

# Policy & Strategy Committee Meeting AGENDA

Tuesday, February 15, 2022– 9:00 a.m.

Via Audio & Video Teleconference

1. Call to Order
2. Nomination & Election – Vice-Chair  
[MODL Policy 002 – Committees, Section 3.5]
3. Announcements, Acknowledgements, Recognition
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes of October 19, 2021 (as circulated)
6. Business Arising from Minutes - Nil
7. Presentations
- 7.1 Federal Ghost Gear Fund – Michael Ernst & Titan Maritime .....9:15 a.m. 1-2
8. Referral from Council - Nil
9. Staff Reports
- 9.1 Economic Development
- 9.1.1 2022 Internet Update ..... 3-12
- 9.2 Finance Department
- 9.2.1 Proposed Revisions to MODL Policy 049 Property Tax Rebate ..... 13-24
- 9.3 Administration Department
- 9.3.1 2022/23 Strategic Priorities ..... 25-28
10. Mayor’s/Deputy Mayor’s/Councillors’ Matters - Nil
11. Added Items
12. In Camera - Nil
13. Next Meeting – March 15, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.
14. Adjournment

## To Mayor Bolivar Getson and Council, Municipality of Lunenburg

The aim of our presentation at your Council meeting is to discuss the Federal Ghost Gear Fund, formally known as the **Sustainable Fisheries Solutions and Retrieval Support Contribution Programme. (SFSRSCP)**

Since the Fund's inception in 2019, \$16.7 million in funding has been distributed to support 49 projects on Atlantic/Pacific Coasts, and Internationally.

In September 2021 our Mahone Bay company, Titan Maritime, was granted monies by the Federal government to remove abandoned Ghost Gear. Our trained crew acted on this opportunity at short notice, as they had already identified potential sites.

Under SFSRSCP guidelines, removal of Ghost Gear finished on November 30, 2021 and all funding terminates on March 31, 2022.

Our presentation has two objectives. First is to explain the techniques for locating and removing Ghost Gear, and discuss its negative impact on the marine environment.

The second objective has two parts.

Initially we request that Council write a letter to the Hon. Joyce Murray, Federal Fisheries Minister, supporting the continuance of this initial two year fund.

Ideally though, a longer term would allow:

- an opportunity to locate and collect a significant amount of the Ghost Gear
- the proper training of staff
- a return on equipment investment for Ghost Gear collection
- the founding of strong research and education programmes
- the establishing of a recycling program

Secondly, we ask Council to encourage Lunenburg residents to pick up and recycle litter that they find when visiting coastal areas. Removal of shore line litter can contribute significantly to protecting marine life, and keeping our oceans clean.

Abandoned, Lost, and Discarded Fishing Gear not only affects the health of our tidal waters, but can also have an impact on the livelihood of many residents who rely on the fishing industry in our coastal communities.

It is common knowledge that Municipal Government is the level most responsive to its residents. Thank you for the opportunity to make this presentation.

*Titan Maritime*

## For more information please visit-

Govt. of Canada 'Ghost Gear Fund' site explains the Ghost Gear Fund in detail and identifies projects funded in Canada and abroad.

<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/management-gestion/ghostgear-equipementfantome/program-programme/projects-projets-eng.html>

Ghost Gear Recycling programme, Ocean Legacy Foundation  
Canada's First 'Marine Debris Solutions Centre™'!

<https://oceanlegacy.ca/marine-debris-solutions-centre/>

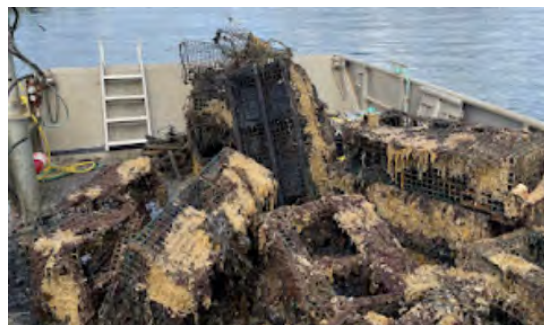
[www.facebook.com/TitanMaritime/](https://www.facebook.com/TitanMaritime/) for more photos and videos of Ghost Gear work carried out by Titan Maritime.

## Ghost Gear Removal carried out by Titan Maritime

Abandoned aquaculture site gear  
retrieved at North West Cove,  
St.Margarets Bay, 55,000lb of nets and  
traps recovered



200 lobster traps recovered in the  
Tusket Islands area.



Approximately 15,000 lbs of  
Polypropylene lines and nets removed  
from derelict trawlers in Bridgewater and  
recycled.



## Internet Update



February 2022

1

## MODL Internet Financial Review

In 2016 it was estimated that 65% of the District had federally identified suitable Internet service.

In 2018/19 council adopted an Internet Connectivity Strategy that outlined \$500,000 a year for 5 years or \$2,500,000 for Internet improvements.



2

## Internet Project Reviews

Projects	Provider	Homes Covered	Service Type	MODL Cost
Provincial Grant – Sweetland	NCS	150	Fixed Wireless	\$45,000
CTI – Parts of Bakers Settlement, Hemford and Hemford Forest	Eastlink	260	Hybrid Fibre	\$233,460
CTI – District Wide Fixed Wireless	TNC	270	Fixed Wireless	\$193,857
MODL – RFP Tancook Islands and Whynotts Settlement	TNC	100	Fixed Wireless	\$80,417
DNS Phase 1 – New Germany	Bell	1,000	Fibre Op	\$0.00
Cherry Hill Health Care Project	Eastlink	5	Hybrid Fibre	\$1,750
DNS Phase 2 – General District	Bell	5,650	Fibre Op	\$1,925,250
DNS Phase 3 – Additional General District	Bell	549	Fibre Op	\$176,300
<b>Total</b>		<b>7,984</b>		<b>\$2,656,034</b>

Note: The Sweetland project happened before the connectivity strategy



3

## NCS - Sweetland

The province released an internet grant and the District partnered with NCS Networks to install two internet towers. One in Sweetland and one in Cookville. This provided service to over 150 homes. The Sweetland tower was later sold to NCS Networks.



4

## Eastlink CTI project

The District worked with Eastlink to provide Hybrid Fibre to 260 resident points under the Federal Connect to Innovate funding. All work has been completed.



5

## TNC CTI Project

The District worked with TNC Wireless to provide a Fixed Wireless service. The project includes the installation of nine new Fixed Wireless towers throughout the District and has roughly 260 connections to date.



6

## MODL Internet RFP

The District submitted a Request for Proposal to see two new Fixed Wireless towers installed on Tancook Island and Whynotts Settlement. TNC Wireless was awarded the contract and installed the two new towers with roughly 100 connections.



7

## DNS Phase 1

The District identified a large project area in New Germany and worked with Bell to make a submission under the Develop NS (DNS) Phase 1 submissions. The project provides coverage to over 1,000 homes with Bell Fibre. All Phase 1 work has been completed.



8

## Eastlink Cherry Hill Expansion

There was a small area in Cherry Hill that was identified and needed internet to provide health care to the area. The District partnered with Eastlink and the health care provider to offer Fibre-based Internet to 5 new connections. All work has been completed.



9

## Bell DNS Phase 2

	Bell DNS RFP Review	Total cost	MODL	Total Homes
Project #2	Mahone Bay North	\$2,797,836	\$ 380,818.80	1080
Project #3	Lunenburg	\$858,508	\$ 117,419.13	333
Project #4	Lunenburg Northwest V2	\$2,495,804	\$ 287,024.54	814
Project #5	Lunenburg North	\$3,087,581	\$ 484,133.53	1373
Project #6	LaHave	\$1,423,753	\$ 191,467.23	543
Project #7	Bridgewater - North	\$2,797,836	\$ 464,387.37	1317
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$13,461,318</b>	<b>\$ 1,925,250.60</b>	<b>5460</b>

- MODL cost per home pass - \$352.61
- All work is anticipated to be complete by the end of 2022



10

## Bell DNS Phase 3

The District identified additional areas of underserved connection points and made request to Bell to submit to the final phase of the Develop NS Internet fund.

The additional service will see 549 additional connections in the areas of Tancook Islands, Camperdown, Crouses Settlement, Newcombville, Petite Riviere, Masons Beach, Blue Rocks, Indian Point, Martins River, Clearland and Kingsburg.

- MODL cost per home pass - \$321.13
- All work is anticipated to be complete by the end of 2023



11

## DNS Bell Phased Projects

### Project Milestones

- Milestone 1A – Field detailing & collection of data
- Milestone 1B – Detailed Engineering Design (all cable is custom ordered)
- Milestone 2 – Permitting and make ready (NS Dept of Forest, pole replacement, anchors, etc.)
- Milestone 3 – Tree trimming and Fibre construction
- Milestone 4 – Commissioning of fibre network

Note: Water crossing causes the longest delay in time, followed by NS Power work.



12

## District Internet Coverage

In 2016 it was estimated that 65% of the District had suitable Internet service.

The measure set for the definition of suitable internet was:

- Wired service of 50Mbps download or faster
- Wireless service of 25Mbps download or faster

The District had a goal of providing at least 95% of the District with suitable Internet service



13

## District Overview

- Total possible connection points – 15,083
- Total connections identified by the province that do not have an identified solution – 268.
  - Of these, the following 82 are unserviceable:
    - Remote cottages – 55
    - Remote Islands – 26
    - Lighthouse – 1
- Remaining underserved addresses – 186
  - Of these, 39 can be serviced by TNC Wireless or Bell Wireless
- Total remaining underserved resident points – 147
- Percentage of District with suitable Internet after projects completed 99%. (4% above the Municipal goal of 95%)



14

## Remaining Addresses

There are currently 147 District addresses that are considered underserved.

Why?

Most addresses are either situated on side roads off a currently serviced road, or on a currently serviced road but set back too far from the road to make a connection.



15

## Remaining Addresses

Additional work done:

1. Staff reached out to Eastlink to cost out addresses (114) to see if connection was feasible – No interest by Eastlink
2. Staff reached out to Bell to cost out addresses (33) to see if connection was feasible – Avg. cost per home pass was calculated to be \$31,780.15. Only 21 of the 33 addresses could be costed. 21 addresses would cost \$667,383.15

Note: Develop NS has indicated to staff that they are exploring options for the remaining 147 MODL addresses



16

# Options

Option #1 – Provide Bell funding equal to \$667,383.15 to cover 33 additional addresses.

Option #2 – Let Develop NS continue to explore any additional options for the remaining 147 MODL addresses.

Option #3 – Suggest that the remaining 147 MODL addresses seek service through a satellite provider either Xplornet or Starlink.



17

# Recommendation

Staff is recommending that council adopt both options #2 and #3.

Option #2 – Let Develop NS continue to explore any additional options for the remaining 147 MODL addresses.

Option #3 – Suggest that the remaining 147 MODL addresses seek service through a satellite provider either Xplornet or Starlink.



18



19



## Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

### Request for Decision

**Report to:** Policy and Strategy Committee  
**Submitted by:** Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance  
**Date:** February 15, 2022  
**Re:** Proposed Revisions MDL-49 Property Tax Rebate Policy

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#### Recommendation

That the Policy and Strategy Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the proposed amendments to MODL Policy 049 Property Tax Rebate and hereby gives seven (7) days' notice of its intention to approve the proposed amendments to MODL Policy 049 at the February 22, 2022 Council meeting.

#### Executive summary

The Property Tax Rebate Program is one of the ways that Council supports low-income homeowners by granting a property tax rebate based on household income. The current policy allows for a rebate of up to \$500 for those households with incomes of less than \$29 999.

It has been three years since these amounts have been updated. Staff are recommending that the income thresholds and rebates be increased by cumulative CPI since 2019 and annually thereafter. As well, the following policy revisions are also recommended:

- The policy language has been revised to make it more accessible to better meet the needs of the residents by removing program access barriers.
- The rebate schedule and income thresholds have been removed from the policy so they can be updated annually during budget deliberations without updating the policy itself.
- The application form has been removed from the policy to allow staff make changes to the application form as needed to distribute and process the applications more efficiently.
- Proof of household income will now be required to assist staff's review process.

## Discussion

The language and format of the Policy do not meet accessibility requirements and the proposed changes will align with MODL's commitment to accessibility.

The income threshold and rebate amounts will now be annually updated by Nova Scotia CPI to ensure they are current and better reflect the changing economy.

The proof of income requirement follows best practice from other Municipal low-income policies. This enables staff to quickly assess the application without any follow up with applicants who appear to have errors and or omissions on the application form.

Staff reviewed other Municipal Units' policies for comparison purposes. MODL provides a sliding scale rebate that moves with income levels, some other units have one rebate amount with a maximum income threshold:

MODL Proposed	Chester	Region of Queens	Annapolis	Kings
Income <\$10,599 Rebate up to: \$530	Income <\$16,208 Rebate up to: \$771	Maximum rebate of \$250 for applicants with household incomes below \$24,624	Maximum rebate of \$350 for applicants with household incomes below \$27,000	Maximum rebate of \$316 for applicants with household incomes below \$36,000
\$10,600 - \$15,899 Rebate up to: \$424	\$16,208 - \$20,221 Rebate up to: \$462			
\$15,900 - \$21,199 Rebate up to: \$265	\$20,221 - \$27,204 Rebate up to: \$309			
\$21,200 - \$26,499 Rebate up to: \$159				
\$26,500 - \$31,799 Rebate up to: \$106				

## Budget implications

Staff are recommending that the budget be increased from \$88,400 to \$95,000. This should allow for all rebates to be granted based on the suggested revisions to the income thresholds and rebate amounts.

## **Communication Strategy**

The low income rebate policy is mailed to all qualifying applicants from the prior year and any organizations that deal with those who may be low income. This organization list has been recently expanded with information received from the United Way. As well, the updated policy information will be posted on the Municipal webpage, social media accounts, in upcoming newsletters and printed on the back of the interim tax bill.

## **Alternatives**

The Policy could remain unchanged or staff could be directed to make further revisions.

## **Conclusion**

The policy revisions align with Council's Strategic Plan and commitment to accessibility, it meets Council's objective of making life affordable and allows staff to handle the applications more efficiently.

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Department:

Report Prepared By: Elana Wentzell

Date: 2022-02-07

Report Approved By:

Date:

Reviewed By CAO:

Date:

# Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Council Policy

Title: Property Tax Rebate Policy	
Policy No. 049	Legislative Authority: Get Dept to recommend
Effective Date: July 14, 2009	Amended Date: April 14, 2015, Nov. 10, 2015, Jan. 22, 2019, Oct. 22, 2019, Sept. 22, 2020, May 25, 2021

## PURPOSE

- 1 The Council of the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg hereby adopts the following Policy respecting the ~~Property Tax Rebate~~ for The purpose of this policy for providing compassionate property tax relief for low income property tax payers residing in their own principal residences. [amended Nov. 10, 2015]

## TITLE

- 2 This policy is entitled the "Property Tax Rebate Policy" [amended Nov. 10, 2015].

## DEFINITIONS

- 3 (1) **Excluded Income** means a War Veterans Allowance Act income or income from the *Pension Act* (Canada). The Pension Act (Canada) is not the Canada Pension Plan or Old Age Security, but it is a Pension for members of the Armed Forces who have been disabled or their dependents.
- (2) **Income** means a person's total gross income (total income before deductions) from all sources for the calendar year preceding the fiscal year of the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg excluding any allowances paid pursuant to the *War Veterans Allowance Act* (Canada) or Pension paid pursuant to the *Pension Act* (Canada) and includes the income of all assessed owners, their spouse(s), including common law spouses residing at the property and all owners defined in section 3(3) residing at the property. [amended Nov. 10, 2015]
- (3) **Owner** includes:
- (a) the person assessed for the property;
  - (b) a person who holds title including a part owner, joint owner, tenant in common, or joint tenant of the property;
  - (c) a person having the care or control of the property through adverse possession; and
  - (d) a person with a life interest in the property.
- (4) **Principal Residence** includes the ordinary place of residence of an owner who is in a hospital or nursing care facility, unless that person has not slept at the property for a period of two (2) years or more, or ~~unless~~ the property has been rented to paying tenants, in either of which events, the property ~~shall~~ **will** be deemed to cease being the owner's ordinary place of residence.

- (5) Taxes means residential property taxes and any applicable area rates excluding property improvement charges, ~~finances, liens and other charges on the account.~~ [amended Jan. 22, 2019]
- (6) Treasurer includes persons authorized by the Treasurer.

**EXEMPTION**

4 (1) The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg hereby grants on an annual basis a rebate from taxation, operating as a reduction in the taxes otherwise payable to the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg in respect of a property subject to sections 4 and 5. ~~herein.~~ [amended April 14, Nov. 10, 2015 & Jan. 22, 2019]

(2) The rebate ~~shall~~ will only apply to owners who occupy the property as that owner's principal residence. [amended Nov. 10, 2015]

(a) Applications ~~can~~ may be made on behalf of a deceased property owner if the property owner received the property tax rebate in the previous fiscal year. [amended Oct. 22, 2019]

(3) Where a property is assessed to more than one owner other than persons whose income is included in the calculation of income pursuant in relation to this Policy, any who are entitled to a rebate may receive only the portion of the rebate equal to that person's share of the assessment for the property, but where the different interests are not separate, then to that portion determined by the Treasurer, whose determination is final. [amended Nov. 10, 2015]

(4) Notwithstanding ~~Despite~~ any other provision of this Policy,

(a) The maximum rebate amount ~~shall~~ will be scaled based on income and approved as part of annual budget deliberations. ~~on the following table.~~ The rebate and household income threshold will be adjusted annually by NS CPI (All items) beginning in April 2022.

<b>Household Income</b>	<b>Maximum Rebate value</b>	<b>Maximum percentage of bill</b>
<del>under \$9,999</del>	<del>up to \$500</del>	<del>100%</del>
<del>\$10,000 - \$14,999</del>	<del>up to \$400</del>	<del>100%</del>
<del>\$15,000 - \$19,999</del>	<del>up to \$250</del>	<del>100%</del>
<del>\$20,000 - \$24,999</del>	<del>up to \$150</del>	<del>100%</del>
<del>\$25,000 - \$29,999</del>	<del>up to \$100</del>	<del>100%</del>

[amended April 14, Nov. 10, 2015 & Jan. 22, 2019 ]

(b) In any fiscal year ~~in which~~ where the total rebate value from qualified applicants exceeds the budgeted amount for the tax rebate, the rebate amounts ~~shall~~ will be pro-rated to match the budgeted amount. [amended April 14 & Nov. 10, 2015]

(c) Council will set the total rebate budget each year by motion. [amended April 14 & Nov. 10, 2015]

(5) In order to be eligible for a rebate, the property owner ~~shall~~ **will** submit to the Treasurer a Statutory Declaration Certification of household income ~~in the form attached hereto by~~ no later than August 1 of the fiscal year. ~~for which, sought~~ The required Statutory Declaration Certification must be completed and processed each year. ~~contains a statement of income, which must be provided before the application for property tax rebate can be considered.~~ **[amended April 14 & Nov. 10, 2015 & May 25, 2021]**

(a) Late applications will be considered only after the regular review of those applicants that submitted an application on time. Late applications will be subject to annual budget constraints as set out in Section 4(4)(b) **[amended Sept. 22, 2020]**

(6) Documentation for proof of income is required for all persons living in the household. A copy of the previous year's Notice of Assessment from Canada Revenue Agency for each household member is required to be attached to the application. Failure to supply household members' Notices of Assessment shall render the application ineligible. ~~The Treasurer may ask for documentary verification of income from any source or confirmation of income from third parties.~~ The Treasurer ~~may~~ **can** reject an application, ~~which~~ **where** in the Treasurer's opinion, is not adequately verified or substantiated. **[amended April 14, 2015]**

(7) All decisions made by the Treasurer relating to this Policy and its application are final.

#### ENFORCEMENT CHARGES NOT EXEMPTED

5 ~~Notwithstanding any other provision of this Policy, no rebate is conferred from~~ **can be applied to any** obligations to remedy unsightly or dangerous premises or any other infractions against a statute, regulation or by-law, whether Municipal, Provincial, or Federal and any charges imposed upon a property arising from enforcement of such provisions ~~shall~~ **will** not be subject to a tax rebate ~~authorized by~~ **authorized by** pursuant to this Policy. **[amended Nov. 10, 2015]**

Clerk's Annotation for Official Policy Book	
Date of Adoption:	<u>July 14, 2009</u>
Date of Notice to Council Members of Intent to Consider Amendments (7 days' notice)	_____
Date of Passage of Amendments	_____
I certify that this <i>Property Tax Rebate Policy</i> – (049) was adopted and amended by Council as indicated above.	
_____	_____
Municipal Clerk	Date

The following two pages will be severed from the policy.



**The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg  
Certification  
Deadline for Applications – August 1, 20\_\_\_\_\_**

I, \_\_\_\_\_

of (civic address) \_\_\_\_\_

Assessment Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

1. In Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, in the Province of Nova Scotia, do certify that:
2. I live ~~in the property~~ at the above civic address ~~for which the property tax rebate is being applied.~~ or I am making application on behalf of a deceased property owner who received the property tax rebate in the prior fiscal year.
3. ~~The information in the Statement of Income is true and correct.~~
4. The total income from last year of all owners and their spouse (including common law spouse) living at the property excluding *War Veterans Allowance Act* (Canada) or pension paid pursuant to the *Pension Act* (Canada) is less than \$29,999.
5. The following are the owners and their spouses (including common law spouses) living at the property:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

6. The total income from last year of the persons listed in paragraph 4 is included on the Statement of Income
7. I consent to the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg carrying out such inquiries as it deems necessary in order to assess my claim and I agree that the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg has my authorization and consent to obtain information from any third party source whatsoever and I will execute any necessary documentation required in order to disclose information to the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.
8. I understand that Municipal Council will determine the actual amount of the rebate for the year after all the applications have been received and reviewed. **[amended Nov. 10, 2015]**
9. **AND** I make this certification **in good faith** ~~conscientiously~~ believing ~~it the same~~ to be true and knowing that has the same force and effect as if made under my oath and by virtue of the *Canada Evidence Act*.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (property owner/representative)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (property owner/representative)



## Statement of Income

for the calendar year ending December 31, 20 \_\_\_\_.

	Name:	Name:	Total
Employment Income			
Canada Pension Plan Income			
Old Age Security Income			
Guaranteed Income Supplement			
Interest Income (Bank, Bonds, etc)			
Rental Income			
Business Income (specify)			
*Other Pension Income (specify)			
Other Income			
<b>Total Yearly Income</b>			

\* Do not include *War Veterans Allowance Act* income or income from the *Pension Act (Canada)*. The Pension Act (Canada) is not the Canada Pension Plan or Old Age Security, but it is a Pension for members of the Armed Forces who have been disabled or their dependents.

The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg  
Property Tax Rebate Application and Household Income  
Certification



Application Deadline – August 1

I/We \_\_\_\_\_

(names of all property owners and their spouses, including common law spouses living at the property)

Of \_\_\_\_\_

(civic number, street name)

Assessment Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (if available) \_\_\_\_\_

In the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, in the Province of Nova Scotia do certify that:

1. I/We are the property owner(s) and live at the above civic address or I am making the application on behalf of a deceased property owner who received the property tax rebate in the prior fiscal year.

2. The total income of all property owners , those that have an interest in the property and their spouse (including common-law spouse) living at the property excluding War Veterans Allowance Act (Canada) or pension paid pursuant to the Pension Act (Canada) is within the following income brackets:

Please check the box that corresponds to the Total Household Income for last year

- Under \$10,599 – maximum rebate value up to \$530, up to 100% of the bill
- \$10,600 - \$15,899 – maximum rebate value up to \$424, up to 100% of the bill
- \$15,900 - \$21,199 – maximum rebate value up to \$265, up to 100% of the bill
- \$21,200 - \$26,499 – maximum rebate value up to \$159, up to 100% of the bill
- \$26,500 - \$31,799 – maximum rebate value up to \$106, up to 100% of the bill

3. I/We have included documentation for proof of income for all persons living in the household who contribute to household expenses. A copy of the previous year's Notice of Assessment from Canada Revenue Agency for each household member is required to be attached to this

application. Please note, Income Tax Returns/T4 Slips will not be accepted. Failure to supply household members' Notices of Assessment shall render the application ineligible.

5. I understand that where a property is assessed to more than one owner other than persons whose income is included in the calculation of income, any who are entitled to a rebate may receive only the portion of the rebate equal to that person's share of the assessment for the property. If the different interests are not separate, then the portion will be determined by the Treasurer, whose determination is final.

6. I consent to the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg carrying out such inquiries as it deems necessary in order to assess my claim and I agree that the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg has my authorization and consent to obtain information from any third party source whatsoever and I will execute any necessary documentation required in order to disclose information to the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.

7. I understand that Municipal Council will determine the actual amount of the rebate for the year after all the applications have been received and reviewed.

8. I understand that late applications will be considered only after the regular review of those applicants that submitted an application on time. Late applications will be subject to annual budget constraints as determined by Municipal Council.

9. AND I make this certification in good faith believe it to be true and know that has the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act.

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Signature (property owner/representative)

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Date

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Signature (property owner/representative)

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Date

# Property Tax Rebate Schedule

Effective 2022 – 2023 tax year.

This schedule will be adjusted annually by Nova Scotia CPI (all items) and approved by Municipal Council as part of annual budget deliberations.

Household Income	Maximum Rebate Value*
under \$10,599	up to \$530
\$10,600 to \$15,899	up to \$424
\$15,900 to \$21,199	up to \$265
\$21,200 to \$26,499	up to \$159
\$26,500 to \$31,799	up to \$106
* The total rebate will not exceed the total amount of the annual property tax bill	



## **Municipality of the District of Lunenburg**

### **Memorandum**

**To:** Policy & Strategy Committee  
**From:** Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO  
**Date:** February 15, 2022  
**Re:** Strategic Priorities for 2022/23

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#### **Recommended Motion:**

**That the Policy and Strategy Committee recommends that Municipal Council adopt the Strategic Priorities Chart for 2022/23 as presented.**

#### **Background**

Council annually completes a strategic priority setting process, to help guide the budget preparation process and to assist in focusing the work of the Municipality on topics of strategic importance to our communities. The process normally involves input from citizens through the Your Government Your Ideas meetings series, a review of existing projects and plans, identification of emerging issues, followed by Council identifying its top priorities for the coming 12 to 18 month period.

The chart is a living document that provides guidance to staff when preparing budgets and allocating staff time. It is also a central communication tool, forming a part of the budget presentation, acting as the focus of Your Government Your Ideas meetings, and is used regularly in responding to resident and stakeholder questions.

#### **Public Input**

This year was a down year for participation in the Your Government Your Ideas meeting series. The following statistics were compiled from the events and online engagement:

- In person attendance: 3
- Online responses: 12
- Online views: 130 views
- Facebook comments: 14

Key themes identified by residents this year focused on internet, affordable housing and expanding recreation infrastructure.

### **Proposed Revisions to the Strategic Priorities Chart**

The most significant proposed change comes in the focus on economic development opportunities in Osprey Village. The past couple years have been ones of rapid development in the Municipality's flagship commercial district and the changing landscape requires adjustment in Council's priorities for the area. In particular, Council's goal should be focused on identifying partnerships and leveraging new opportunities for Osprey Village to achieve Council's vision. Areas of opportunity include expanded access to health care services, affordable housing, and new amenities to enhance the commercial district.

A greater focus is also required on the Municipality's network of recreation assets. Staff recommend that while the capital budget includes a longer list of projects, Council's strategic focus should be reserved for completing the connection of the multi-use trail between Halifax and MODL and MODL and the Annapolis Valley.

As in previous years, there is a good deal of consistency in terms of major project focus, and the following topics remain as recommended priorities, with some adjustments to the annual outcomes:

- Rural Internet
- Wayfinding
- Five Year Financial Strategy
- LaHave Straight Pipes
- Fire Services Recruitment & Retention
- Accessibility
- Anti-racism
- Water Resiliency and Dry Wells
- Climate Emergency
- Lyme Disease
- MODL 2040

### **Proposed Chart for 2022/23**

See attachment, below



## Municipality of the District of Lunenburg 2022/23 Strategic Priorities

### Council's Vision

The breathtaking, natural beauty of the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg is home to thriving communities with unique cultural identities. Growth centres support our diversified economies, driven by our residents' passion for the place they call home. With our strong economy, we can live, work and raise families here. We are a destination for visitors, attracted to our vibrant parks, beaches, and hiking trails. As leaders in sustainability, we passionately protect our natural environment.

### Council's 2022/23 Priorities

#### Economic Development

Rural Internet Project  
Wayfinding Strategy  
Osprey Village Development

#### Sound Finances

5-Year Financial Strategy:  
Debt-Free 2021

#### Invest in Infrastructure

LaHave River Straight Pipes  
Expand Recreation Infrastructure

#### Improve Community Services

Fire Services Recruitment & Retention  
Accessibility Plan

#### Forward-Looking Administration

Drought Response  
Anti-Racism  
Lyme Disease

#### Sustainable Planning

Climate Emergency Response  
MODL 2040:  
Municipal-Wide Planning

Priority	Outcome 2022/23
Rural Internet Project	In partnership with Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and the Federal and Provincial governments, complete the next phase of fibre-based service expansions, leading towards the overall project goal of over 95% of citizens connected by the end of the strategy.
Wayfinding Strategy (municipal wide signage)	Proceed with installation of signage and wayfinding elements across the Municipality.
Osprey Village Development	Identify partners and opportunities to leverage development to achieve Municipal vision (e.g. health care services; affordable housing, enhanced commercial district). This will include Expanded water and sewer services infrastructure, Active transportation (AT) and public transportation linkages, and exploring a community hub facility.
5-Year Financial Strategy	MODL is now debt free. Continued use of the strategy to coordinate financial decisions and spending priorities. Maintain stable tax rates and budget for increased reserve contributions to support strong financial plan and infrastructure priorities
LaHave River Straight Pipes Replacement Project	Final season for installations; Prepare for closeout of installation projects and Develop water quality testing plan.
Expand Recreational Infrastructure	Continued development of recreation facilities and active transportation (AT) systems including focused on connectivity of trail from Halifax to MODL and from MODL to the Annapolis Valley.
Fire Services Recruitment & Retention	Continue the recruitment strategy's marketing and department supports, and develop leadership training opportunities.
Accessibility Plan	Continue to support the regional accessibility initiative and begin the local planning for improvements to MODL services and facilities.
Water Resiliency (Dry Wells) Strategy	Complete the development of a strategy to increase community resilience to drought conditions. Begin exploring implementation options for strategy tactics
Anti-Racism Initiative	Begin anti-racism and implicit bias training with Council and staff; work cooperatively with other municipalities to identify barriers to full economic and social inclusion.
Lyme Disease Response	Work with Federal Health officials to assess the efficacy of the bait station project; Implement another year of the public education campaign.
Climate Emergency Response	Develop action plans to implement Council's corporate emissions target, and support the Sustainability committee in the development of initiatives to reduce community emissions.
MODL 2040: Municipal-wide Land-use Planning	Complete the initial round of public engagement & prepare the draft vision and goals for the comprehensive Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS), Leading to the overall project goal of Developing an MPS and comprehensive land-use planning for the whole municipality.

Rural Internet Project	In partnership with Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and the Federal and Provincial governments, complete the next phase of fibre-based service expansions, leading towards the overall project goal of over 95% of citizens connected by the end of the strategy.
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LaHave River Straight Pipes Replacement Project	Final season for installations; Prepare for closeout of installation projects and Develop water quality testing plan.
Expand Recreational Infrastructure	Continued development of recreation facilities and Active Transportation (AT) systems including: Connectivity of trail from Halifax to MODL and from MODL to the Annapolis Valley, Sustainability of MARC.
Fire Services Recruitment & Retention	Continue the recruitment strategy's marketing and department supports, and develop leadership training opportunities.
Accessibility Plan	Continue to support the regional accessibility initiative and begin the local planning for improvements to MODL services and facilities.
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MODL 2040: Municipal-wide Land-use Planning	Complete the initial round of public engagement & prepare the draft vision and goals for the comprehensive Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS), leading to the overall project goal of developing a MPS and comprehensive land-use planning for the whole Municipality.