 9—Trends in Financial Aspects of Municipal Government Compared to Population and Income Expressed as Indexes

Year	Population	Total Revenue (Excluding Utilities)	Building Permits	Debenture Debt	Maximum Values Taxable	Total B.C. Personal Income
1961	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1962	104.91	110.76	114.24	100.72	110.03	109.19
1963	107.20	113.31	130.47	107.20	111.03	116.85
1964	110.71	121.60	173.67	109.60	114.32	127.27
1965	114.63	138.66	203.57	114.30	122.02	142.22
1966	116.65	156.62	206.83	125.04	131.68	160.41
1967	122.44	180.90	252.27	127.48	145.10	178.09
1968	127.14	207.52	269.74	127.46	156.88	194.37
1969	133.02	234.38	316.20	130.62	174.83	221.58
1970	138.35	266.95	291.26	132.10	192.06	239.33
1971	136.55	306.45	384.97	137.00	209.69	270.56
1972	143.60	337.75	414.34	145.75	252.93	303.03

RESERVES AND SURPLUSES

The total of statutory reserves and operating reserves and surpluses held in all accounts of the municipalities at the end of 1972 was $157,758,127. This represents an increase of $25,040,550 over the amount held at the end of 1971. This total includes $54,000,000 held in statutory reserve funds for a variety of purposes and is $6,000,000 higher than the total for 1971. Of this total, $103,829,545 is held in liquid form or in investments authorized by statute, and a portion of the surplus is represented in arrears of taxes and other receivables.

During 1972, approximately $14,000,000 was expended from the statutory reserves for capital works. The balance held in the statutory reserves has increased over the last seven years from $30,000,000 to $54,000,000, an increase of 80 per cent.

CAPITAL PROGRAMMES

The value of capital projects undertaken during 1972 by municipalities amounted to $215,000,000. Of this total programme, $200,000,000 was completed during the fiscal year, leaving a balance of works in progress of $15,000,000 at year-end. In the total capital programme, municipalities were able to provide $43,000,000 out of current general revenue and utility revenue funds, $14,000,000 from reserve funds, and approximately $6,000,000 was obtained from grants-in-aid from the Provincial and Federal Governments. The balance of the amount expended was financed by debenture loans, temporary bank loans, and other methods of financing. The activity in this area over the past five years is indicated in Table 10 following.

Table 10—Capital Programmes, 1972

Year	Projects Undertaken	Works Completed	Works in Progress	Source of Funds		
				Revenue	Reserve Funds	Grants
		$	$	$	$	$
1968	101	87	14	34	5	3
1969	118	102	16	36	7	5
1970	118	96	22	33	8	3
1971	166	153	13	37	10	7
1972	215	200	15	43	14	6

Figures shown above are millions.

Five-year Capital Expenditure Programmes Summary

The programmes submitted by municipalities and regional districts during 1973 and covering the five-year period ending 1977 continued to provide meaningful information and guidance, not only to the local government bodies involved, but also to the Department, other levels and departments of government, and various financial institutions. Departmental review of each of these submissions and the offering of constructive criticism, where necessary, has achieved maximum consistency in the format of these programmes and has proved beneficial to all concerned.

A summary of the Capital Expenditure Programmes by year is provided in Table 11. Included in the "General" heading under "Classification of Expenditures" are all capital expenditures for roads, sidewalks, public buildings, recreational facilities, land, and other capital projects not related to either water or sewage systems. As in the past, municipal councils are attempting to finance a large portion of their capital works out of current revenue and reserves, although the availability of Federal-Provincial loans and the infusion of capital funds via specific purpose grants have had a direct effect on this policy.

Table 11—Five-year Capital Expenditure Programmes Summary By Year for All Municipalities (Including Vancouver)

CLASSIFICATION OF EXPENDITURES

Year	Water	Sewer	General	Total
	$	$	$	$
1973	26,558,100	46,037,705	179,689,694	252,285,499
1974	15,766,068	26,360,525	119,468,893	161,595,486
1975	10,336,312	24,885,645	95,819,543	131,041,500
1976	11,286,121	12,780,515	88,252,119	112,318,755
1977	11,297,713	12,006,395	79,565,266	102,869,374
Totals	75,244,314	122,070,785	562,795,515	760,110,614

PROPOSED SOURCE OF FUNDS

Year	General Revenue	Grants	Reserve Funds	Prior Years' Surplus	Debenture Sales	Total
	$	$	$	$	$	$
1973	47,509,552	20,476,039	31,937,245	9,289,614	143,073,049	252,285,499
1974	43,709,021	6,410,413	20,036,319	768,100	90,671,633	161,595,486
1975	43,630,354	5,248,905	13,452,450	645,600	68,064,191	131,041,500
1976	42,919,024	4,426,405	11,444,190	207,000	53,322,136	112,318,755
1977	42,600,052	3,557,655	9,510,047	154,000	47,047,620	102,869,374
Totals	220,368,003	40,119,417	86,380,251	11,064,314	402,178,629	760,110,614

Borrowing

During 1973, councils and regional boards continued to meet a substantial demand for municipal services, and 154 term-borrowing by-laws were approved by the Inspector of Municipalities and subsequently adopted by the local governing body that provided the service.

A greater portion of this authorized borrowing consisted of financing for sewers, parks, and recreation projects. Funds for water facilities, civic buildings, and road improvements also constituted a substantial portion.

It should be noted that most borrowing by-laws were submitted to the owner-electors for assent until the legislation enacted at the Fall Session of the Legislature in 1973 became effective; now these by-laws are submitted to the electors for assent. However, many by-laws financing water and sewer services are advertised pursuant to statutory provisions and are only voted on when a petition is submitted requesting that a vote be held.

Borrowing of $94,755,522, as summarised in Table 12, is $23,164,615 more than was authorized in 1972; the increase is attributable to the fact that Federal-Provincial programme funds were again available. Completion of the various projects authorized will be phased over a number of years, and the demand for funds will follow the pace of construction. Included in the authorized borrowing is $2,362,106 in short-term loans which, under the *Municipal Act,* are subject to a *per capita* limitation.

The Inspector of Municipalities is not required to approve the borrowing of the City of Vancouver or the Metropolitan Water and Sewer Boards. Such borrowing is therefore not included in Table 12.

Preliminary borrowing of an estimated amount of $6,361,216 was approved for local improvement works. A number of municipalities have established special improvement funds to finance local works; these have not been included in the figure for preliminary borrowing approval.

Table 12—Borrowing Authorization, 1973

Purpose	Regional Districts	Cities	Districts	Towns	Villages	Total
	$	$	$	$	$	$
Waterworks	448,000	5,186,000	2,695,200	644,600	335,000	9,308,800
Sewers and drains	1,464,000	2,847,750	29,373,500	965,000	1,283,000	35,933,250
Parks and recreation	10,144,000	3,643,720	12,911,500	160,000	145,000	27,004,220
Civic buildings	563,250	2,135,090	7,793,675	235,000	309,850	11,036,865
Consolidated local improvements	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------
Road improvements and sidewalks	----------	2,367,273	7,802,315	382,000	191,323	10,742,911
Equipment (including fire protection)	246,000	85,000	191,500	93,800	113,176	729,476
Totals	12,865,250	16,264,833	60,767,690	2,480,400	2,377,349	94,755,522

DEBENTURES

Details of debenture issues and other securities that have been approved in principle at the time of adoption of loan authorization by-laws are specified in security-issuing by-laws; 169 security-issuing by-laws authorizing the issue of debentures and other terms of indebtedness in the total amount of $67,483,855 were approved.

In 1973, no municipal debenture issues were guaranteed by the Province under the *Municipal Assistance Act.* Details of the issues guaranteed as at December 31, 1973, are shown below in Table 13.

Table 13—Outstanding Debentures Guaranteed, 1973

	Village Municipalities Assistance Act	Municipalities Assistance Act	Total
	$	$	$
Cities (excluding Vancouver)	258,500	9,684,706	9,943,206
Districts	285,000	9,107,192	9,392,192
Towns	462,000	1,683,000	2,145,000
Villages	227,000	3,775,117	4,002,117
Totals	1,232,500	23,250,015	25,482,515
Vancouver	----------	9,687,000	9,687,000
Greater Victoria Water District	----------	514,000	514,000
Greater Nanaimo Sewer and Drainage District	----------	1,374,000	1,374,000
Greater Nanaimo Water District	----------	48,000	48,000
Greater Vancouver Water District	----------	16,540,000	16,540,000
Grand totals	1,232,500	52,413,015	53,645,515

In addition to the totals shown in Table 13 of $53,645,515 as debenture debts guaranteed by the Province, a total amount at the end of the year of $22,295,000 was guaranteed under the *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Act.*

Total debenture debt as at December 31, 1972, of all municipalities, including the City of Vancouver, is shown in Table 14 following. The debenture debt of the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District and the Greater Vancouver Water District is not included.

Table 14—Total Debenture Debt, December 31, 1972

	Sold	Unissued and Unsold	Total
	$	$	$
Cities	74,820,471	33,210,412	108,030,883
Districts	119,709,600	79,699,423	199,409,023
Towns	10,981,581	7,677,197	18,658,778
Villages	10,966,768	4,029,913	14,996,681
Regional districts	13,749,880	28,934,561	42,684,441
Subtotals	230,228,300	153,551,506	383,779,806
Vancouver	160,021,748	----------	160,021,748
Totals	390,250,048	153,551,506	543,801,554

Debenture sales for all municipalities amounted to $61,354,728 for the year 1972. This resulted in an increase of $30,279,961 to the total outstanding debenture debt of all municipalities for 1972, after giving effect to the retirement of debentures maturing during the year.

The percentage of current revenue expended to service debenture debt (excluding utilities) in cities, districts, and towns declined in 1972, and increased slightly in villages and in the City of Vancouver. These figures for 1972 are shown below, with the 1971 figures in parentheses:

	Per Cent
Cities	5.99 (6.0)
Vancouver	8.49 (8.1)
Districts	6.18 (6.4)
Towns	7.87 (8.2)
Villages	6.55 (5.7)

The debenture debt of utilities is serviced almost entirely by revenues derived by consumer charges and frontage taxes.

PLANNING SERVICES

For our planning officers the year 1973 could be best described as the year of farm land preservation. Wherever possible, staff at all levels have collaborated with, aided, and assisted those charged with the accomplishment of the desired goal. More than one and one-half person-years have been devoted to this. Staff technicians have spent over seven person-months helping in the preparation and checking of maps showing the Provincially proposed agricultural land reserves boundaries along legal lines, and assisting in the processing of appeals to Order in Council 157/73.

Planners have reviewed land-use contracts and zoning by-laws to see that the intent of Order in Council 157/73 was upheld. A staff member visited most of the regional district boards with the Land Commission during its tour of explanation and discussion. Another was responsible for much of the processing of appeals under Order in Council 157/73. Some have aided regional districts in the explanation of agricultural land reserves to the public and have prepared land reserve plans for those regional districts. Others have been members of the *ad hoc* committee of senior public servants recommending on appeals to Order in Council 157/73 to the Environment and Land Use Committee.

Other Achievements

During the year, two planners have transferred to other departments. Despite this, and besides the considerable staff involvement with the farm-land preservation programme, planning services staff have achieved much. Over 500 by-laws from municipalities and regional districts were processed. There was as great attendance at Technical Planning Committee meetings as possible. The staff continued to work with other departments on special studies of highway location in the Sunshine Coast and also through the Northern Vancouver Island Study Committee. Work was done on residential expansion areas for Trail. Assistance was and continues to be extended to other Departmental staff members in specialized tasks. Comment is being made on changes to all boundaries considered by the Department.

The comprehensive resource mapping of the Queen Charlotte Islands has been completed and has been turned over to the Environment and Land Use Secretariat. The study was initiated by the Environment and Land Use Committee at the request of Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District. A study of Texada Island resources and capabilities requested by the Lands Branch has been completed and turned over to them.

Contract Work

The Department contracted with or is continuing its contract with a number of municipalities and regional districts. These include:

Squamish-Lillooet Regional District—where a community plan is to be prepared for Lillooet-Bridge River subregion;

Regional District of Kootenay Boundary—where by-laws for the implementation of previously established planning concepts are being prepared for the area east of the Monashee Range height of land;

Village of Lake Cowichan—where a community plan is being prepared;

Village of Port Edward—on a study of residential development and subdivision design;

Village of Port Alice—on a zoning by-law;

Regional District of Mount Waddington—where work has begun on the final phase of the regional plan;

Fraser-Cheam—where the first-phase regional plan for the entire regional district has been completed;

A community plan for the Cultus Lake-Chilliwack River Valley was also being completed.

Technical Work

The technical staff have prepared presentation maps for reports and studies as needed. In addition, information maps required for the consideration of new municipal boundaries have been made. Where specified areas, defined areas, municipal boundary extensions, and regional district boundary redefinitions are concerned, the required maps and legal descriptions have been prepared.

The Department's building inspector continued his work in Community Planning Area 23 (Shawnigan Lake) where permits to a value in excess of $420,000 were issued.

TRANSIT SERVICES

Perhaps the most significant new activity of the Department is the programme of the Bureau of Transit Services established in February. The Provincial Government has assumed responsibility for programmes in establishing new transit services in rural and urban communities. The Bureau is charged with responsibility for determining public transportation requirements within and between the various regions, for advising the Provincial Government on policy matters related to the provisions of public transportation, and for implementation of public transit programmes in British Columbia.

The objective of the Bureau programme is to provide British Columbians with an alternative to automobile travel. Public transit is defined to mean the transporting of persons as passengers by carriers other than private automobile, and at this time is principally concerned with various forms of bus and commuter rail services.

Publicly owned and operated transit systems with which the Bureau is now involved are detailed in Table 15.

Table 15—Publicly Owned and Operated Transit Systems, 1973

	Number of Buses	Number of Drivers	Passengers Carried	Service
Greater Vancouver Transit System				
B.C. Hydro and Power Authority	625	1,360	81,000,000	Urban bus service to Vancouver, Burnaby, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, North Vancouver, Port Moody, Richmond, New Westminster.
Pacific Stage Lines	95	155	2,778,000	Ferry bus service to Nanaimo, Victoria, Town and Country service, east to Hope, south to White Rock.
West Vancouver Municipal Transportation	27	38	1,758,000	Urban bus service, Horseshoe Bay to downtown Vancouver.
Capital Region Transit System				
B.C. Hydro and Power Authority	98	162	7,893,000	Urban bus service to Victoria, Oak Bay, Esquimalt, and Saanich.
Nanaimo Regional Transit System	12	20	342,000	Urban and school bus service to Nanaimo City and 7 miles north.
Nelson Transit System	5	7	242,000	Urban bus service in City of Nelson.
Powell River Transit System	6	4	143,000	Urban bus service in District of Powell River.

The B.C. Hydro and Power Authority transit buses carried 6 million more persons in 1973 than in 1972. Of this number, 1.6 million persons were transported by new services inaugurated by the Bureau in September and October of 1973.

In addition to its role in the planning and marketing of transit services, the Bureau has a monitoring function to ensure that service standards are maintained and to make recommendations to the Minister of Finance that subsidy requests be paid subject to the regulations of the *Provincial Rapid Transit Subsidy Act*. Subsidy payments approved in 1973 for the nine months for which there was entitlement are shown in Table 16.

Table 16—Subsidy Payments for Year 1973

	$
West Vancouver Municipal Transportation	82,266
Nanaimo Regional Transit System	60,667
Nelson Transit System	17,049
Powell River Transit System	25,465
Total	185,447

Operating deficits and capital expenditures for the transit services of B.C. Hydro and Power Authority are funded from the general revenue of B.C. Hydro and Power Authority and through grants from the Province of British Columbia.

As a result of efforts in public transit in British Columbia, there are a number of social benefits, together with greater mobility for persons of all ages and incomes, and more efficient use of existing roads by enabling more people to move over the same road system. In setting new "people-first" objectives for transit services, transit planning acts as a positive tool to help shape the future development of communities in directions suited to the needs of present and future residents. To this end, the Bureau has been participating in the planning process with municipalities and regional districts.

During 1973 the main thrust of the work of the Bureau of Transit Services has been in planning new services in the Greater Vancouver Regional District. New bus services were provided in the eastern section of the District of North Vancouver, and in the District of Coquitlam, City of Port Moody, and City of Port Coquitlam.

As a result of these activities, 99 new buses were placed in service in 1973 and equipment orders have been placed for 225 new buses for delivery in 1974. The latter represents the largest single equipment order ever placed in Western Canada. In addition, 37 used trolley coaches have been purchased from Kitchener and Saskatoon, some of which are now being refurbished and placed in service in Vancouver.

In addition to operating equipment, two new bus interchanges have been built in Greater Vancouver. One of these, in east Burnaby, provides an interchange point for all new bus and fastbus services in the Coquitlam area; the other is Phibbs Exchange, named after the first Reeve of North Vancouver, situated at the north end of the Second Narrows Bridge and provides a major interchange point for all bus services to the City and District of North Vancouver using the Second Narrows bridgehead.

At year-end, the Transit Services Division was pursuing plans for immediate improvements to the B.C. Hydro bus services in the Capital Region area, to place 10 new buses in urban service in early 1974.

PERCENTAGE TAX COLLECTIONS

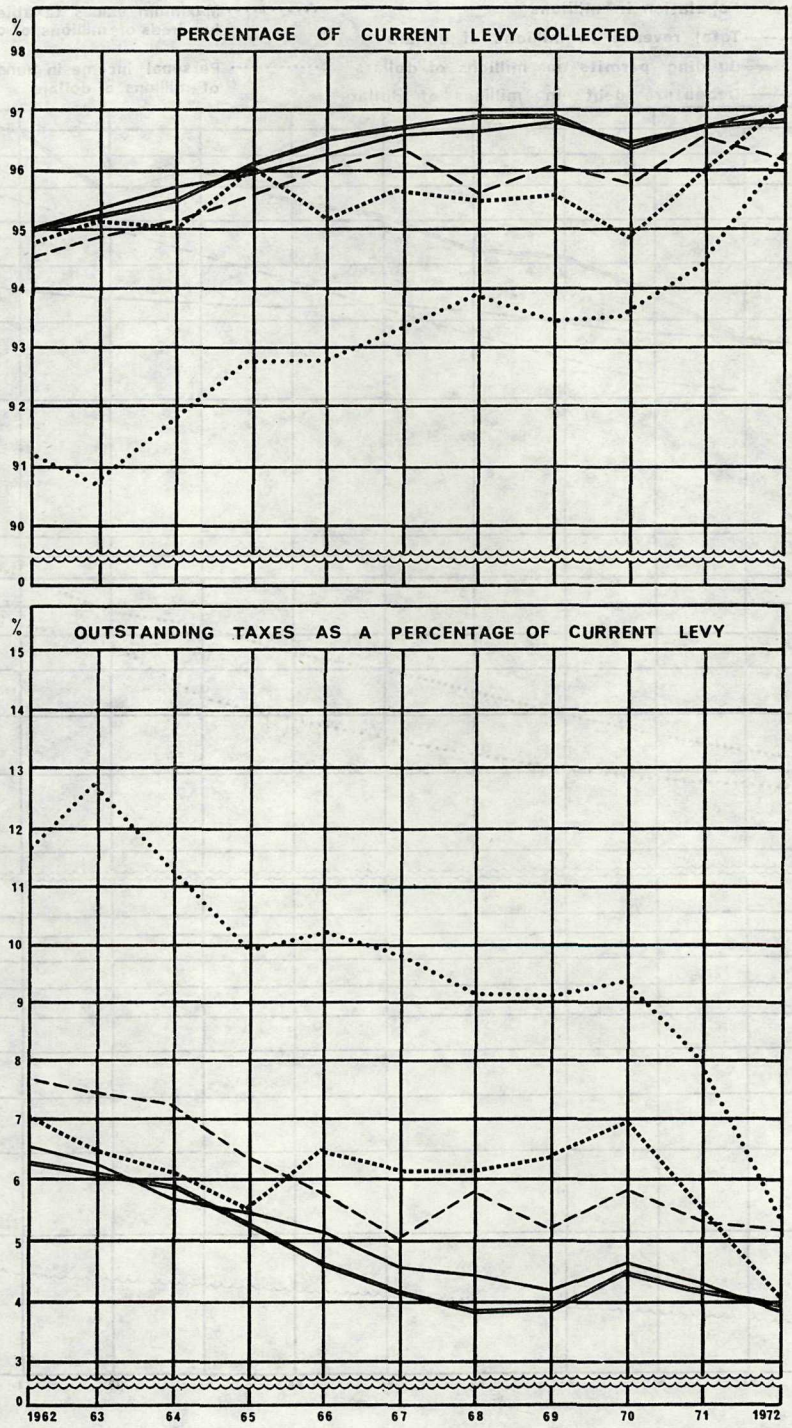
CHART 1

LEGEND

——— Cities ····· Villages

═══ Districts - - - - Vancouver

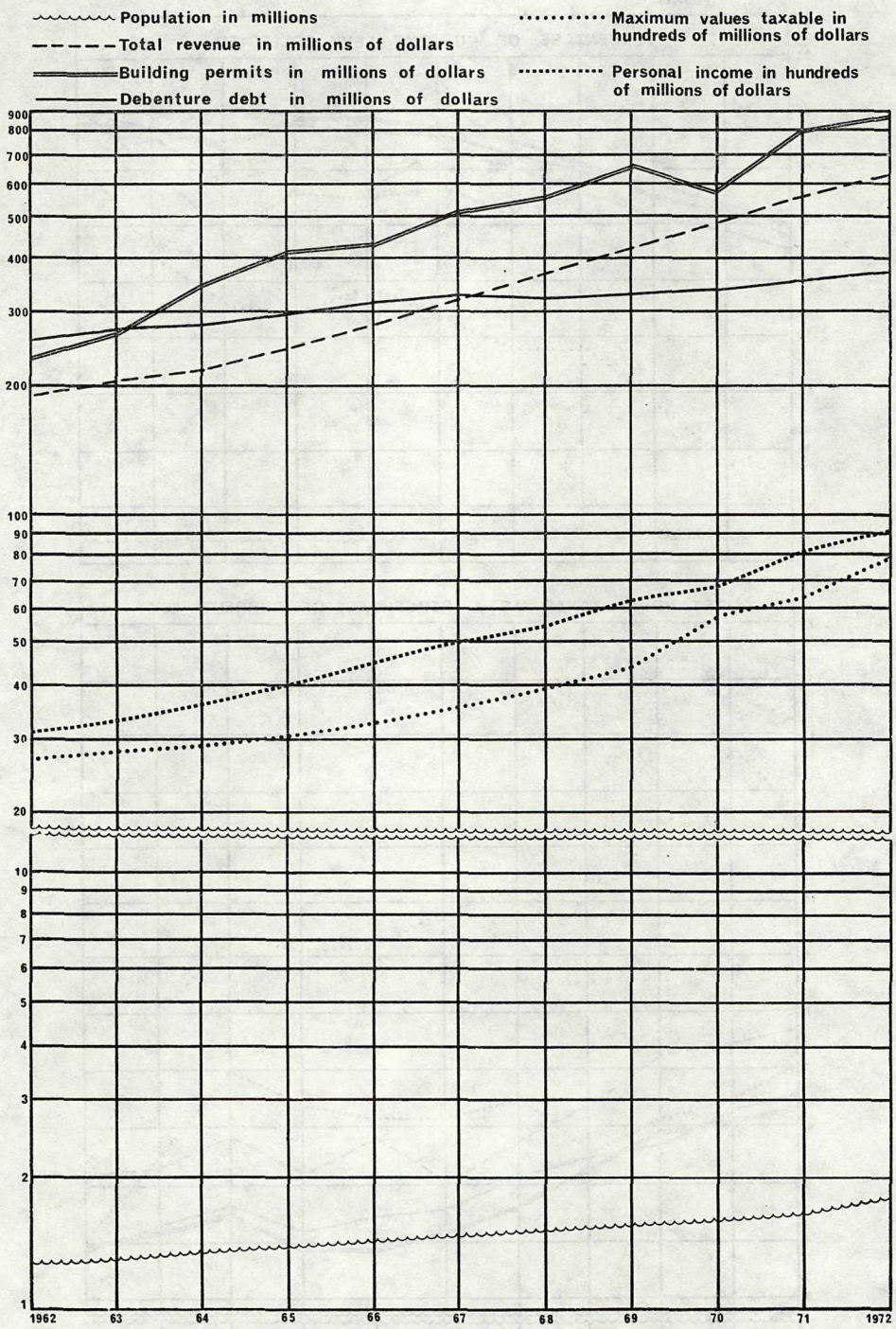
····· Towns



TRENDS IN FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT COMPARED TO POPULATION AND INCOME

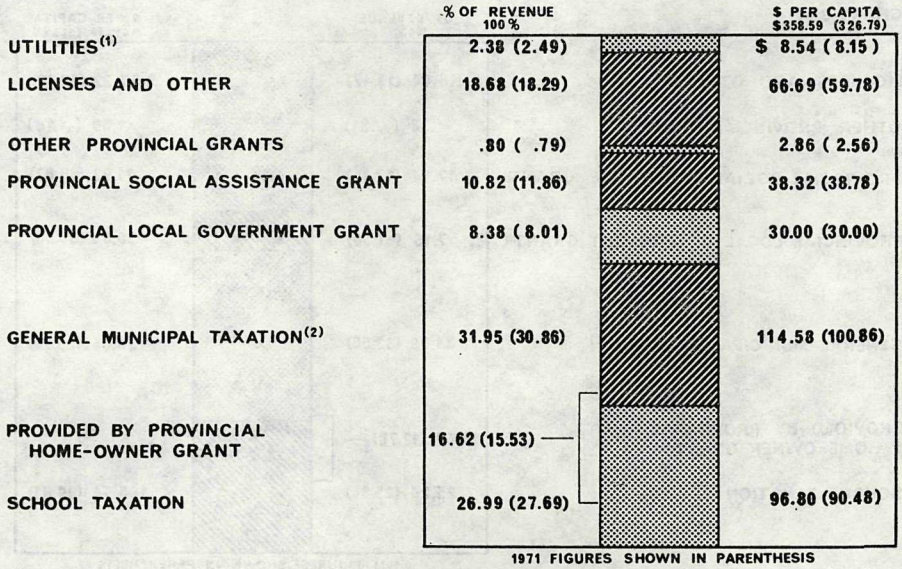
CHART 2

LEGEND



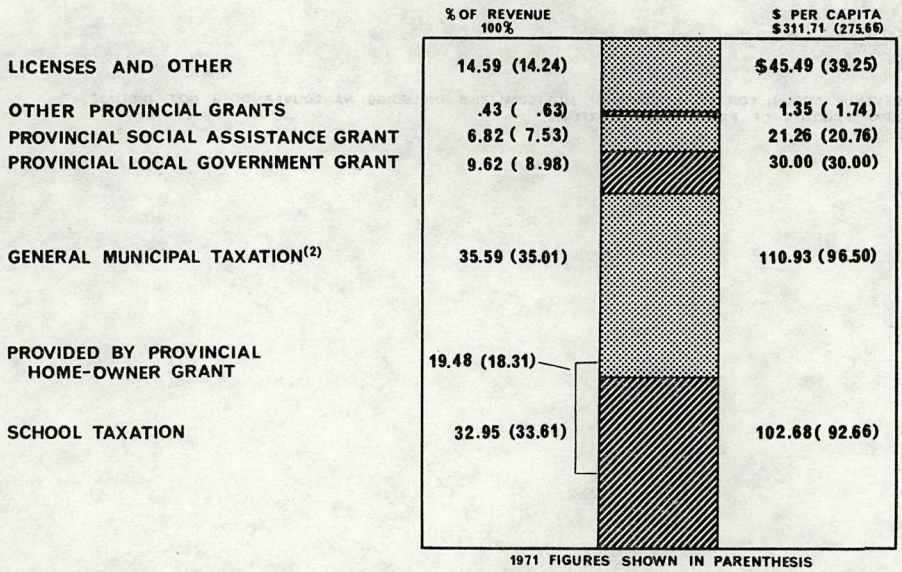
MUNICIPAL REVENUES
BY MAJOR SOURCE 1972
CITIES (EXCLUDING VANCOUVER)

CHART 3



TOTAL REVENUE-$156,223,818 TOTAL POPULATION 435,654

DISTRICTS



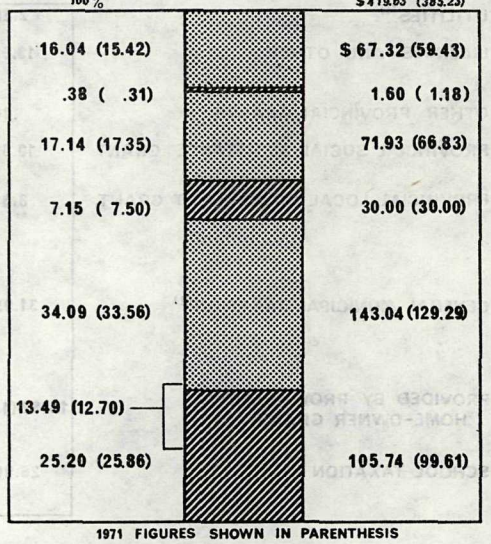
TOTAL REVENUE-$252,315,379 TOTAL POPULATION-809,409

NOTE:- (1) Utilities represents amount appropriated from utility operations for General Municipal Purposes, is not Major Source of Revenue for Districts, Towns, Villages and Vancouver, included in 'Licenses and Other' for 1970 and 1971.

(2) General Municipal Taxation includes Ad Valorem Tax, Business Tax, Sewer and Water Frontage Tax and Special Assessments.

MUNICIPAL REVENUES
BY MAJOR SOURCE 1972
VANCOUVER

CHART 3



1971 FIGURES SHOWN IN PARENTHESIS

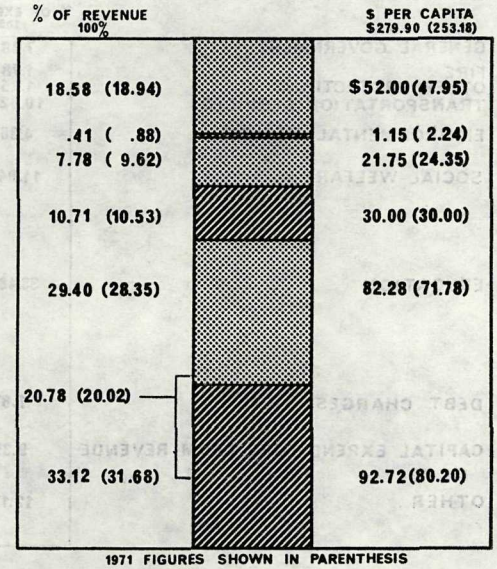
TOTAL REVENUE-$178,871,887 TOTAL POPULATION-426,256

NOTE:- (1) General Municipal Taxation includes Ad Valorem Tax, Business Tax, Sewer and Water Frontage Tax and Special Assessments.

REVENUE SHOWN FOR ALL CLASSES OF MUNICIPALITIES INCLUDING VANCOUVER DOES NOT INCLUDE APPROPRIATION OF PRIOR YEARS SURPLUS.

MUNICIPAL REVENUES
BY MAJOR SOURCE 1972
TOWNS

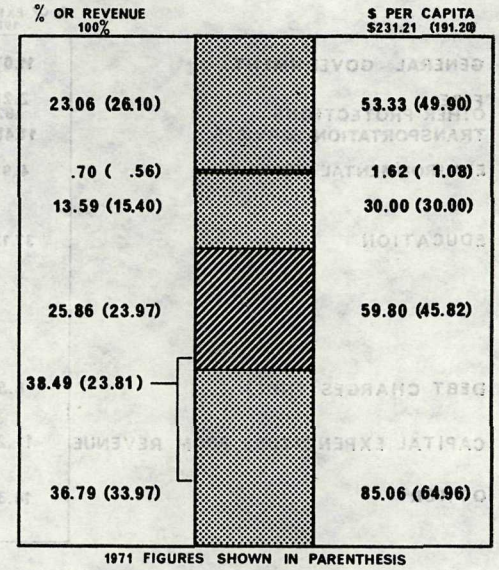
CHART 3



1971 FIGURES SHOWN IN PARENTHESIS

TOTAL REVENUE-$16,625,663 TOTAL POPULATION-59,397

VILLAGES



1971 FIGURES SHOWN IN PARENTHESIS

TOTAL REVENUE-$14,272,467 TOTAL POPULATION-61,728

NOTE:- (1) General Municipal Taxation includes Ad Valorem Tax, Business Tax, Sewer and Water Frontage Tax and Special Assessments.

REVENUE EXPENDITURES
BY MAJOR FUNCTION 1972
TOWNS

CHART 4

	% OF EXPENDITURE 100%	$ PER CAPITA $278.74 (251.52)
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	7.48 (7.59)	$20.83 (19.08)
FIRE	1.78 (1.56)	4.95 (3.92)
OTHER PROTECTIONS	1.25 (.84)	3.48 (2.10)
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	10.32 (10.52)	28.76 (26.48)
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	4.36 (4.18)	12.16 (10.51)
SOCIAL WELFARE	11.94 (14.82)	33.29 (37.28)
EDUCATION	33.48 (31.91)	93.34 (80.25)
DEBT CHARGES (NET)	7.87 (8.16)	21.95 (20.53)
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FROM REVENUE	9.35 (6.95)	26.06 (17.49)
OTHER	12.17 (13.47)	33.92 (33.88)

1971 FIGURES SHOWN IN PARENTHESIS

TOTAL EXPENDITURES–$16,556,138 TOTAL POPULATION–59,397

VILLAGES

	% OF EXPENDITURE 100%	$ PER CAPITA $231.14 (178.56)
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	11.07 (11.88)	$25.58 (21.20)
FIRE	2.29 (2.35)	5.28 (4.20)
OTHER PROTECTIONS	.92 (.82)	2.27 (1.46)
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	11.48 (5.58)	26.54 (9.96)
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	4.93 (5.63)	11.41 (10.05)
EDUCATION	37.13 (36.47)	85.82 (65.12)
DEBT CHARGES (NET)	6.55 (5.71)	15.14 (10.20)
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FROM REVENUE	11.27 (11.27)	26.05 (20.12)
OTHER	14.30 (20.29)	33.05 (36.23)

1971 FIGURES SHOWN IN PARENTHESIS

TOTAL EXPENDITURES–$14,267,819 TOTAL POPULATION–61,728

NOTE:– Expenditures for Health included in 'Other'.

REVENUE EXPENDITURES
BY MAJOR FUNCTION 1972
VANCOUVER

CHART 4

	% OF EXPENDITURE 100%	$ PER CAPITA $414.04 (384.72)
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	2.92 (2.62)	12.05 (10.06)
FIRE	6.14 (5.96)	25.43 (22.93)
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE	9.53 (9.33)	39.44 (35.90)
OTHER PROTECTION	1.22 (1.06)	5.07 (4.06)
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	3.69 (4.10)	15.30 (15.79)
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	2.12 (2.38)	8.78 (9.15)
SOCIAL WELFARE	21.29 (22.32)	88.14 (85.88)
EDUCATION	25.86 (26.23)	107.08 (100.90)
DEBT CHARGES (NET)	8.49 (8.10)	35.16 (31.17)
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FROM REVENUE	5.26 (4.84)	21.77 (18.61)
OTHER	13.48 (13.06)	55.82 (50.24)

1971 FIGURES SHOWN IN PARENTHESIS

TOTAL EXPENDITURES - $176,487,077 TOTAL POPULATION - 426,256

NOTE:- Expenditures for Health included in 'Other'.

REVENUE EXPENDITURES
BY MAJOR FUNCTION 1972
CITIES EXCLUDING VANCOUVER

CHART 4

	% OF EXPENDITURE 100%	$ PER CAPITA $353.24 (325.91)
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	5.60 (5.90)	$19.80 (19.22)
FIRE	4.55 (4.28)	16.08 (13.95)
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE	7.08 (6.52)	25.00 (21.23)
OTHER PROTECTION	.93 (.85)	3.28 (2.78)
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	8.26 (8.16)	29.20 (26.61)
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	4.22 (3.73)	14.89 (12.17)
SOCIAL WELFARE	14.38 (16.41)	50.82 (53.49)
EDUCATION	28.03 (28.33)	99.00 (92.34)
DEBT CHARGES (NET)	5.99 (6.00)	21.15 (19.55)
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FROM REVENUE	5.87 (5.84)	20.72 (19.05)
OTHER	15.09 (13.98)	53.30 (45.56)

1971 FIGURES SHOWN IN PARENTHESIS

TOTAL EXPENDITURES – $153,892,193 TOTAL POPULATION – 435,654

DISTRICTS

	% OF EXPENDITURE 100%	$ PER CAPITA $307.34 (273.67)
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	5.81 (5.74)	$17.86 (15.72)
FIRE	3.82 (3.58)	11.76 (9.81)
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE	5.82 (5.42)	17.88 (14.84)
OTHER PROTECTION	1.35 (1.22)	4.16 (3.34)
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	7.89 (7.37)	24.24 (20.16)
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	2.98 (3.13)	9.16 (8.58)
SOCIAL WELFARE	10.85 (12.94)	33.36 (35.40)
EDUCATION	33.45 (33.88)	102.80 (92.71)
DEBT CHARGES (NET)	6.18 (6.35)	18.96 (17.39)
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FROM REVENUE	6.51 (5.94)	20.01 (16.26)
OTHER	15.34 (14.43)	47.15 (39.49)

1971 FIGURES SHOWN IN PARENTHESIS

TOTAL EXPENDITURES – $248,762,056 TOTAL POPULATION – 809,409

NOTE:– Expenditures for Health included in 'Other'.

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