

1 DECEMBER, 2025
SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 563
SALMON ARM STATION MAIN, BC V1E 4N7

HONOURABLE BRENDA BAILEY
MINISTER OF FINANCE
PO BOX 9048 STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bailey,



Re: Requesting Postponement of BC Assessment's Roll Transmission Line Valuations

On behalf of the Southern Interior Local Government Association membership, I am writing to express our concerns over the 2026 Roll Transmission Line Valuations. As reported by our member communities, the new valuations will cause severe drops in revenue that will need to be made up for by raising property taxes for residents. Among our members, the District of Clearwater anticipates an 8% increase in taxation for its residents, and the City of Kamloops a 21% increase. As one of the hardest-hit communities in SILGA, the TNRD reports the need to increase taxes as high as 25% for residential property owners in smaller electoral areas.

This sudden, unanticipated hike to property taxes amidst a province-wide cost of living crisis unfairly shifts the burden of fiscal solvency to residents in rural areas. The timing of this announcement has disadvantaged local governments, who have already begun planning for the 2026 fiscal year. However, we also understand that other BC utilities are still in the process of being evaluated, which may even out revenues for local governments. For this reason, SILGA is writing to request that the Roll Transmission Line Valuations are not changed until all utility valuation reassessments have been completed.

For communities such as the District of Clearwater, who already taxes Class 2 Utilities at their maximum level, there is no other way to mitigate the impacts of this change to valuation. There is also the question of whether the "fixed and immediate depreciation" model is a suitable model for evaluating taxation instead of profit and upkeep. We therefore ask that the Province take more time to consider the matter of this valuation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We respectfully request that your ministry take decisive action to postpone these changes, at least until all other utility valuations have been revised.

Sincerely,

Louise Wallace Richmond

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President, Southern Interior Local Government Association

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