

<b>TITLE: THE POLICE TAX</b>	
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On the Rural Tax bill paid by UNA residents annually, there is one line item that says “Police Tax”.

In the 1990s and early 2000s the Province decided that it should recover from rural areas more than they were paying for policing costs under the Provincial RCMP contract.

There was a great furor about this. Eventually the Province decided, in the case of *our* regional district, to levy the tax on the recommendation of the GVRD and the GVRD was allowed to advise the Province to collect the tax in whatever way it thought appropriate. In the UNA neighbourhoods, resident households are charged a “Police Tax” at the rate of 0.07890 added to the mill rate for RCMP services.

By way of explanation, we know from a paper the Province published in 1994 that for most rural tax payers, the rural tax pays for only two services. For UNA residents, it is three. First, an amount, based on a formula, for the upkeep of adjacent provincially funded roads (this is a relatively small amount). Second, in the case of the UNA, a specific amount to pay for the UNA’s share of the cost of fire protective services in our area. Third, the balance pays for the cost of policing. When you analyze this, for the entire UNA neighbourhood as of 2011, the amount that we pay for policing in our general *rural* tax alone (that is *in addition* to the line item which is \$196,392) is approximately \$510,145. This is greater than the actual *cost* that we incur for policing.

Accordingly, in the early 2000’s the UNA Board drafted at least two papers on the question of the unfairness of, in the circumstance, our being asked to pay anything more for policing (by way of the new line item). We met with the appropriate Ministers in Victoria on at least two occasions (UBC AVP Nancy Knight attended one of these meetings with us) but we were unsuccessful in persuading the Province that we should be exempt from the new police tax.

The UNA Board may or may not want to pursue this “Police Tax” issue further.