



2014/15 CHANGES TO PROPERTY TAX BILLS AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Town Council has changed the taxation approach for recovering the costs associated with two specific services: hydrant rental, and the curbside collection of solid waste, recyclables and organics.

Hydrant Rental Expense

The 2014/15 annual expense for this service totals \$179,000. This amount, which is set by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, covers the Town cost of renting the fire hydrants from the Water Utility. On the Utility side this rental fee, in addition to the revenue from water bills, pays for the annual operating expenses of the Water Utility.

This change removes the operating cost from the general residential and commercial tax rates and institutes a new specific area rate. The area rate has been applied to the assessed value of all properties within the Town, with the exception of those exempted by Provincial Statute. This change in taxation is permitted by the Nova Scotia *Municipal Government Act* and is used to apply a tax to previously exempt properties within a municipal unit.

Curbside Collection of Solid Waste, Recyclables and Organics

The 2014/15 annual expense of this service is estimated to be \$257,000. The service only applies to residential properties that contain up to four dwelling units.

This change removes the curbside cost from the residential tax rate. The cost is now recovered through the introduction of a non-assessment based tax. An equal/uniform rate has been created by dividing the estimated cost of this specific service by the total number of dwelling units to produce a cost per dwelling unit charge. All residential properties with a dwelling unit(s) now share the cost of this service equally.

Exemptions and Tax Relief

Partial Exemption – Curbside Collection Charge

The Curbside uniform charge is a form of user based taxation. If you own a residential property, which is charged this tax and if your property is not occupied for nine months of the year or more, you can apply for a partial exemption. To determine if you qualify for this tax credit, and to obtain an application form, please contact the Town Office at (902) 485-4372 or visit <http://www.townofpictou.ca/town-hall/policies-by-law-applications/>

Partial Exemption – Low Income

Property owners with family incomes below \$22,500 may apply for partial tax relief of \$350 provided the owner lives at the property for which they are applying for an exemption. To determine if you qualify for a low income tax exemption, and to obtain an application form, please contact the Town Office at (902) 485-4372 or visit <http://www.townofpictou.ca/town-hall/policies-by-law-applications/>

Additional Information on Town Budgets

Additional Information on the above changes and information on Town finance can be obtained by contacting the Town Office (902) 485-4372 or by visiting www.townofpictou.ca