



POLICY

Low Income Property Tax Exemption

Policy Number 140-003	Supersedes Policy No. Old Policy dating prior to 1991
Effective Date 1999-04-19 2012-05-16	Approval By Council Resolution No. 11-04-99 04-05-11

1.0 Purpose

To provide a low income tax exemption for tax payers as provided in the Municipal Government Act.

2.0 Scope

This Policy is applicable to those tax payers within the Town of Wolfville who meet the requirements outlined in section 5.0.

3.0 References

- 3.1 War Veterans Allowance Act (Canada)
- 3.2 Nova Scotia Municipal Government Act

4.0 Definitions

- 4.1 **Income** is defined as a person's total income from all sources except allowances paid pursuant to the War Veterans Allowance Act (Canada) or a pension paid pursuant to the Pension Act (Canada) for the calendar year preceding the fiscal year of the Town and includes the income of all other members of the same family residing in the same household.
- 4.2 **Town** means the Town of Wolfville.

5.0 Policy

- 5.1 In the fiscal year 2011-12, an exemption of \$250.00 will be granted to a tax payer for a property subject to the following conditions:
 - Income as defined in this policy does not exceed \$18,500.00
 - The tax payer makes application to the Town and provides an affidavit of income.
 - The tax payer owns and occupies (Wolfville resident) the property as their principal residence.
- 5.2 Where the property is jointly owned, only one tax exemption shall be allowed and the sharing in such shall be on the basis of ownership in such property.



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- 5.3 A minimum of one advertisement shall be placed in a newspaper circulating within the Town during the month of April or May in any given year to advise residents that applications with affidavits will be accepted for a low income exemption according to this policy, and that applications must be submitted no later than July 31st.
- 5.4 It is Council's intent to make additional adjustments to the policy over the next two budget years (2012-13, 2013-14) with a goal of bringing the level of tax relief within the range provided in fiscal 2000-01. Any adjustments will be contingent upon annual budget deliberations. The planned changes could be phased in as follows:
- Fiscal 2012-13 - exemption increased to \$275.00
 - income threshold increased to \$21,000.
- Fiscal 2013-14 - exemption increased to \$300.00
 - income threshold increased to \$23,500.

For fiscal 2014-15 and beyond, the Director of Financial Services will annually bring a Request for Decision to Council detailing the adjustment needed to the exemption amount to achieve relative parity in the tax relief offered. During the same years, the income threshold will be indexed with the maximum income provided a retired couple by OAS and GIS provided by the federal government. This provides an objective, third party reference to help ensure the income threshold does not become outdated.

CAO

March 10, 2016

Date