

## Property Tax Rebate for Seniors Frequently Asked Questions

Application Deadline  
Postmarked by  
December 31, 2009

**Q. I have not heard of the program before now. Why is the program not more widely advertised?**

A. The Senior Property Tax Rebate Program is advertised through the Senior Citizen Secretariat Publication on various senior programs throughout the province. The program also appears on the Department of Community Services website and Municipal Offices.

**Q. If I do not send in an application for the rebate before the program ends, and I am eligible, can I apply for this years rebate when the program starts again next year?**

A. No. If you do not submit your application by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year, you will not be eligible to apply for that years rebate. The Senior Property Tax Rebate is not retro-active.

**Q. My spouse/partner recently passed away, and I have an application in their name. What should I do?**

A. You are not able to apply on behalf of your deceased spouse/partner. If however you meet the requirements of the program you can contact our office for an application to be sent to you, or you can pick one up at your local Access Nova Scotia Centre. To locate an Access Nova Scotia Centre or have an application mailed to you, please call 1-800-670-4357 or in Metro at 424-5200.

**Q. My spouse/partner and I each received an application in the mail. Can we both apply?**

A. The Senior Property Tax Rebate is issued against the taxes paid at one civic address and therefore is only issued once per program year, per civic address. If you and your spouse/partner both received an application, please call 1-800-670-4357 or in Metro at 424-5200. If you each picked up an application, please only send one.

**Q. I sent in my application and received a letter back indicating more information was needed to process my claim. Unfortunately I misplaced the letter and now the program is over for the year. Can I still send in the information and receive my claim?**

A. We will make every effort to reach you to obtain the information before the program closes at the end of the year. In most cases we will also send out a 'final' notice advising by when you need to send us the information. If we were unable to reach you or we have not heard from you in the time outlined in the follow up letter, your claim will be closed for that year and not reopened.

**Q. The property taxes are not in my name but I live in the house and am responsible for the property taxes. Do I qualify for the rebate?**

A. The only exception to the program requirements is if the client has a life lease allowing them to live in their home until their death, but the ownership has been transferred to another individual. In this case, the client must provide a copy of the life lease with the application. Otherwise you must own, live in, and provide proof the property taxes were paid in full for the previous calendar year to qualify for the Senior Property Tax Rebate.

**Q. I have a Power of Attorney handling my affairs? Do I need to send in any additional information?**

A. A copy of the legal document clearing showing Power of Attorney must be sent with your application each year.

**Q. Do I have to apply for the Senior Property Tax Rebate each year?**

A. As a person's situation may change from year to year it is necessary to apply each year.

**Q. Will I receive an application in the mail next year?**

A. If on the application you indicate(d) 'YES, I CONSENT' in Section 2, we will mail you an application automatically next year, providing you receive the Senior Property Tax Rebate this year, and are still receiving the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) or The Allowance in January 2010.

**Q. I have not always received an application automatically, some years I had to call in to have one mailed to me. Why did this happen?**

A. If there has been a disruption in your claim for Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) or The Allowance, or it has been stopped, etc for any reason, you may not get an application. You may still be eligible, depending on your situation and are encouraged to call 1-800-670-4357 or in Metro at 424-5200. For information on GIS call Service Canada at 1-800-277-9914.

**Q. I lost my application form. Where can I get a new one?**

A. You can pick up a new application at your local Access Nova Scotia Centre. To locate an Access Nova Scotia Centre or have an application mailed to you, please call 1-800-670-4357 or in Metro at 424-5200.

**Q. Do you offer any other programs for seniors?**

A. There are many programs in place for Seniors. To request a copy of the Senior Citizen Secretariat Publication listing these programs, please call the Senior Citizen Secretariat toll free at 1-800-670-0065.

**Q. I have received an application for my parent however they have passed away. Can I still submit the application to receive a rebate in the estate of?**

A. The focus of the Senior Property Tax Rebate Program is to assist seniors to help them stay in their home. For this reason one of the eligibility requirements states that at the time of application you must be living in your home. If the application was sent to someone who passed away, the rebate cannot be issued to the estate.

**Q. How do I find out if I am eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) or the Allowance?**

A. Please contact Service Canada at 1-800-277-9914.

**Q. How long after I send in my application can I expect to receive my rebate cheque?**

A. Due to the thousands of applications we receive in the first few weeks of July each year it can take up to 8 weeks before you receive your rebate cheque.

**Q. I received a rebate however it is half of what I expected. What do I do?**

A. As we receive so many applications and the tax information varies, sometimes a rebate is issued on the interim tax amount in error. If this happens or you suspect this may have happened, please give us a call. We would be more than happy to review the application and re-issue any balance owing.

**Q. Do I need to cash my rebate cheque within a certain amount of time?**

A. YES. A government cheque becomes stale six months from the date of issue. You must cash your rebate within six months of the date on the cheque. If you misplace your rebate cheque and find it after the six months, please contact us.

**Q. My property has been sub-divided and now I receive two tax bills. Do I submit both or just the one with my house on it?**

A. For the 2009 program year you can submit both tax bills for lots that have been sub-divided. Both parcels of land will be included in the calculation for your rebate.

**Q. I received the maximum rebate this year but it was only \$400. I thought the rebate amount had increased. Why is this?**

A. As the Provincial Budget was not approved, the rebate will remain at a maximum of \$400. Should this change you will be notified.

**Q. What happens if I received my Property Tax Rebate cheque and the rebate amount is increased part way through a program year?**

A. Should changes to the program happen and you have already been issued a rebate, we will revisit your application and send you any additional rebate that you are entitled. Keep in mind the additional amount may take a few additional weeks to process.

**Q. I expected one amount and received slightly less. Why is this?**

A. There are some amounts appearing on your tax bill that are not included in the calculated amount. These are Resource Forest, Resource Land, and Commercial.

**Q. Are there any other reasons I would receive a rebate amount less than I expected?**

A. Many municipalities in Nova Scotia offer qualified seniors a discount or rebate at the municipal level on the residential taxes. If you received a rebate from your municipality, this amount is deducted before we calculate the rebate issued by the province.

**Q. Can you show me examples of how my rebate is calculated?**

A.

Example 1 – In this situation your property has a business component and as such the taxes contain a commercial component. Because the commercial amount is not part of the residential taxes this is not included when we calculate your rebate.

**On Your Tax Bill**

Residential Taxes .....	986.25
Commercial .....	486.28
Fire Service .....	85.52
<b>Total Residential Taxes .....</b>	<b>1558.05</b>

How We Calculate Your Rebate

Total Residential Taxes .....	1558.05
Less: Commercial.....	486.28
Eligible Taxes.....	1071.77
50% of Taxes (Max 400.00).....	400.00

Example 2 – In this situation your property has a business component and as such the taxes contain a commercial component. The municipality has also provided you a rebate.

**On Your Tax Bill**

Residential Taxes .....	800.00
Commercial .....	486.28
Resource Forest .....	0.00
Resource Land.....	0.00
Fire Service .....	85.52
Municipal Discount .....	100.00
<b>Total Residential Taxes .....</b>	<b>1271.80</b>

How We Calculate Your Rebate

Total Residential Taxes .....	1371.80
Less: Commercial.....	486.28
Less: Discount .....	100.00
Eligible Taxes.....	785.52
50% of Taxes (Max 400.00).....	392.76