

HRM Communications and Public Participation Plan

Tax Reform Committee- April 12, 2007





Communications and Public Participation Plan (CPPP)

- The plan is a working document that illustrates
 - the role for the public in Tax Reform,
 - the communication tools for engaging the public
- Staff and the TRC have been working through the first two phases of the Tax Reform project
 - **PHASE 1: Research and Public Education**
 - **PHASE 2: Establishing a Steering Committee (TRC)**



Phase 3 - Engaging the Public

- **Spring Workshops**

- **Objective:** To get agreement on

- what the municipal tax system should be based on
- critical taxation principles.

- Allows us to build options for the fall

- **Approach:** Five workshops (4 residential, 1 business) advertised through press conference, newspapers, and other media, approach ratepayers associations, Councillors, etc.



Phase 3 - Engaging the Public

- **Fall Workshops**

- **Objective:** To get agreement on municipal taxation options and possible recommendations. Present several tax packages based on the foundations and principles from spring workshops
- **Approach:** Series of 10-12 open houses with small discussion groups aimed at education re tax options, their pros, cons and impacts.
- Possible wrap-up open house in winter



Tax Reform

- PHASE 4 (January 2008)
 - Recommendations to Council
- PHASE 5 (TBA)
 - Further Information Sessions for the Public (as required)
- PHASE 6 (TBA)
 - Implementation
- PHASE 7 (TBA)
 - Evaluation



Critical Dates

- **April 12-** Committee approves CPPP
- **April 17-** Update to Council (Time Sensitive)
- **April 19-** Practice workshop for TRC
- **May 16 -** Begin spring consultations (until start of June)
- **June 26 -** Update to Council





Recommendations

1. Approve spring consultations as described in phase 3 of the proposed HRM Communications and Public Participation Plan;
2. Schedule a practice workshop for the TRC on April 19th to help ensure workshops are on the right track for the public participation needs; and,
3. Approve the remaining Communications and Public Participation Plan as a working document to be further refined throughout the Tax Reform process, and present and update on the project to Regional Council on April 17th.