

**The following principles** have been developed to guide decision making about the type of municipal tax system that should be created for HRM.

Please read each principle and its corresponding definition. Place a check (✓) next to the four (4) principles you feel are most important to HRM's tax system. Identify one of those four as your top priority and place a "1" beside that principle.

Please check your top 4, then mark "1" next to top priority	Principle	Definition
	Adequacy	The tax system should produce the necessary revenue in the most efficient manner possible.
	Balance	To the degree the possible, government should avoid over-reliance on any one tax or set of taxes. The tax system should be balanced among a number of taxes.
	Broad Base	Individual taxes should be broadly based, minimizing tax exemptions, to provide even treatment of all taxpayers and to keep tax rates as low as possible.
	Economic Competitiveness	To the extent possible, the tax system should be designed to enhance provincial and local economic development or at the least should not hinder development.
	Efficiency	The tax system should not unnecessarily or unintentionally interfere with private economic decisions.
	Equity	Taxes are applied fairly and consistently to all taxpayers.
	Intergovernmental Linkages	Tax decisions should recognize the connections between provincial and local tax systems.
	Stability	The tax system should be constructed to avoid unpredictable shifts due to changing economic conditions or other factors. The system should promote certainty for taxpayers and government.
	Simplicity	The tax laws should be as simple as possible to minimize compliance costs for taxpayers and enforcement cost for government tax administrators.
	Transparency	The tax system is clear and understood by taxpayers.
	Other	