

## **DISTRICT OF MACKENZIE**

### **Taxi Saver Program Policy 1.26**

Established by Council on March 27, 2023 - Resolution No. 32791

Amended by Council on June 28, 2023 - Resolution No. 32983

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#### **1.0 Purpose:**

1. To establish a consistent and fair basis for setting taxi service requirements, program eligibility, program registration, and conditions of use to allow people with disabilities a greater convenience for spontaneous travel throughout Mackenzie.

#### **2.0 Definitions:**

1. For this policy the following definitions shall apply:

Adult – for purposes of the taxi saver program, aged 18 - 54 years.

Handy Pass – The Handy Pass is a laminated card issued by the District of Mackenzie and signed by the holder. It is a non-transferable permit to individuals or other transit systems. It entitles the holder to purchase Taxi Saver coupons for subsidized taxi service. The Handy Pass must be presented to the cab driver at the time of fare payment.

Taxi Saver Coupons Packages – A package of \$60 worth of Taxi Saver Coupons.

#### **3.0 Program Defined**

1. The Taxi Saver program provides a 50% subsidy towards the cost of taxi rides. Eligible individuals purchase booklets of \$60 worth of Taxi Saver coupons for \$30. The purchaser uses the coupons to pay the dollar meter rate of taxi fare. For example, if a taxi fare is \$5.80, the passenger pays \$5.00 in coupons and 80 cents in change. Taxi Saver Coupons cannot be used for tips.
2. Taxi Saver Coupons may only be used for travel within the District of Mackenzie.
3. HandyPass Holders may purchase up to 5 booklets per year. Coupons will expire at 11:59 pm on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.
4. Taxi Saver coupons may be purchased during regular business hours at the Municipal Office.

#### **4.0 HandyPass Holder Eligibility Requirements**

1. Residents are eligible for a HandyPass if they meet all the following criteria:
  - a. Person residing in Mackenzie, BC;
  - b. Person between the age of 18 and 54;
  - c. Person with a physical or mental disability; and
  - d. Based on self-declared yearly income, a person who meets the current year's Statistics Canada Low Income Cut-Off for communities with a population of less than 30,000.
2. The Director of Corporate Services may, at their discretion, waive HandyPass Holder Eligibility Requirements in extenuating circumstances.
3. Taxi Saver coupons will be sold only to HandyPass holders 18 years of age or older.
4. To apply for this program, applicants must complete an application form, including documentation confirming eligibility, that will be available on the District of Mackenzie website or can be picked up from the District of Mackenzie Municipal Office.
5. The District of Mackenzie may cancel or confiscate the HandyPass at any time for contravention of these conditions.

#### **5.0 Exceptions**

1. The non-profit organizations that have been given clearance to utilize the program for their patrons are permitted to purchase packages of Taxi Saver coupons for their patrons that already meet the eligibility criteria set out in the program.
2. Each eligible organization will be given twenty premade HandyPasses, numbered 1-20. Instead of the patron's name attached to the HandyPass, the organization's name and signature from organization program lead will be presented on the pass. It will be up to the organization to manage their handy passes to ensure their passes are returned and are available when needed.

#### **6.0 Taxi Business Requirements**

1. These requirements apply to drivers of passenger directed vehicles (PDV) such as taxis. To be eligible to drive a passenger directed vehicle under the new BC regulations and the Taxi Saver Program a driver must follow requirements listed under the BC regulations. [Passenger Directed Vehicle Driver Requirements in B.C. - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](http://www.gov.bc.ca/passenger-directed-vehicle-driver-requirements).

## **7.0 Reimbursement to Taxi Company**

1. The taxi company receiving Taxi Saver Coupons will be required to complete a Taxi Saver Report/Invoice to be reimbursed. The Taxi Saver Report/Invoice includes, date of trip, passenger name and HandyPass number, meter charge, and the Taxi Saver Coupon presented to the driver.
2. To receive reimbursement the District of Mackenzie may request proof of documentation listed in the Taxi Business Requirements section of this policy.