



Non-Profit Tax Exemptions

Comparison of Programs across Canada

Grants Committee

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Findings (Part 1)

Provincial Legislation sets the Game Rules

- Legislation – permissive or prescriptive – varies significantly from province to province, so programs vary significantly in focus and scope

Programs Focus on Municipal Programs or Objectives

- The policies in several benchmark cities required that the services provided by the organization align with municipal services and/or support municipal outcomes.

Public Access is Important

- The policies of several benchmark cities require that the non-profit facility be open and available to the public most of the time. Some policies disallowed organizations with significant membership or initiation fees.



Findings (Part 2)

Registered Charities are often treated Differently

- Several jurisdictions had different policies for registered charities and other non-profits. In most cases, registered charities had higher levels of tax exemption

Programs are Simple

- Across Nova Scotia and in most of the benchmark cities the levels of tax exemption and criteria for eligibility are simple and clear. Most programs provide one or two levels of exemption.

Clear Information for Public

- The City of Victoria provides a simple-to-read, detailed list of organizations that receive grants, tax exemptions or other contributions from the City in its annual report each year. This is a template for transparency.

Benchmark Cities & Approach

Standard Benchmark Cities (GHP list)

- Based on similar demographic and economic profiles
 - *St. John's*
 - *Halifax*
 - *Quebec City*
 - *London*
 - *Regina*
 - *Victoria*

Additional Comparators

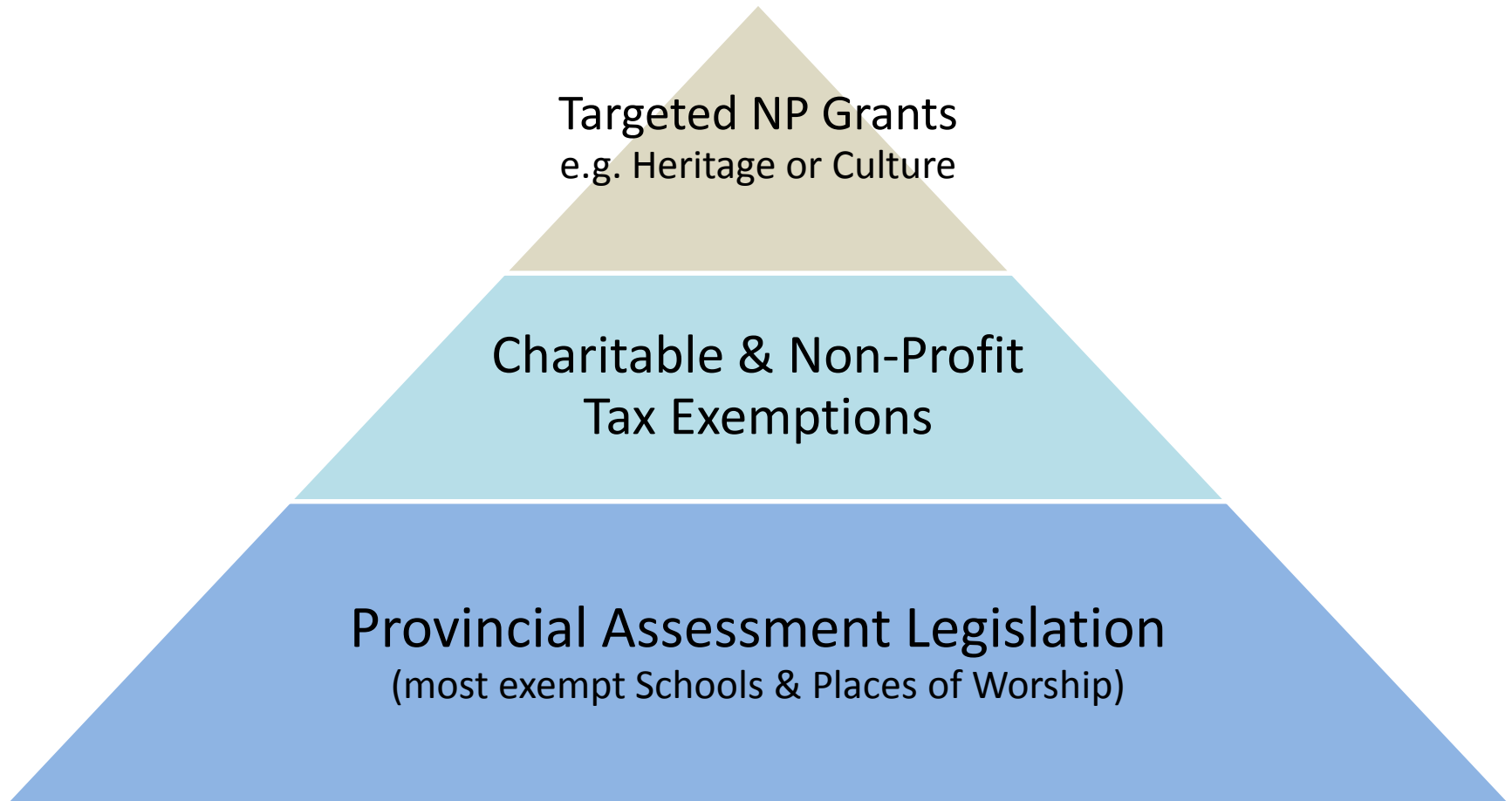
- Two additional provincial capitals
 - *Winnipeg*
 - *Edmonton*
- 2nd Largest City in Atlantic Canada
 - *Moncton*

Research Approach

- Qualitative Comparisons
 - Scope of policies
 - Types of properties
 - Eligibility criteria
- Quantitative Comparisons
 - Scale of program
 - Number of properties
 - Relative value of program
- Administrative Issues
 - Roles & responsibilities
 - Less focus, at this point, on administrative processes

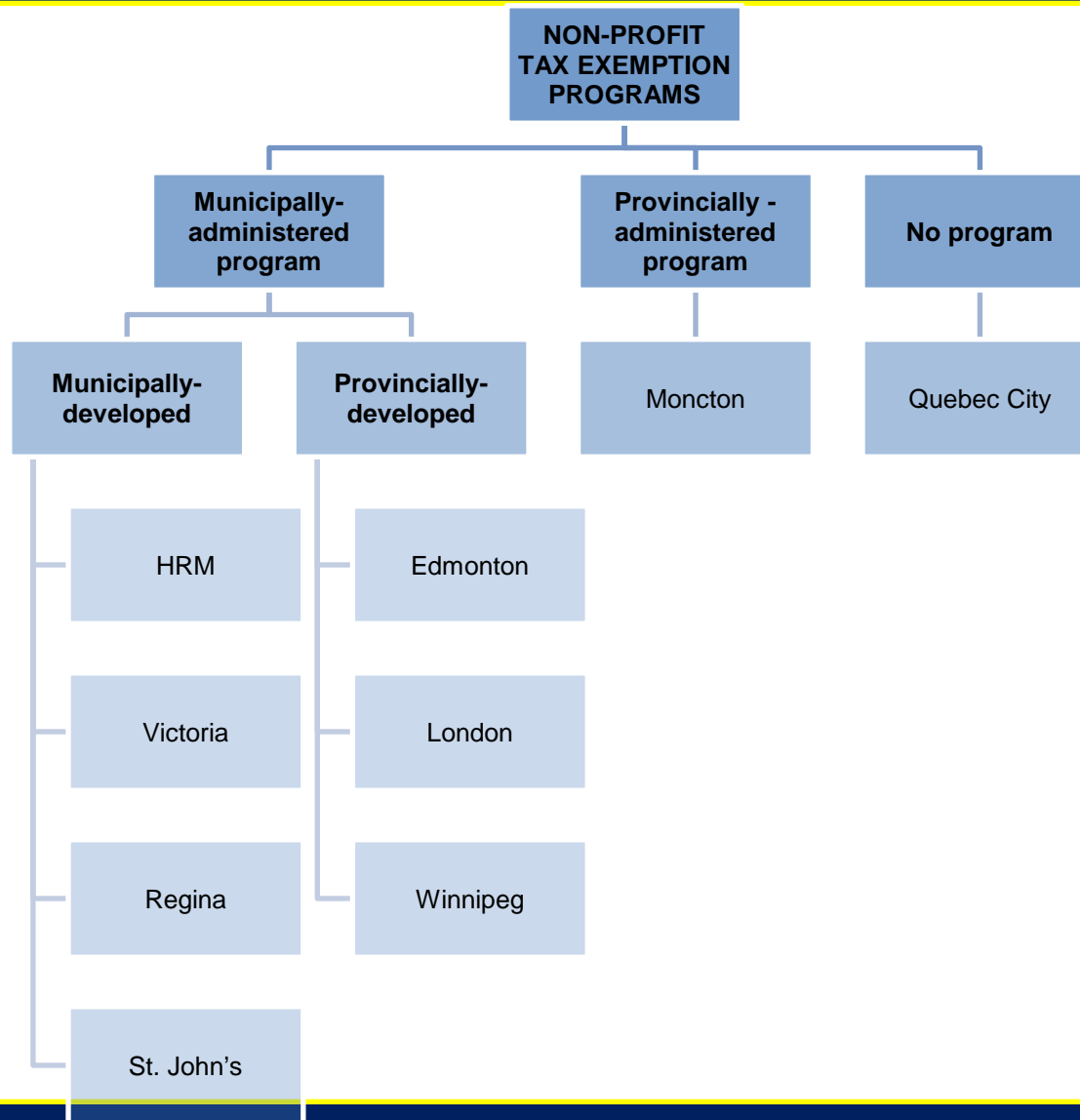


Context – Provincial Base





Context – Roles/Responsibility





Property Eligibility, by Tenure

	All/Most Leases Accepted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• St. John's• Winnipeg• Edmonton
	Commercial Leases, only	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• London (program limited to leases only)
	Municipal Leases, only	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regina• Victoria

Detail of Scope/Eligibility

- Most programs are targeted at specific properties/facilities

Registered Charities (independent of programs)

- St. John's
- London
(leased only)

Specific Categories of properties

- St. John's (NP's)
- Moncton
- Winnipeg
- Edmonton
- Victoria

Not Formalized

- Regina



Focus of five Detailed Programs

St. John's

- Recreation Facilities

Moncton

- Recreation Facilities, Community Halls
- Facilities for Youth, Elderly, Disabled
- Anti-Poverty, Rehab, Animal Shelters

Winnipeg

- Recreation Facilities, Community Halls
- Facilities for Youth, Elderly, Disabled

Edmonton

- Recreation Facilities
- Facilities of Arts, Linguistic or Cultural Org's; Museums
- Thrift Shops, Sheltered Workshops
- Daycares, Chambers of Commerce

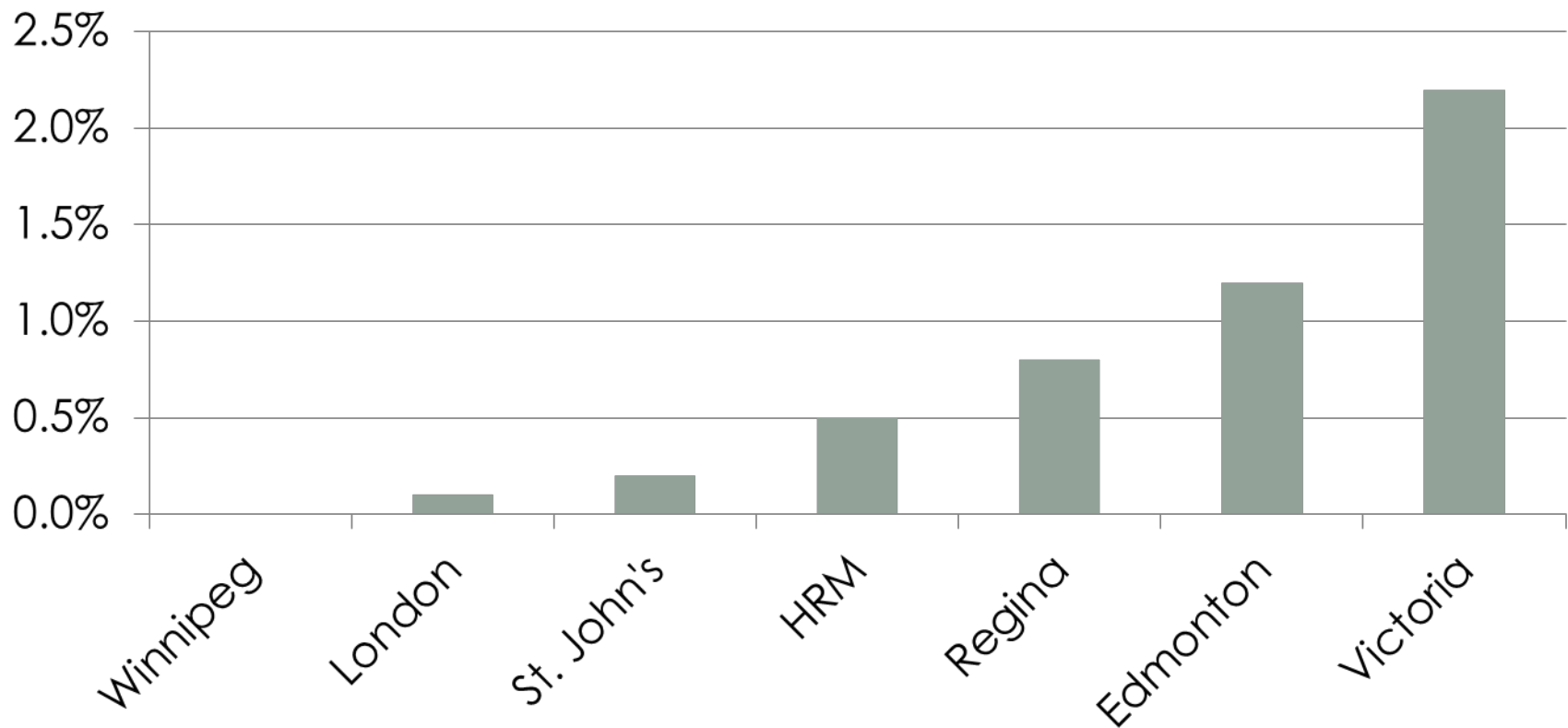
Victoria

- Recreation Facilities
- Arts & Cultural Facilities
- Social Services; Supportive Housing
- Places of Worship; (private) Schools



Scale of Program

% of Municipal Tax





Administration & Approvals Process

Annual Applications and Approvals

- London (84 properties)
- Edmonton (928 properties)
- Victoria (118; some multi-year)

Annual Approvals

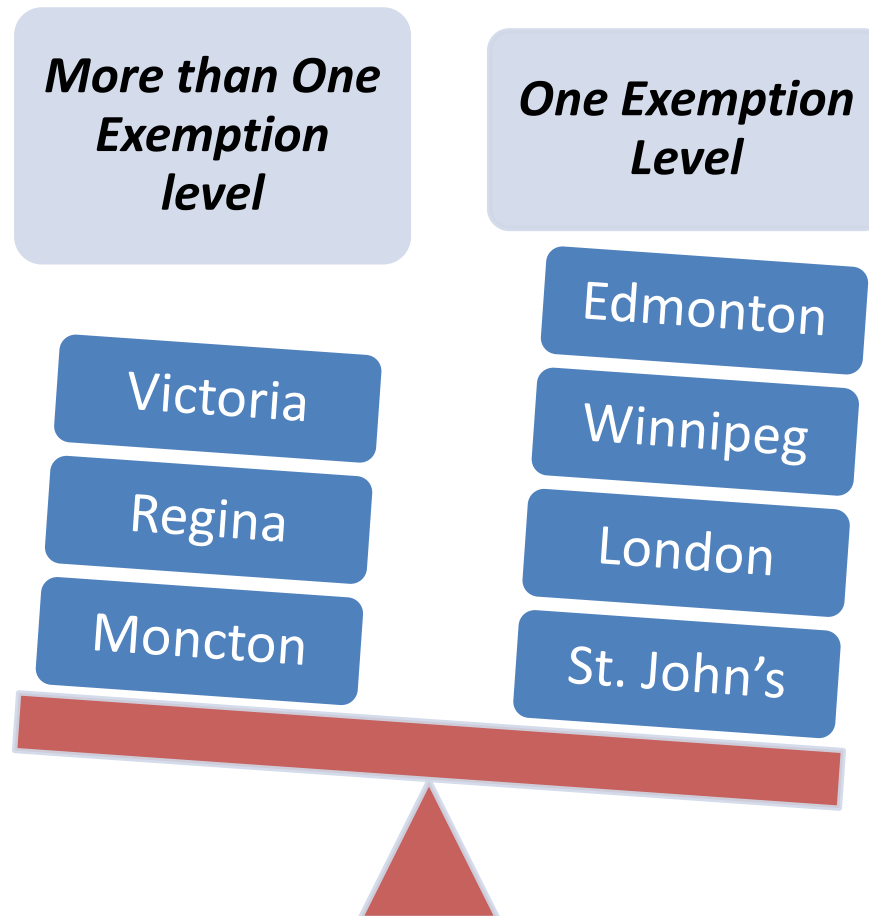
- Regina (53 properties)

One-time Adjustment to Assessment class/category

- St. John's
- Moncton
- Winnipeg



Most Programs are Simple





Emphasis on Public Access

St. John's

- Services and/or activities “to the general public without... membership... fee”

Moncton

- organizations cannot “restrict benefits to members”

Winnipeg

- membership “open to any person”

Edmonton

- membership is “not restricted on any basis”

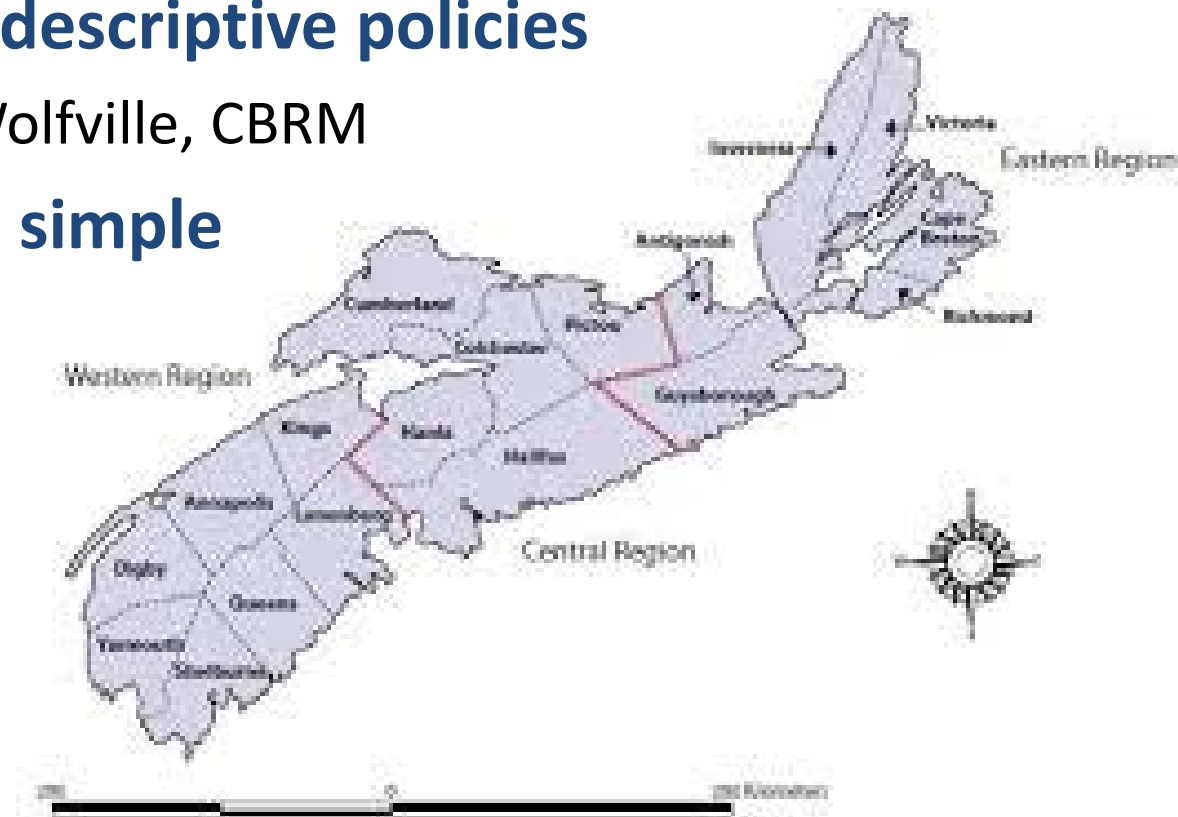
Victoria

- services and activities “should be equally available to all residents”



NS most Comparable

- NS municipalities operate within similar legislation
- 30+ municipalities offer tax exemptions to NPs
- Several have descriptive policies
 - e.g. Truro, Wolfville, CBRM
- **Programs are simple**
 - Clearly align with MGA



Questions?

