

# FACT CHECK

## The Hospital Tax & Regional Transportation in Metro Vancouver

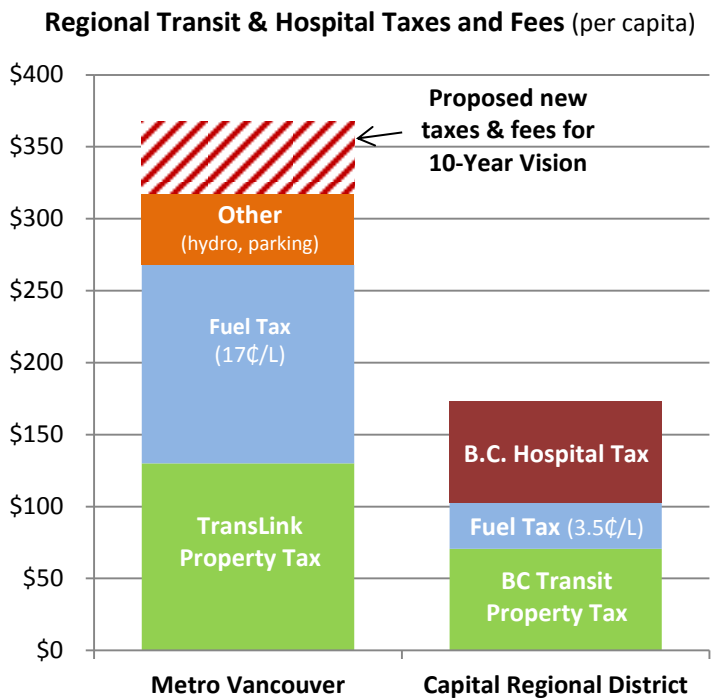
*Metro Vancouver pays almost twice as much per capita in regional taxes and fees for transit compared to any other region in BC, even when hospital tax is included.*

### The Claim:

*Metro Vancouver taxpayers do not pay the Hospital Tax, while everyone else in the province does. This means there is tax room available for the region to pay for its 10-Year Transit and Transportation Plan.*

### The Facts:

- The province collects \$116 million (or 0.9%) of its \$12.5 billion health care budget through a levy on the property tax bill of homeowners and businesses in BC.
- In 1998, the Metro Vancouver portion of the hospital tax (equivalent to about \$150 million annually, today) was re-allocated to support regional transit and transportation costs.
- Property taxes in Metro Vancouver were not reduced as a result of this decision.
- Metro Vancouver residents contribute on average over \$300 each annually in taxes and fees dedicated to transit, which is three times more than the Capital Regional District, and almost eight times more than Kelowna, or Kamloops or any other Regional District in BC.
- Even including the hospital tax, Metro Vancouver residents pays almost twice as much each in regional taxes and fees for transit, as Capital Regional District residents pay towards transit and hospital taxes.
- 36% of the average property tax bill in Metro Vancouver goes to the Province of B.C. (for education), the highest provincial share of all major cities in the country.
- **The proposed Funding Strategy for the 10-Year Vision will add another \$50+ per person in this region – as much as CRD residents pay in Hospital Taxes.**



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