

POLICY PERSPECTIVES



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HEY BIG SPENDER! MUNICIPAL SPENDING GROWTH ACROSS METRO VANCOUVER EXCEEDS POPULATION GROWTH AND INFLATION

HIGHLIGHTS

- Spending growth (excluding capital projects) across Metro Vancouver municipal governments has run well ahead of *both* population growth *and* inflation over the past decade. Real per capita municipal expenditures grew by 16.2% over 2009-19.
- The five municipalities with the highest spending per capita in 2019 were West Vancouver (\$3,700 per capita), New Westminster (\$2,600), City of Vancouver (\$2,400), Richmond (\$2,300) and Delta (\$2,200). The five lowest spending municipalities were Surrey (\$1,400 per capita), Maple Ridge (\$1,500), Port Coquitlam (\$1,600), Langley (\$1,700) and Coquitlam (\$1,800).
- To help taxpayers gauge the relative fiscal restraint (or lack thereof) of their municipal councils, we develop a Municipal Fiscal Index (MFI). The MFI is a simple composite index made up of six equally-weighted rankings of spending and debt metrics for the past decade. The five least fiscally restrained municipalities in Metro Vancouver are White Rock, City of Vancouver, West Vancouver, Langley District and Port Moody. Maple Ridge, City of North Vancouver, Burnaby, City of Langley and Delta sit at the top of the rankings as the most fiscally restrained.
- We also situate Metro Vancouver's municipalities among the province's 60 largest municipalities. At the top of this broader ranking are Central Saanich, Comox, Sooke, Maple Ridge and Abbotsford. Relative to their peers, these municipalities show the most fiscal restraint. In contrast, the City of Vancouver, Fort St John, White Rock, West Vancouver and Dawson Creek sit at the bottom of the rankings. Relative to their peers, these municipalities show the least fiscal restraint.
- The largest municipality in the region is the City of Vancouver, with a population of around 686,000 people. The data indicates that the City of Vancouver exhibits the least fiscal restraint among B.C.'s 60 largest municipalities.
- British Columbians face significant cost of living pressures as runaway CPI inflation continues at around 7-8% y/y. It is for taxpayers to decide if real (after-inflation) municipal spending per capita increases over the past decade have been associated with commensurate increases in the quality and range of desired local municipal services. Nonetheless, because municipal taxes must be paid from after-tax income (unlike personal and corporate taxes levied by the federal and provincial governments), these trends suggest a steeply rising burden on households and businesses and an escalating constraint on private sector economic activity.

MUNICIPAL SPENDING GROWTH IN METRO VANCOUVER EXCEEDS BOTH POPULATION GROWTH AND INFLATION

The pace of municipal spending growth in Metro Vancouver has tended to race *ahead* of both population growth *and* inflation for at least two decades. Note that spending discussed in the analysis

below is general expenditure and does not include capital spending on long-lived infrastructure. In late 2016, BCBC documented a decade of [outsized municipal spending growth](#) in the region, with real per capita spending rising 10% between 2000-05 and then surging a further 20% between 2005-10. These trends have not abated. Over the five-year period from 2009 to 2014 real per

capita municipal spending in the region rose by a total of 10%. Most recently, between 2014 and 2019, real spending per person advanced by another 5.6%. **In total, real per capita municipal spending increased by 16.2% over 2009-19.**

This update also provides a simple framework for evaluating fiscal trends across individual municipalities by compiling several

fiscal indicators into a single, composite index. White Rock and the City of Vancouver rank as the least fiscally restrained municipalities in Metro Vancouver. At the other end of the scale, Maple Ridge, the City of North Vancouver and Burnaby rank as the most fiscally restrained.

Municipal governments have many responsibilities. They have responsibility for local transportation and road networks, water and sewer services, property development, public safety, garbage and recycling, parks and recreation, and other services for residents. As populations increase, municipal spending naturally increases to deliver services and infrastructure to more residents. However, the degree to which expenditure growth continues to outpace both population growth and CPI inflation in many municipalities is concerning.

The second part of this update broadens the comparative spending review and calculates a composite index value for the 60 largest municipalities in B.C. When situated among this larger group, several Metro Vancouver municipalities can be found among the least fiscally restrained while others can be found among the most fiscally restrained.

NOMINAL SPENDING ACROSS 21 METRO VANCOUVER MUNICIPALITIES WAS \$5.4 BILLION IN 2019

Region-wide fiscal trends provide useful context for evaluating spending patterns in individual municipalities. Nominal spending across all 21 Metro Vancouver municipalities rose from \$3.4 billion

Nominal spending across all 21 Metro Vancouver municipalities rose from \$3.4 billion in 2009 to \$5.4 billion in 2019, an increase of more than 50% over the decade (before accounting for inflation).

in 2009 to \$5.4 billion in 2019, an increase of more than 50% over the decade (before accounting for inflation). Over 2009-14, spending rose by 24% and then by 27% between 2014-19.

Because population growth was slightly stronger in the latter sub-period (8.8% compared to 6.6%), nominal spending *per capita* grew at a similar pace in *both* sub-periods (Figure 1). However, because inflation was higher over the 2014-19 sub-period, it chipped away at the rate of *real* spending growth. In other words, nominal municipal spending per capita still outpaced inflation but not to the same degree.

In 2019, nominal spending per capita in Metro Vancouver amounted to \$2,016. This is \$288 more per resident than in 2014. Over 2009-14, per capita spending rose \$245. **This means that across the decade to 2019, nominal municipal spending has surged by more than \$530 per resident.**

Per capita measures are necessary to compare spending levels over time and across jurisdictions. But when reflecting on these increases, readers should recognize that the tax increases necessary to cover rising expenditures are more concentrated than the per capita figures suggest. The average household in Metro

Vancouver, for example, has about 2.6 persons. This means on a per household basis municipal spending surged almost \$1,400.

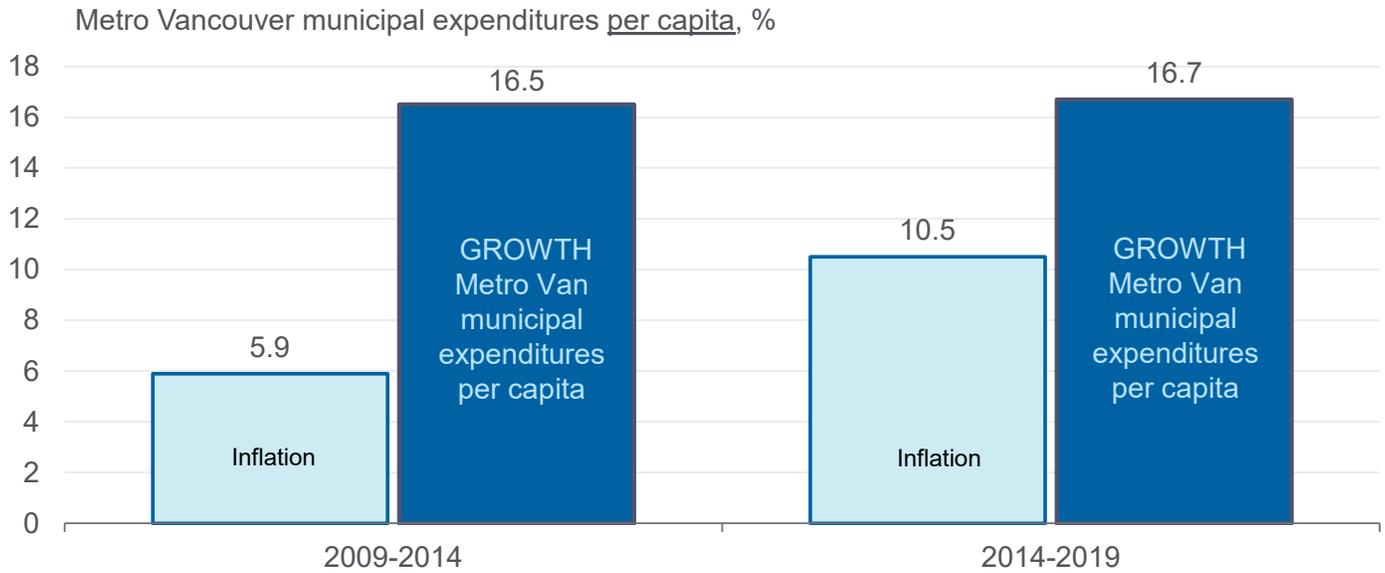
To finance these sizable spending increases, property taxes have been taking a larger bite out of household budgets. Moreover, rising business property taxes, which in most municipalities provide a disproportionate share of local government revenues, add to business operating costs in the region - costs which are passed on to customers. **In other words, it is likely that the increase in per capita spending has been disproportionately funded by municipal taxes on Metro Vancouver businesses and their customers (see Peacock, 2019).**

Inflation adds to municipal spending pressures as wages and other input costs rise. **But as Figure 1 below indicates, inflation explains only part of the sharp rise municipal spending per person. After adjusting for inflation, municipal spending per capita still advanced by a total of 10% over the 2009-14 period and 5.6% over 2014-19.**

HOW DO METRO VANCOUVER MUNICIPALITIES COMPARE ON FISCAL METRICS?

Spending patterns differ substantially across Metro Vancouver's 21 municipalities. Larger municipalities generally benefit from being able to spread fixed costs across a larger population base. But on a per capita basis, local councils' decisions regarding the scope of services, service delivery models, approaches to fiscal management, and residents' sensitivity to escalating property

FIGURE 1: OUTSIZE SPENDING INCREASES IN METRO VANCOUVER



Source: BC Stats and BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Local Government Statistics.

* Metro Vancouver municipalities collectively.

taxes (required to finance spending increases) are the relevant factors shaping local government spending.

Table 1 displays six spending and debt metrics for the 21 Metro Vancouver municipalities. From left to right:

- 1. spending per capita in 2019** – a snapshot of what each municipality spent per resident (excluding spending on capital projects);
- 2. growth in real spending per capita 2009-14** – how quickly per person spending grew after adjusting for inflation over the first five-year period;
- 3. growth in real spending per capita 2014-19** – how quickly per person spending grew after adjusting for inflation over the second five-year period;
- 4. change in real per capita spending growth between the**

two five-year periods – whether municipal spending growth slowed or accelerated;

- 5. long-term debt per capita in 2019** – debt per resident that municipalities have accumulated to finance infrastructure;
- 6. debt financing costs per capita** – an indication of how debt servicing costs are adding to overall spending pressures.

The far-right column in Table 1 is the **Municipal Fiscal Index (MFI)** that summarizes each municipality's relative ranking across the six fiscal indicators into a single index value. For simplicity, each of the six individual rankings discussed above is given an equal weighting in the MFI. Lighter yellow colours indicate comparatively lower spending levels, slower spending growth, lower debt levels, and lower debts servicing costs. Higher values for the fiscal indicators are shaded

progressively darker. Municipalities are ranked by the MFI and the shading (corresponding to the 1 to 10 index values) for each indicator is also shown. **The result is that Table 1 provides a “heat map.” It gives a quick visual summary of relative fiscal restraint (or lack thereof) among Metro’s municipalities. Darker tones indicate more prolific municipal spending and debt accumulation, while lighter tones indicate greater fiscal restraint relative to other municipalities.**

The MFI is not a rating system. Nor should it be viewed as a measure of a municipality's fiscal sustainability. It is simply a summary ranking of six municipal fiscal indicators over the past decade. The rankings can be viewed within the broader context of two decades of strong and arguably oversized real per capita municipal spending growth in the region.

TABLE 1: METRO VANCOUVER MUNICIPAL FISCAL INDICATORS AND MUNICIPAL FISCAL INDEX

Municipality (2019 pop.)	Per capita spending 2019, \$	Real spending per capita growth 2009-2014, %	Real spending per capita growth 2014-2019, %	Change in spending growth rate (ppts)	Long-term debt per capita 2019, \$	Debt financing costs per capita 2019, \$	Metro Municipal Fiscal INDEX
	a snapshot of relative spending levels per resident	how quickly spending grew during the first 5-year period	how quickly spending grew during the second 5-year period	shift to more fiscal restraint/expansion between two periods	higher debt load adds to operating costs and upward revenue/tax pressure	a snapshot of relative financing costs per resident	summary of the relative rankings of the six fiscal indicators
METRO VAN (2,663,335)	2,016	10.0	5.6	-4.5	662.37	89.78	5.5
Maple Ridge (91,222)	1,493	9.5	-5.2	-14.8	256.19	41.99	2.9
North Van (C) (57,325)	2,073	8.8	0.5	-8.3	11.94	3.01	3.1
Burnaby (253,007)	1,869	10.3	5.1	-5.1	0	0	3.6
Langley (C) (27,718)	1,710	9.5	5.6	-3.9	0	0	3.8
Delta (109,490)	2,164	12.9	0.4	-12.5	13.77	3.58	4.0
Coquitlam (149,894)	1,764	3.3	7.9	4.6	106.15	12.37	4.2
Pitt Meadows (19,728)	1,773	14.7	3.6	-11.2	257.77	27.93	4.5
Surrey (584,526)	1,441	15.0	4.6	-10.4	379.41	28.02	4.5
Port Coquitlam (63,305)	1,638	8.5	7.5	-1.0	1,137.16	23.44	5.8
North Van (D) (89,763)	2,158	9.2	9.0	-0.1	390.95	30.77	6.0
New West (79,737)	2,578	11.8	2.3	-9.5	826.51	237.71	6.0
Richmond (212,276)	2,279	8.5	17.3	8.7	131.39	27.84	6.3
Port Moody (35,052)	2,093	8.2	17.5	9.2	601.81	43.83	6.7
Langley (D) (130,924)	1,976	13.4	7.9	-5.5	878.14	67.10	6.7
West Van (43,945)	3,702	15.1	7.4	-7.7	722.33	51.57	7.3
Vancouver (685,885)	2,439	10.9	4.9	-6.0	1,598.42	251.08	7.3
White Rock (21,027)	2,079	12.9	14.8	1.8	1,109.46	63.87	7.8
municipalities with populations below 5,000							
Anmore (2,515)	1,407	20.3	-11.3	-31.5	0	0	2.5
Bowen Island (3,957)	2,288	8.2	10.0	1.8	500.23	45.95	6.0
Lions Bay (1,366)	2,436	44.9	12.1	-32.8	1,370.91	197.13	7.7
Belcarra (693)	2,760	89.7	9.0	-80.7	5,193.39	339.75	8.0



Source: B.C. Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Local Government Statistics. Per capita spending growth is based on real dollars deflated using the B.C. CPI.

Maple Ridge emerges atop the rankings as the most fiscally restrained municipality in Metro Vancouver. Its low MFI score is attributable to low spending per capita and the municipality’s sizable reduction in expenditure per capita between 2014 and 2019. North Vancouver City, Burnaby, Langley City and Delta round out the top five spots. Burnaby and Langley City benefit from having no debt and thus no debt servicing costs.

At the bottom end of the rankings, indicating the least fiscal restraint relative to their peers, are the municipalities of White Rock, City of Vancouver, West Vancouver, Langley district and Port Moody. Port Moody ranks poorly because

of strong spending growth over the 2014-19 period and was one of only four municipalities where the pace of spending growth accelerated. West Vancouver’s MFI score reflects its very high level of per capita spending, coupled with above average spending growth in both sub-periods.

The City of Vancouver is the largest municipality in the region with a population of around 686,000. It sits near the bottom of the MFI rankings due to its high 2019 levels of spending per capita, debt per capita, and debt servicing costs per capita. White Rock claims the very bottom spot (highest Index number) due to prolific real per capita spending growth across both 2009-14 and

2014-19. White Rock now has the third highest debt level (in per capita terms) in the region.

The four municipalities with populations of fewer than 5,000 are shown separately at the bottom of Table 1 because of the unique challenges smaller communities face.

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MUNICIPAL FISCAL PROMISCUITY RAISES QUESTIONS

Households and businesses throughout the region have seen property taxes ratchet up to finance outsized real per capita municipal spending growth. This is certainly the case for businesses (see [Peacock, 2019](#)). The indicators in the MFI do not account for differences in the scope or range of services across municipalities. **Nonetheless, the rankings can help residents evaluate whether they have experienced service improvements that match the scale of recorded increases in real per capita municipal spending.**

As councils continue to increase real spending per capita, citizens should question whether improvements (if any) in municipal services are aligned with spending increases seen over the past five years – noting that this spending excludes capital projects. Over 2009-19, real municipal spending per person has risen by 16.2%. Are residents now receiving enhanced services from their municipal governments reflective of this kind of increase? **Have residents in municipalities where spending per resident has grown comparatively quickly enjoyed better services than more fiscally restrained municipalities?**

If these trends reflect a “provincial downloading”, in that some provincial responsibilities are being pushed (or pulled) down and absorbed by municipalities, this could raise concerns for taxpayers about governance. Municipal councils are subject to less public scrutiny compared to the provincial government. If relatively more government spending is occurring at the municipal level, where there

Over 2009-19, real municipal spending per person has risen by 16.2%. Are residents now receiving enhanced services from their municipal governments reflective of this kind of increase?

is less scrutiny and accountability, these trends may not be desirable. **Moreover, whereas personal and corporate taxes are levied on pre-tax income, municipal taxes such as property taxes and user fees must be paid from *after-tax* income. This feature may subtly but materially increase the tax burden on households and businesses.**

HOW DO METRO VANCOUVER MUNICIPALITIES RANK ACROSS FISCAL INDICATORS?

This section provides additional discussion about the fiscal indicators in [Table 1](#).

Which municipalities spend the least...and the most?

Figure 2 shows the 2019 levels of municipal expenditure per capita, with municipalities ranked in ascending order. **At the low end, Surrey spent just \$1,441 per resident delivering municipal services, an amount that is \$575 (or 32%) below the Metro Vancouver average. At the other end, West Vancouver is an outlier, spending \$3,702 per resident, fully \$1,700 (82%) above the Metro Vancouver average.** After West Vancouver (which operates its own transit system and has its own police force), New Westminster spent \$2,580 per resident (23% above the Metro Vancouver average). **The region's largest municipality, the**

City of Vancouver, spent \$2,439 per capita in 2019. This was the third highest in the region and was 22% above the Metro Vancouver average.

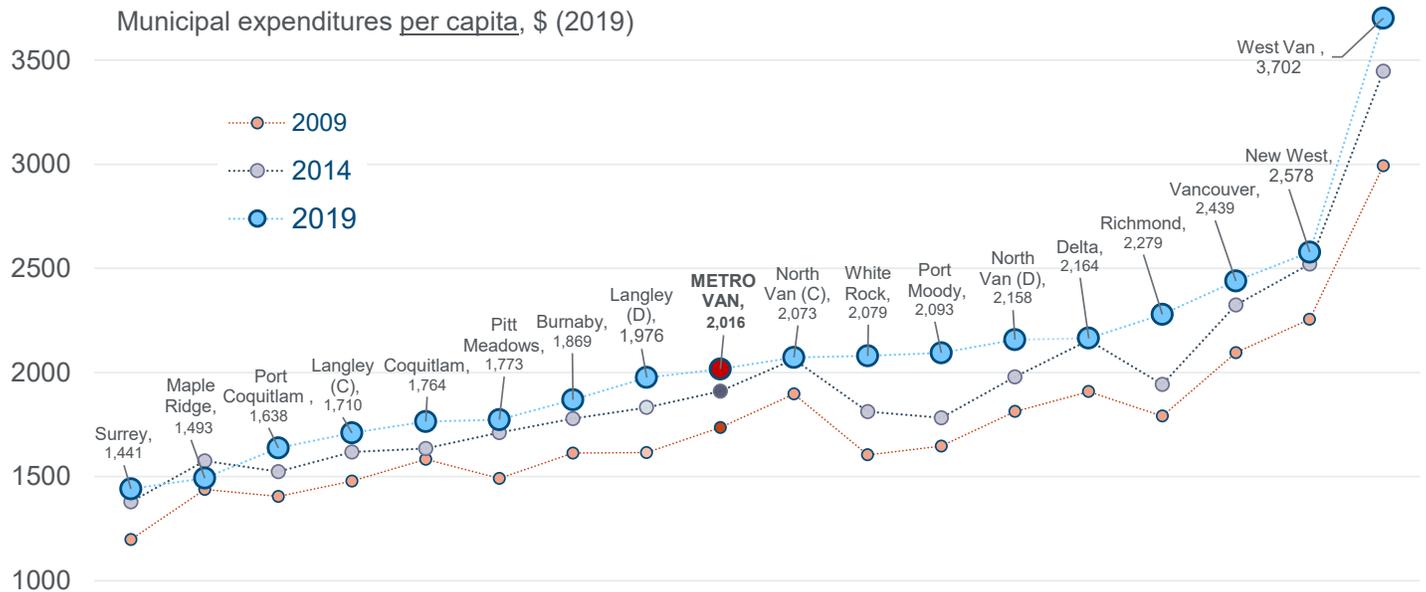
Spending in the region continues to outpace population and inflation

Growth rates in real per capita expenditures are shown in [Figure 3](#), with municipalities ranked by spending growth over the entire 2009-19 period. The rate of real spending increases in each five-year sub-period, 2009-14 and 2014-19, are also shown. The changes in spending growth between the two sub-periods correspond to the fourth column of [Table 1](#).

Maple Ridge, the City of North Vancouver and Delta each managed to significantly reduce spending growth so that real per capita expenditures increased only slightly, and actually declined in Delta. New Westminster, Pitt Meadows and Surrey recorded notable reductions in per capita spending growth in the more recent five-year period.

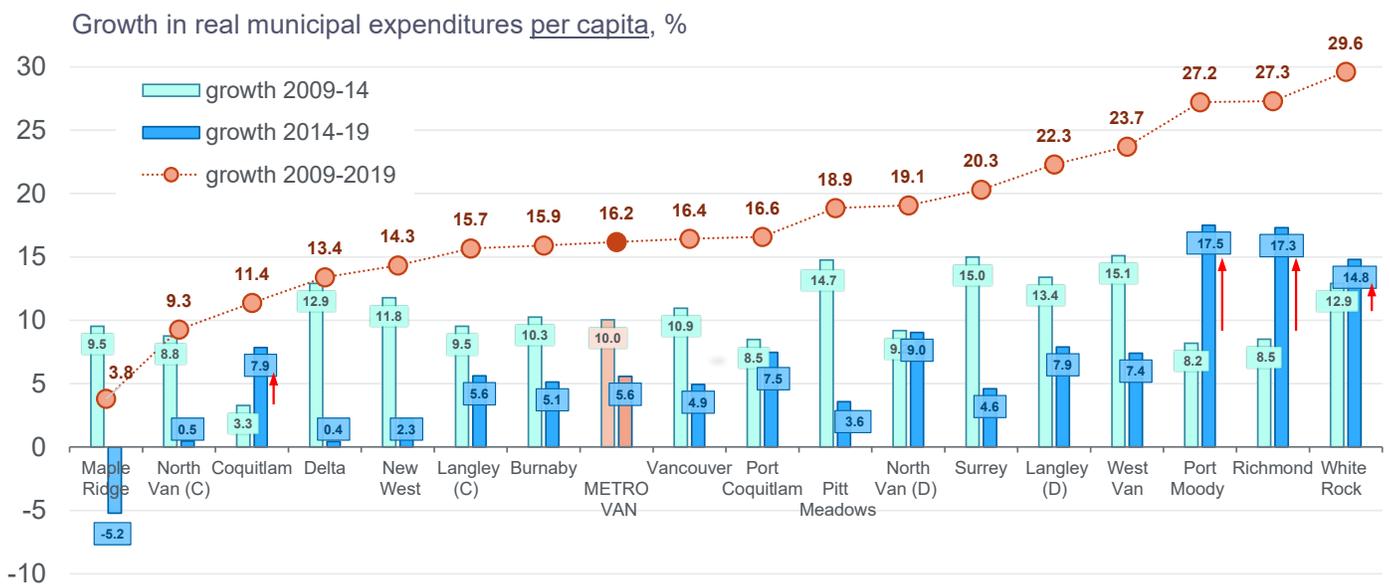
Because of the higher rate of inflation, real per capita spending growth slowed in most municipalities apart from Coquitlam, Port Moody, Richmond and White Rock. Coquitlam went from having one of the smallest spending increases in 2009-14 to having one of the largest increases. The pace at which real per capita expenditure grew more than doubled in Port Moody and Richmond over the two sub-periods. White Rock saw large real spending increases in both periods, resulting in the biggest spending increase over 2009-19. Considering these figures do not include capital outlays, residents should question the pace of spending growth, particularly those living in municipalities with the most prolific spending habits.

FIGURE 2: WEST VANCOUVER, NEW WESTMINSTER AND CITY OF VANCOUVER HAVE THE HIGHEST SPENDING PER CAPITA IN THE REGION



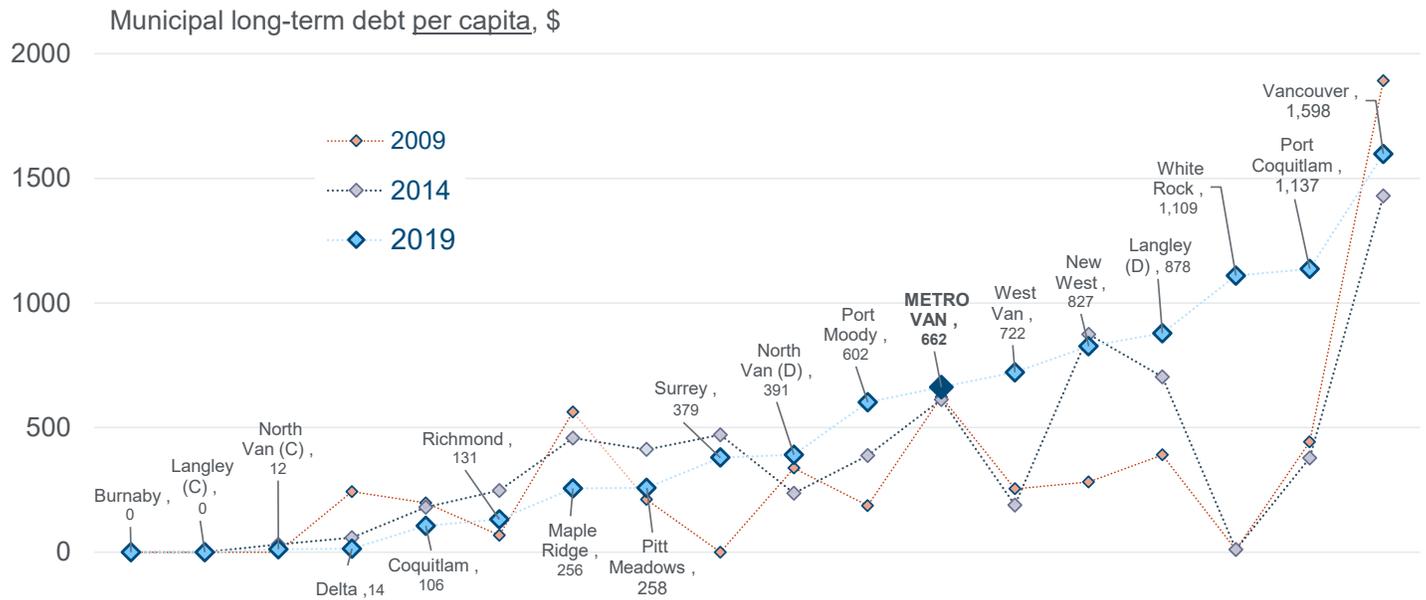
Source: BC Stats and B.C. Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Local Government Statistics.

FIGURE 3: REAL PER CAPITA SPENDING HAS INCREASED RAPIDLY ACROSS METRO VANCOUVER MUNICIPALITIES



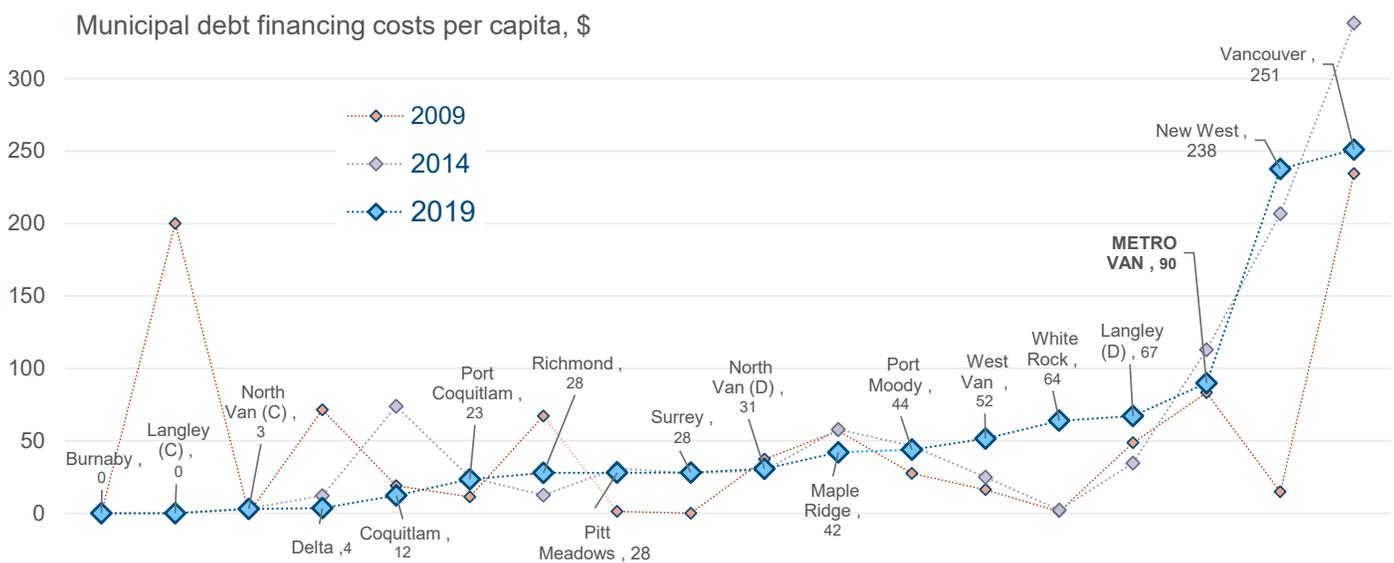
Source: BC Stats and B.C. Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Local Government Statistics.

FIGURE 4: CITY OF VANCOUVER RESIDENTS CARRY THE LARGEST DEBT BURDEN IN THE REGION



Source: BC Stats and B.C. Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Local Government Statistics.

FIGURE 5: CITY OF VANCOUVER RESIDENTS PAY THE HIGHEST DEBT SERVICING COSTS IN THE REGION



Source: BC Stats and B.C. Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Local Government Statistics.

How much debt and what does it cost taxpayers?

Municipal borrowing (debt) is seldom discussed. Most residents probably believe municipalities carry little, if any, debt. But most do borrow to finance large capital investments. As noted above, the spending figures do not include capital projects like enhancements to road networks or the construction of new community centres, ice rinks or swimming pools. The cost of borrowing to finance new infrastructure, however, does impact annual municipal expenditures and so is captured in our data.

Across Metro Vancouver, total municipal long-term debt totalled \$1.76 billion at the end of 2019, up nearly 18% from 2014. In per capita terms, nominal municipal debt levels edged lower from \$624 to \$613 between 2009 and 2014 but then rose appreciably to \$662 in 2019.

Figure 4 ranks municipalities by long-term debt per capita. Several municipalities have no long-term debt, while a few others have modest debt levels. **Residents of the City of Vancouver currently face the highest debt burden at around \$1,600 per resident in 2019.** They are followed by those in Port Coquitlam and White Rock. Several municipalities (West Vancouver, White Rock, and Port Coquitlam) stand out for sharp increases in per capita debt levels between 2014 and 2019.

The per resident cost of servicing municipal debt is displayed in **Figure 5**. Generally, the debt servicing cost rankings align with per capita debt loads. One notable exception is New Westminister, which had the second highest per capita debt financing costs but the fifth

highest debt loads. The chart shows that **City of Vancouver residents bear the highest debt servicing costs in the region at \$251 per resident per annum in 2019.**

HOW DO METRO VANCOUVER MUNICIPALITIES COMPARE WITH OTHER B.C. MUNICIPALITIES?

This section broadens the review to consider how Metro Vancouver’s 21 municipalities compare to the 60 largest municipalities in the province or those with populations over 10,000. The same MFI ranking methodology is used as above. **Table 2** shows the fiscal indicators for the 60 municipalities across B.C. and their MFI scores. As before, lower spending levels, more modest spending growth, lower debt levels, and lower debt-servicing costs are coloured in light yellow, and are coloured darker as per capita spending, spending growth rates, and debt burdens rise.

The MFI score and colour gradation again provide a visual summary of a municipality’s relative fiscal restraint or lack thereof. The MFI score (and colour gradients) is not a measure of fiscal sustainability or credit worthiness, nor does it reflect levels of service provision and capital spending. Also note that the comparative ranking of B.C.’s 60 largest municipalities does not include 102 towns and villages with populations below 10,000.

A few observations emerge from the provincial MFI rankings:

- At the top of the B.C. rankings are Central Saanich, Comox, Sooke, Maple Ridge and Abbotsford. Relative to their peers, these municipalities show the most fiscal restraint.

- At the bottom of the B.C. rankings are the City of Vancouver, Fort St John, White Rock, West Vancouver and Dawson Creek. Relative to their peers, these municipalities show the least fiscal restraint in the province.
- Across the 60 municipalities, real per capita spending grew by 9.8% between 2009 and 2014 essentially matching the growth in Metro Vancouver. There was some slowing in real per capita spending growth over 2014-19 compared to 2009-14. However, as noted earlier, the slowdown in real growth rates do not reflect that municipalities curbed nominal spending growth, but rather that inflation was higher during 2014-19.
- There is no clear pattern between municipal population size and Index rankings. Among the 20 top ranked municipalities (with comparatively low MFI values), ten have populations larger than the median population of all 60 municipalities while ten have smaller populations.
- Among the 20 bottom ranked municipalities, eight have above-median populations and 12 have populations lower than the median
- Seven of the 20 top-ranked municipalities, showing the most fiscal restraint, are in Metro Vancouver.
- Among the 20 lowest-ranked municipalities showing the least fiscal restraint, six are in Metro Vancouver. **The City of Vancouver shows the least fiscal restraint of any municipality in the province.**

Households and businesses throughout much of B.C. have seen property taxes ratchet up to finance outsized municipal spending growth. The indicators in the MFI do not necessarily reflect the scope, quality or service levels across municipalities. But when framed within the broader context of strong real per capita municipal spending growth generally, the MFI rankings can help residents evaluate if they have experienced service improvements that match the scale of recorded municipal spending increases, an especially pertinent question for residents and businesses located in municipalities showing comparatively little fiscal restraint.

Finally, the spending figures and summary MFI rankings of individual municipalities reported here should be interpreted cautiously. Municipalities sometimes face unique circumstances. In some cases, differences negate meaningful comparisons. Fort St John and Dawson Creek, for example, provide services for large non-resident workforces and an expanding oil and gas industry. Whistler offers an even starker example, as it provides municipal services and requisite infrastructure for a substantial number of tourists and non-resident property owners which may inflate the spending per resident and debt per resident metrics. This paper presents only arithmetic calculations and does not account for a municipality's unique structure or circumstances.

CO-AUTHORED BY

Ken Peacock
Senior Vice President
and Chief Economist

David Williams, DPhil
Vice President of Policy

TABLE 2: COMPARING METRO VANCOUVER MUNICIPALITIES WITH OTHER LARGE B.C. MUNICIPALITIES

2019 pop.	Municipality	Per capita spending 2019, \$	Real spending per capita growth 2009-2014, %	Real spending per capita growth 2014-2019, %	Change in spending growth rate (ppts)	Long-term debt per capita 2019, \$	Debt financing costs per capita 2019, \$	Municipal Fiscal INDEX	Scale
	* Metro Van	a snapshot of relative spending levels per resident	how quickly spending grew during the first 5-year period	how quickly spending grew during the second 5-year period	shift to more fiscal restraint/expansion between two periods	higher debt load adds to operating costs and revenue/tax pressure	a snapshot of relative financing costs per resident	summary of the relative rankings of the six fiscal indicators	
	60 municipality average	2,096	9.8	1.7	-8.1	655	83	5.5	
18,089	Central Saanich	1,406	4.6	-20.4	-25.0	486	49	2.7	1
14,981	Comox	1,419	8.2	0.4	-7.8	10	2	2.8	
14,857	Sooke	977	-1.7	-9.1	-7.4	336	58	2.8	
91,222	Maple Ridge*	1,493	9.5	-5.2	-14.8	256	42	3.2	
158,457	Abbotsford	1,541	16.0	-14.8	-30.8	327	42	3.3	
11,876	North Saanich	1,501	6.0	-6.3	-12.3	519	42	3.5	
94,534	Chilliwack	1,528	12.6	2.2	-10.4	11	12	3.8	
57,325	North Van - C*	2,073	8.8	0.5	-8.3	12	3	4.0	
18,867	Colwood	1,199	6.1	-2.7	-8.7	566	63	4.0	2
11,383	Coldstream	908	9.9	1.9	-8.0	323	31	4.2	
18,751	Port Alberni	1,938	11.2	-10.3	-21.5	762	32	4.2	
99,856	Nanaimo	1,647	0.6	-3.3	-3.9	417	53	4.2	
18,716	Esquimalt	1,911	14.8	-7.3	-22.1	294	62	4.2	
109,490	Delta*	2,164	12.9	0.4	-12.5	14	4	4.3	
43,202	Mission	1,637	9.1	3.4	-5.7	91	13	4.3	
149,894	Coquitlam*	1,764	3.3	7.9	4.6	106	12	4.5	
253,007	Burnaby*	1,869	10.3	5.1	-5.1	0	0	4.7	
27,718	Langley - C*	1,710	9.5	5.6	-3.9	0	0	4.7	
19,728	Pitt Meadows*	1,773	14.7	3.6	-11.2	258	28	4.7	
122,173	Saanich	1,660	17.9	1.7	-16.2	364	36	4.7	
584,526	Surrey*	1,441	15.0	4.6	-10.4	379	28	4.8	
32,120	North Cowichan	1,556	12.0	-2.5	-14.5	592	61	4.8	
43,315	Vernon	1,878	16.5	0.1	-16.4	251	88	4.8	
35,849	Campbell River	1,826	4.2	6.2	2.0	350	29	5.0	
12,994	Terrace	2,102	23.6	-4.4	-28.0	420	64	5.0	
11,567	View Royal	1,376	-9.0	8.5	17.5	502	49	5.2	
94,005	Victoria	2,218	6.2	-4.0	-10.2	698	62	5.2	
18,568	Oak Bay	2,175	16.2	5.8	-10.4	73	20	5.5	
28,216	Courtenay	1,852	17.7	3.9	-13.9	356	54	5.5	
142,146	Kelowna	2,094	-2.8	-6.6	-3.8	743	131	5.5	
63,305	Port Coquitlam*	1,638	8.5	7.5	-1.0	1,137	23	5.8	
35,818	West Kelowna	1,832	20.5	3.1	-17.3	462	70	5.8	
15,143	Lake Country	1,679	-3.2	5.7	8.9	502	94	5.8	
19,115	Salmon Arm	1,645	1.2	-3.1	-4.3	1,381	143	5.8	
11,359	Williams Lake	2,517	7.8	-4.0	-11.8	840	114	6.0	
100,046	Kamloops	2,043	13.3	-3.7	-17.0	903	171	6.0	
13,763	Whistler	7,075	-0.7	-14.5	-13.9	2,906	226	6.0	
212,276	Richmond*	2,279	8.5	17.3	8.7	131	28	6.2	
89,763	North Van - D*	2,158	9.2	9.0	-0.1	391	31	6.2	
10,809	Sechelt	1,735	7.4	5.4	-2.0	495	113	6.2	
13,420	Parksville	1,796	9.5	20.0	10.5	458	30	6.3	
10,392	Quesnel	2,737	12.3	3.5	-8.8	508	49	6.3	
42,853	Langford	1,550	5.1	25.3	20.1	546	66	6.3	
13,829	Powell River	2,345	4.2	-0.1	-4.4	899	180	6.3	
21,247	Cranbrook	2,116	10.5	-5.3	-15.8	1,587	242	6.3	
12,235	Sidney	1,793	7.8	1.7	-6.1	1,008	251	6.3	
36,425	Penticton	3,021	-2.0	0.1	2.1	851	114	6.7	
11,359	Nelson	3,743	8.6	-3.0	-11.6	1,150	147	6.7	
81,345	Prince George	2,153	5.6	0.4	-5.3	1,068	172	6.7	
35,052	Port Moody	2,093	8.2	17.5	9.2	602	44	6.8	
13,054	Prince Rupert	3,069	23.0	2.3	-20.7	701	88	7.0	
12,354	Summerland	2,593	10.4	0.2	-10.3	1,247	172	7.0	
20,404	Squamish	2,456	21.9	1.4	-20.4	1,170	135	7.2	
79,737	New West*	2,578	11.8	2.3	-9.5	827	238	7.3	
130,824	Langley - D*	1,976	13.4	7.9	-5.5	878	67	7.5	
12,981	Dawson Creek	3,454	-1.2	1.6	2.9	2,171	302	7.5	
43,945	West Van*	3,702	15.1	7.4	-7.7	722	52	7.7	
21,027	White Rock	2,079	12.9	14.8	1.8	1,109	64	8.0	
21,976	Fort St. John	2,814	42.6	10.0	-32.6	1,538	115	8.0	
685,888	Vancouver*	2,439	10.9	4.9	-6.0	1,598	251	8.2	10

Source: B.C. Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Local Government Statistics. Per capita spending growth is based on real dollars deflated using the B.C. CPI.