

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF LUNENBURG
POLICY ON TAX RELIEF PROVISIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002/2003

1. This policy is entitled "Policy on Tax Relief Provisions for Fiscal Year 2002/2003".
2. This policy is developed in accordance with Section 69 of the *Municipal Government Act* and conforms to the intent of the motion passed at the Special Municipal Council Meeting held on July 9, 2002. That motion reads as follows:

"Moved by Councillor McIntosh, seconded by Councillor Zwicker that staff establish tax relief provisions giving effect to the intent that tax relief be provided to taxes owing by assessed owners whose land only residential assessment has increased year over year by at least 25% in either of the most recent two tax years, and that this relief be limited to assessed owners whose household income does not exceed \$30,000 per year, and that this tax relief is for a one year period only."
3. Tax relief will only apply to property assessed as residential land and for which both of the following criteria are met:
 - a) The land only portion of the residential assessment has increased year over year by at least 25% in either of the most recent two tax years, being land only residential assessment for 2001/2002 relative to similar assessment for 2000/2001; or, land only residential assessment for 2002/2003 relative to similar assessment for the land only portion of residential assessment for 2001/2002; and,
 - b) Relief is limited to assessed owners of qualified residential properties who have a household income that does not exceed \$30,000 per year. Household income shall be as defined in Section 69(1) of the *Municipal Government Act*. Therefore, household income shall mean "a person's total income from all sources for the calendar year preceding the fiscal year of the municipality and includes the income of all other members of the same family residing in the same household, but does not include an allowance paid pursuant to the *War Veterans Allowance Act* (Canada) or pension paid pursuant to the *Pension Act* (Canada)".
4. This policy is not limited to persons who are residents of the Municipality nor is it limited to properties of a rate payer occupied as the ratepayer's principal residence, but applies to all qualifying property in the Municipality whose assessed owner(s) meet all of the necessary criteria.
5. Where a qualifying property is assessed to more than one person, any of them who is entitled to apply for an exemption will receive only the portion of the exemption equal to that person's share of the total assessment for the property. Where the proportions of the different interests cannot be determined with certainty, then the decision will be made by the Municipal Treasurer, whose determination shall be final.

6. Any person seeking an exemption must apply and any person applying for an exemption pursuant to this policy shall make an affidavit or provide other proof confirming the person's income and/or total household income in an approved form as established by the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.
7. No applications for tax relief under this policy will be accepted after 4:30 p.m. local time on Friday, November 15, 2002. It is to be noted that this policy is for a one year period only and, therefore, is only in effect until March 31, 2003.
8. For qualifying properties, the tax relief shall be provided on the basis of the land only residential assessment which has increased year over year by at least 25% in either of the two qualifying tax years. The tax relief shall be applied at the rate of the residential tax rate approved for Fiscal 2002/2003 which is \$.82 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate for relief shall only apply to that portion of the land only residential assessment that has increased year over year commencing at 25%. Where the land only residential assessment has increased by at least 25% in both of the two most recent tax years, the tax year with the greatest dollar increase in land only residential assessment from 25% and up shall be chosen, and the \$.82 per \$100 residential tax rate shall be applied to that land only residential assessment increase for the purposes of calculating tax relief. For further clarification, only one year's specified increase in land only residential assessment will be considered for tax relief.
9. This policy shall come into effect upon the subsequent approval of this policy by the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations subsequent to adoption thereof by Municipal Council.
10. This policy is not to be construed as representing any further commitment by the Council of the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg to provide any property tax relief in future years due to any substantial residential land assessment increases based on the current market value assessment system administered by the Province of Nova Scotia which may occur.