



CLIENT ALERT

2006 Property Assessment Notices – Should You Appeal?

You may have seen recent *Vancouver Sun* articles detailing substantial increases in property assessments for 2006. While increases in property values are viewed as positive in some respects, assessments are used by the provincial and local governments to calculate your 2006 property taxes.

If you or your company owns or leases land or buildings, you (and/or your landlord) should have received a 2006 Property Assessment Notice.

Is your 2006 assessment higher than last year? Do you believe the increase is justified?

Are you aware of the tax consequences (particularly for commercial and industrial properties) of an incorrect classification of your property and buildings? Are you involved with a non-profit organization that owns or leases land that may have been classified as “business/other”?

If you wish to appeal your 2006 assessment there are strict deadlines to follow

A request for an appeal (also referred to as a review) must be filed before the end of January. In order to request a review by a Property Assessment Review Panel you must file your written request at the assessment office identified on the Assessment Notice. Specific information must be included in the request. Read your Assessment Notice carefully for complete information.

If you have questions concerning your Assessment Notice or wish to appeal your 2006 assessment, the lawyers at Owen Bird Law Corporation would be pleased to assist.

We have acted in several diverse cases involving a range of property and buildings. We have addressed valuation, occupation and classification issues for commercial and industrial properties as well as valuation and classification issues for property leased by registered non-profit organizations.

You may be entitled to a reduction in the assessed value of your property or a change in classification that could result in decreased property taxes.

Please contact one of the following lawyers at Owen Bird Law Corporation for further information:

William E. Ireland, Q.C.
Direct telephone: (604) 691-7529
E-mail: wireland@owenbird.com

Harley J. Harris
Direct telephone: (604) 691-7520
E-mail: hharris@owenbird.com

OWEN • BIRD
LAW CORPORATION

29th Floor
Three Bentall Centre
595 Burrard Street
PO Box 49130
Vancouver, BC V7X 1J5 Canada

Telephone (604) 688-0401
Facsimile (604) 688-2827
Website www.owenbird.com