

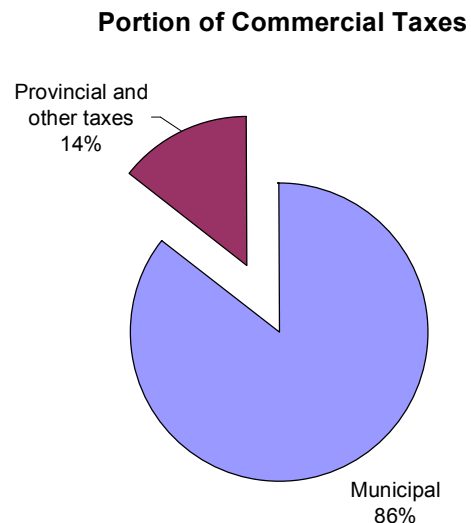
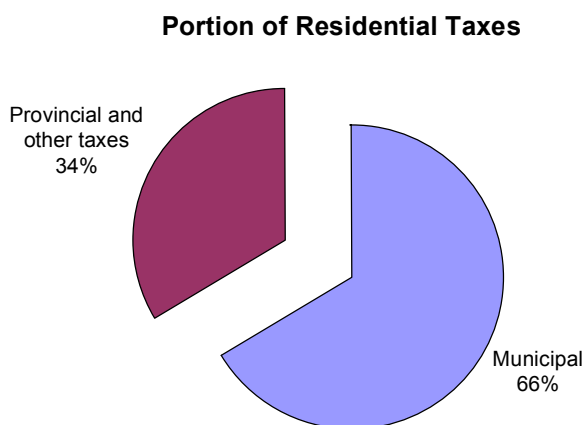
HRM, the Province, and Property Taxes

What does the provincial government have to do with municipal taxes?

- Municipalities in Nova Scotia must adhere to the Municipal Government Act (MGA), which is a provincial law. The MGA and other laws stipulate how municipal governments collect taxes
 - The province-wide Property Valuation Services Corporation assigns assessed values to all properties in Nova Scotia
 - The Halifax Regional Municipality, and other local governments then set their tax rates based on these assessed values
 - Lastly, the provincial government also receives a portion of the property taxes collected by HRM

How much of my property taxes go to the provincial government, and what does it pay for?

- A typical property tax bill in 2007 was \$2,150.
- Over one-third of residential tax revenue in HRM goes to the province-wide services such as education, correctional services, assessment services and public housing.
- In 2007-2008, these funds were recovered by HRM through a special area rate to increase the transparency around provincial property taxation



How does this relate to Tax Reform?

- While Tax Reform does not directly address the fiscal imbalance between the provincial and municipal governments, the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities have completed a report that addresses these concerns titled: “A Question of Balance: An Assessment of the State of Local Government in Nova Scotia”

What role does the province play in Tax Reform?

- Recommendations from Tax Reform may require Provincial legislative changes
- HRM is talking with the provincial government about strengthening the municipal tax system, and ensuring that municipalities have the proper administrative tools

For more information

- See HRM’s Tax Reform website at: <http://www.halifax.ca/taxreform/> , or
- Call HRM’s Tax Reform phone line at: (902) 490-4886, or
- Email us at: taxreform@halifax.ca