

Results of the Municipal Property Taxation Study are Released

May 22, 2014: The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM), Association of Municipal Administrators, Nova Scotia (AMANS) and Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) have released the findings of an independent study which examines the property tax system in Nova Scotia.

“We commissioned this study to better understand how we can improve the municipal property tax system in Nova Scotia and I am proud to say this study has accomplished that,” said David Corkum, President of the UNSM.

The study’s purpose was to evaluate the effectiveness of the current property tax system in Nova Scotia and suggest improvements. The study was conducted by two experts in the field of property taxation – Dr. Enid Slack and Harry Kitchen.

Kitchen and Slack examined many areas of the municipal tax system, which was informed in part by consultations with stakeholder groups, including: municipalities, provincial departments, taxpayer and ratepayer associations, business, and research and policy groups. The study resulted in seven recommendations including opportunities within the assessment system and changes to the way in which property tax is collected.

“With the study complete, we can now sit down with the provincial government and get to work on the recommendations,” said Corkum.

The respective Board of Directors for the UNSM, AMANS and PVSC have accepted the proposal to move forward with the recommendations. The three organizations will be working together over the coming months to determine their next steps.

“Building stronger municipalities requires us to work together,” said Municipal Affairs Minister Mark Furey. “We just received the report and need to review it. We are committed to listening to what municipalities and stakeholders have to say. I look forward to discussing the report and its recommendations with them.”

The full report is available on the UNSM, AMANS and PVSC websites.

Media Contact
Shannon Peterson
veinotsj@gov.ns.ca
902-720-7870