PABC
GR 417
Box 570 File 061/160
Folder 3 (1)

521B-28

June 17th, 1947.

The Deputy Minister of Education,
Buildings.

Comox

Sir:

I am enclosing a copy of letter received from Mrs. Laura Henshall which sets out the School Tax situation from her point of view.

The property at issue is described as lots 1050 and 1051 Rendezvous Island, Sayward District, Comox Assessment District. The School District is No. 72. I have acknowledged receipt and pointed out to her the Taxation Department cannot do anything to alleviate the tax but that the School Board can.

This letter is similar to several which the Department has received subsequent to the mailing of the tax notices.

This area consists of an island which is to an extent more or less isolated with no school services. She happens to be a widow of limited means.

School Boards have the power vested in them to exempt anyone from payment of School Tax.

This is the first year of assessments respecting large school districts and regardless of how well the procedure might function, there will always be the isolated case which will necessitate a certain procedure being developed to handle same.

I am of the opinion that this case should be referred to the School Board but as we have no liason with the latter our contact must of necessity be through you.

By referring matters of this kind to School Boards there will eventually develop a procedure by which means School Boards will operate and adjust such exceptions thus removing the sting in respect of receipt of tax notices.

Yours respectfully,

J.T. CLARK
Surveyor of Taxes.

JTC/LT

521b-28

June 17th, 1947.

Mrs. Laura Henshall,
Redonda Bay, B.C.

Madam:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 6th instant in which you enclose your taxation notices covering lots 1050 and 1051 Sayward District.

I have delayed answering your letter until I could look into this matter to see if the Taxation Department could do something for you.

I would explain that the Taxation Department is in the unfortunate position of having to levy a tax to cover the school budget or school costs fixed by another body, namely the Board of School Trustees. We have no say in what the amount shall be but are compelled under the law of the Province to raise the amount fixed by the Board.

This Department knows of no way by which it can exempt you from the payment of the School Taxes. The School Board, however, has certain powers and in view of the situation of your property and in view of the fact that you have no school, it might be worth your while to write the Secretary of the School Board poiting out the situation and requesting them to grant you a remission either in part or in whole in view of your financial circumstances and isolation. It is my understanding they have certain powers which they could use to alleviate your situation.

I am returning the tax notices and in so doing would state that the Provincial Assessor intends to make a visit to that locality in the very near future and will call upon you.

Yours respectfully,

J.T. CLARK
Surveyor of Taxes.

JTC/LT
Encl.

521B-28

Provincial Assessor,
Cumberland, B.C.
June 13th, 1947.

Surveyor of Taxes,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Sir:

Re: Lots 1050 and 1050 Rendezvous Island,
Mrs. L. Henshall

Receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, regarding the school tax levied against the above mentioned property is acknowledged.

I have been unaware that Mrs. Henshall was a widow and had she informed me in her letter here, the assessment would have been placed before the Court of Revision, held here on the 15th day of May, under Section 116 of the Taxation Act. The Court has completed its regular work here for this year.

This property is on the list for re-assessment this year and I will have Mrs. Henshall's circumstances investigated at that time. In the event that the facts are as stated by her I would suggest she not pay the 1947 school levy and the matter can be dealt with at the 1948 Court.

Enclosed please find copy of letters from and to Mrs. Henshall regarding the tax, also, 1947 assessment notices covering.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgn) J.K. McKenzie
Provincial Assessor.

JKM/vf

Provincial Assessor.

Cumberland, B.C.
April 22nd, 1947.

Mrs. Laura Henshall,
Redonda Bay, B.C.

Dear Madam:

No record can be found here of a payment having been received during 1946 to apply to the taxes on Lot 1050 Sayward District, and I would suggest you write to the Official Custodian regarding this.

The Amendment to the Public Schools Act 1946 has extended the school boundaries of all school districts in the Province and the area in which your property is situate is now in School District 72.

The local school Inspector may be able to advise you regarding the education of your child.

The 1947 assessment notices are returned enclosed.

Yours faithfully,

J.K. McKenzie

JKM/MT
Encl.

Redonda Bay, B.C.
April 17th, 1947.

J.K. McKenzie,
Prov. Assessor,
Cumberland, B.C.

Dear Sir:

In reference to the enclosed tax paper for Lot 1050 Comox, Sayward, I note there are delinquent taxes for $5.60 on this notice.

I bought this property from the Custodian of Alien Properties and received the title in July 1946. At that time I made a final adjustment with them as to my share of the taxes for the balance of the year, and I received an official receipt from them to that effect, also I would like to have the above Lot 1050 re-assessed as to value as there are no houses on this property anymore.

Lot 1050 and Lot 1051, as to the school tax on both these lots.

These two lots make up the whole North Rendezvous Island and as such is 6 miles from the Redonda Bay School.

I have a child of school age which I am forced to teach myself. Therefore I do not see my way clear to pay nearly $29.00 per year school taxes unless the government is prepared to provide transportation for my child to attend a school.

Please give the above matter your attention.

Yours truly,

Signed (Mrs.) Laura Henshall

521B-28

June 11th, 1947.

The Provincial Assessor,
Prov. Gov't. Office,
Cumberland, B.C.

Sir:

Enclosed please find copy of letter received from Mrs. Laura Henshall together with assessment notices covering roll folios 1142 and 1143. This appears to have been the subject of correspondence between you and Mrs. Henshall.

Do you know if the facts are as stated by her? If the situation be that she is a widow and in distressful circumstances there will be legitimacy to her claim.

I do not know whether the Court of Revision has completed its task and signed the rolls of your office if not, it might be possible for him to take the case into consideration.

Please let me have your report returning the notices with your reply.

Yours respectfully,

J.T. CLARK
Surveyor of Taxes.

JTC/LT
Encls.

Redonda Bay, B.C.
June 6th, 1947.

Surveyor of Taxes,
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing my tax papers to see if some adjustment cannot be made regarding these.

These two property blocks make up an island which is miles from any school, yet I am required to pay $28.00 per year school tax. I have a child of school age whom I have to teach myself. Previously there was no school tax on this property, then suddenly this year $28.00 is put on.

I am a widow with a family and if I have to pay this additional tax it means we will have to lose our home, as I cannot afford to pay it.

I returned the tax papers to the Provincial Assessor at Cumberland, but they were returned to me without any suitable explanation.

Therefore I am taking the liberty of writing you regarding the matter.

Yours truly,

(Mrs.) Laura Henshall.