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**Item No. 9.1.1**  
**Transportation Standing Committee**  
**September 24, 2015**

**TO:** Chair and Members of the Transportation Standing Committee  
Original Signed

**SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Bjerke, Chief Planner and Director Planning & Development

**DATE:** August 6, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Administrative Order #39, Annual Rate Review

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**ORIGIN**

Section 3.0 A - Annual Rate Review, Administrative Order #39, Respecting Taxi and Limousine Regulations.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act, Section 305(1);

By-law T-1000, Respecting the Regulation of Taxis, Accessible Taxis and Limousines;

Administrative Order #39, Respecting Taxi and Limousine Regulation; and

Establishment of the Taxi and Limousine Liaison Group (TLLG) as approved by Regional Council, July 5, 2011,

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend to Regional Council the Taxi and Limousine Rates in Administrative Order 39, Schedule 1, 2 and 3 remain unchanged.

## **BACKGROUND**

Administrative Order #39, Respecting Taxi and Limousine Regulations, Section 3.0A - Annual Rate Review, states:

### **3.0A ANNUAL RATE REVIEW**

3.1A HRM shall review the rates set out in Schedules 1, 2, and 3 to this Administrative Order at least once every calendar year and shall consider the percentage change from the previous year in the Nova Scotia Consumer Price Index ("percentage change") as found in the Statistics Canada Consumer Price Index, by Province (Nova Scotia) Annual January Report, as follows:

(a) If the percentage change over the previous calendar year is less than 2.5%, no further consideration shall be given to a rate review. However, the percentage change for that year will be carried forward to the following year and added to the percentage change for that year, and subsequent years, until the total of the percentage change is 2.5% or greater.

(b) If the percentage change over the previous calendar year, or cumulative calendar years as set out in (a), is 2.5% or greater, a report shall be prepared for consideration by Regional Council on whether to increase the rates set out in Schedules 1, 2, and 3 to this Administrative Order. The report shall include some or all of the following:

- (i) input from industry stakeholders;
- (ii) Statistics Canada Consumer Price Index, by Province (Nova Scotia) Annual January Report information;
- (iii) a survey of other Canadian municipalities;
- (iv) an independent review from the Greater Halifax Partnership; and
- (v) any other information that, in the opinion of the Municipality, may assist Council in its consideration.

(c) Once Regional Council has considered a rate increase in accordance with (b), the percentage change as cumulated in (a) shall reset, whether or not Regional Council has voted to increase the rates set out in Schedules 1, 2, and 3 to this Administrative Order.

(d) Nothing in this section shall prevent Regional Council at any time, by resolution, from considering whether to modify the rates set out in Schedules 1, 2, or 3 to this Administrative Order outside of the annual review.

The 2013 Nova Scotia CPI was 1.2%, as set out in Appendix A, which is less than the 2.5% required to trigger a taxi rate review.

The 2014 Nova Scotia CPI was 1.7%, as set out in Appendix A, which is less than the 2.5% required to trigger a taxi rate review.

The combined percentage change in the Nova Scotia CPI for 2013 and 2014 totals 2.9%, exceeding the 2.5% trigger, thus requiring a taxi rate review.

## **DISCUSSION**

In February 2015, staff conducted a cross jurisdictional scan on taxi rates. The results are contained in the comparison chart set out in Appendix B. The comparison chart was presented to the Taxi and Limousine Liaison Group (TLLG) in March 2015, for consideration and comment.

At the May 27, 2015 TLLG meeting, a discussion was held regarding the issue of a taxi rate increase. The consensus concluded a rate increase should not be recommended at this time. Upon the conclusion, two specific components of the rate calculation were discussed and considered important for future rate reviews:

- Any future rate adjustment should consider a comparison of the HRM taxi drop rate to other municipalities, and
- the additional passenger rate should be dropped to \$0.50 from \$0.70 and have a one-time \$0.50 fee for parcels and groceries handled by the driver and remove the \$0.10 per bag fee, as this would help to standardize setting in the taxi meters.

Included as part of the review mechanism, staff requested Greater Halifax Partnership to review TLLG conclusions relative to taxi rates from an economic development perspective. Communications received July 2, 2015 from the Greater Halifax Partnership have confirmed they have reviewed materials provided and reports no concerns with the content/analysis.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

No implications identified.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

At the March & May 2015, meetings of the TLLG, general discussions were held regarding the cross jurisdictional rate cart information and consideration of a rate increase.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix A: Statistics Canada Nova Scotia CPI 2013 & 2014  
Appendix B: Canadian Municipality Rate Comparison Chart

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by: Kevin Hindle, Supervisor, Regional Licensing 902-490-2550

Original Signed

Report Approved by:

Jim Donovan, Manager of Municipal Compliance 902.476.8211



# APPENDIX A

Consumer Price Index, by province (Nova Scotia)

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## Statistics Canada

[Home](#) > [Summary tables](#) >

Related tables: [Consumer price indexes](#)

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### Consumer Price Index, by province (Nova Scotia)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
2002=100					
N.S.					
All-items	118.2	122.7	125.1	126.6	128.8
Food	128.2	134.1	137.8	139.6	141.5
Shelter	125.5	131.2	135.2	138.1	141.1
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	110.7	111.9	113.1	115.0	117.2
Clothing and footwear	89.8	92.9	93.7	95.9	98.2
Transportation	114.1	121.7	123.9	124.5	125.9
Health and personal care	112.9	115.3	116.7	115.5	116.4
Recreation, education and reading	107.4	108.1	108.3	107.7	109.6
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	156.0	160.4	163.1	167.9	176.2
<b>Special aggregates</b>					
All-items excluding food	116.2	120.4	122.5	123.9	126.2
All-items excluding energy	115.4	118.0	119.5	121.0	122.9
% change from previous year					
All-items	2.2	3.8	2.0	1.2	1.7
Food	1.9	4.6	2.8	1.3	1.4
Shelter	1.2	4.5	3.0	2.1	2.2
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	2.1	1.1	1.1	1.7	1.9
Clothing and footwear	-1.1	3.5	0.9	2.3	2.4
Transportation	4.6	6.7	1.8	0.5	1.1
Health and personal care	1.6	2.1	1.2	-1.0	0.8
Recreation, education and reading	1.5	0.7	0.2	-0.6	1.8
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	5.1	2.8	1.7	2.9	4.9
<b>Special aggregates</b>					

All-items excluding food	2.3	3.6	1.7	1.1	1.9
All-items excluding energy	1.8	2.3	1.3	1.3	1.6

**Note:** Annual average indexes are obtained by averaging the indexes for the 12 months of the calendar year.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, CANSIM, table [326-0021](#) and Catalogue nos. [62-001-X](#) and [62-010-X](#).

Last modified: 2015-01-23.

To learn more about the Consumer Price Index, see [Your Guide to the Consumer Price Index](#).

**Find information** related to this table (CANSIM table(s); Definitions, data sources and methods; *The Daily*; publications; and related Summary tables).

Date modified: 2015-01-23

APPENDIX B

Canadian Municipalities Rate Comparison Chart

March 2015

City	Updated	Status	Date Rate Impleme nted	Initial Drop		Increment Charges		Waiting Time		Trip Cost *			Waiting Time per Hour
				Rate	for (Distance in metres)	Rate	per (Distance in metres)	Rate	per (Time in sec)	5 km	10 km	35 km	
Niagara Falls	Feb-15	Current	Apr-14	\$3.75	110	\$0.27	110	\$26.22	3600	\$15.75	\$28.03	\$89.93	\$26.22
Oakville	Feb-15	Current	Oct-12	\$4.50	130	\$0.25	130	\$0.25	30	\$13.87	\$23.48	\$71.56	\$30.00
London	Feb-15	Current	Jul-12	\$3.50	57	\$0.25	130	\$0.25	26	\$13.01	\$22.62	\$70.70	\$34.60
Victoria	Feb-15	Current	Apr-13	\$3.25	53.21	\$0.10	53.21	\$0.10	8.89	\$12.55	\$21.94	\$68.93	\$40.49
Vancouver & GVRD	Feb-15	Current	Mar-13	\$3.20	54.44	\$0.10	54.44	\$0.10	10.95	\$12.28	\$21.47	\$67.39	\$32.87
Ottawa	Feb-15	Current	Jul-14	\$3.45	150	\$0.16	86	\$0.16	24	\$12.47	\$21.78	\$68.29	\$24.00
Mississauga	Feb-15	Current	Jun-13	\$4.25	141	\$0.25	141	\$0.25	30	\$12.87	\$21.73	\$66.06	\$30.00
Hamilton	Feb-15	Current	Oct-12	\$3.90	71.4	\$0.13	71.4	\$0.13	14	\$12.87	\$21.98	\$67.50	\$33.42
Saskatoon	Feb-15	Current	Sep-14	\$3.75	142	\$0.25	142	\$0.25	35	\$12.30	\$21.11	\$65.12	\$25.71
Toronto	Feb-15	Current	Jun-14	\$4.25	143	\$0.25	143	\$0.25	29	\$12.74	\$21.48	\$65.19	\$31.03
Halifax	Feb-15	Current	Oct-12	\$3.20	0	\$0.13	76.7	\$0.22	30	\$11.67	\$20.15	\$62.48	\$26.85
North Bay	Feb-15	Current	Feb-14	\$4.20	100	\$0.10	51.42			\$13.73	\$23.45	\$72.00	\$30.81
Montreal & All of Quebec	Feb-15	Current	Aug-14	\$3.45	0	\$1.70	1 klm			\$11.95	\$20.45	\$62.95	\$37.80
Brampton	Feb-15	Current	Aug-13	\$4.25	141	\$0.25	141	\$0.25	33	\$12.87	\$21.73	\$66.00	\$27.25
Edmonton	Feb-15	Current	Dec-14	\$3.60	135	\$0.20	135	\$0.25	30	\$10.80	\$18.20	\$55.20	\$30.00
Calgary	Feb-15	Current	Nov-14	\$3.80	120	\$0.20	120	\$0.20	21	\$11.93	\$20.27	\$61.93	\$34.28
Windsor	Feb-15	Current	Feb-08	\$3.50	105	\$0.10	69			\$10.59	\$17.84	\$54.07	\$25.00
Regina	Feb-15	Current	Oct-14	\$4.00	120	10¢	57			\$12.56	\$21.33	\$65.10	\$33.00
Winnipeg	Feb-15	Current	Aug-12	\$3.50	72.5	\$0.10	72.5	\$0.10	13.18	\$10.30	\$17.20	\$51.68	\$27.30

\$21.45  
10 Km Average  
Excluding Halifax

A 10KM trip in Halifax is currently \$20.15,