

Section 1.2

Municipal Services

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations yearly business plan outlines the strategic goal of the Municipal Services division as partnering with municipalities to promote effective local government and healthy and vibrant communities.

Municipal Services provides planning and advisory services related to municipal matters to the government and on behalf of the government to municipalities. This division of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations also operates many of the grant and other financial support programs offered to municipalities.

Municipal Services benefits municipalities by assisting municipalities to provide services to citizens, as well as remaining financially viable and able to support development which will provide long term benefits to the entire province.

Planning & Advisory Services provides advisory service to municipal governments, policy support for provincial-municipal interactions, land-use planning and the administration of Provincial Subdivision Regulations, advice and assistance in the areas of administration and finance, municipal restructuring, and intermunicipal agreements. (This section also provides mapping and technical support services to the Division).

Grants & Programs provides an advisory service to municipal governments in the areas of finance and administration, municipal infrastructure and environmental engineering, monitors the financial performance of municipalities, recommends programs of assistance, administers operating and unconditional capital grants programs, and facilitates implementation of provincial-municipal restructuring initiatives. The section produces an annual report on Municipal Statistics and maintains the Municipal Indicators web report.

Programs:

- *Grants-in-lieu of Taxes* - Payment of grants-in-lieu of taxes on eligible provincial property.
- *Unconditional Capital Grant* - Distribution of Capital grant for purposes excepting education, health, social services and administration of justice.
- *Farm Land Grant* - A grant per acre paid on exempted farmland (excluding buildings used for agricultural purposes).
- *Equalization Grant* - Paid to municipalities on a formula basis to the amount by which their Standard Services Cost exceeds their ability to pay.
- *Formula Grants* - Projects are funded to promote or support excellence in municipal government. Initiatives are designed to enable municipal units to cope with existing and emerging pressures.
- *Fire Protection Grants* - Paid to municipalities to offset the cost of providing fire protection services to provincially owned properties which are exempt from grants-in-lieu.
- *Special Project Grants* - Special municipal and community projects to support strong healthy communities.
- *Provincial Capital Assistance Program* - Contribution of up to 50% of the approved net cost core municipal infrastructure projects undertaken by municipalities. Emphasis is placed on water, sewer and solid waste related projects that involve health and environmental risks.
- *Canada / Nova Scotia Infrastructure Works* - The Canada-Nova Scotia Infrastructure Works Program is a shared cost program with the federal, provincial, municipal governments and other funding partners. The program addresses the infrastructure needs and priorities of local governments.

- *Accessible Transportation Assistance Program (ATAP)*
Provides grants for the purchase of accessible vehicles, or the refit of vehicles to make them accessible. The maximum grant is \$10,000 per vehicle.
- *Community Based Transportation Assistance Program (CTAP)*
Facilitates the establishment of sustainable public transportation services that are accessible to all persons. The program provides operating capital for eligible organizations.
- *Community ACCESS-ability Program* provides support for non-profit community organizations or groups, and municipalities of up to two thirds of the direct and indirect costs of renovations, installations, and/or equipment, to accommodate persons with disabilities to a maximum of \$10,000, subject to funding availability.
- *Villages HST Rebate* - The program offsets the impact of the HST on villages.
- *Municipal Drinking Water Supply Planning Assistance Program* provides assistance to municipalities to conduct land use planning to protect municipal drinking water supplies.

For further information, please contact:

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