

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT

MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

RAPPORT

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DATE 26 May 1998

TO/DEST. Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee

FROM/EXP. Regional Clerk

SUBJECT/OBJET **APPOINTMENTS TO THE
PROPERTY TAX POLICY COMMITTEE**

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

That the Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee recommend Council appoint five (5) members from among the six (6) Councillors who have expressed interest in serving on the Ad Hoc Property Tax Policy Committee:

**Councillor P. Hume;
Councillor B. Hill;
Councillor G. Hunter;
Councillor C. Doucet;
Councillor A. Loney;
Councillor R. van den Ham.**

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 11 March 1998, Council adopted Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee Report No. 4, Item 8, "Property Taxation Issues". Included in the report was a recommendation to establish an Ad Hoc Committee of Council, to be known as the Property Tax Policy Committee. The details, purpose and committee Terms of Reference are appended to this report.

On 15 May 98, the Regional Clerk forwarded a memorandum to all Members of Council, soliciting their interest in participating in the work of the Committee and requesting a response by 25 May 98. The following Members have indicated a willingness to serve on the Committee: Councillors P. Hume, B. Hill, G. Hunter, C. Doucet, A. Loney and R. van den Ham.

As the Terms of Reference call for a five-member committee, the Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee recommends that Council select 5 members from among the 6 who have expressed interest in serving in this capacity.

This report is respectfully submitted.

Mary Jo Woollam

c.c. Finance Commissioner

**Extract from Corporate Services and
Economic Development Committee Report 4, Item 8**

ESTABLISHMENT OF PROPERTY TAX POLICY COMMITTEE

At the 21 Oct 97 meeting of the Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee Councillor Holmes tabled a proposal for the establishment of an Ottawa-Carleton Fair Tax Committee. After some debate, the following motion was tabled and carried:

That the Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee approve representatives of Regional Council (D. Holmes, A Munter, G. Hunter, and B. Hill) and the Finance Department prepare a Terms of Reference for the establishment of a Public Communications and Consultation Committee with respect to the taxation of property within the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, and report back to the Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee.

As directed, staff from the Finance Department subsequently met with Councillors Holmes, Munter, Hunter, and Hill to establish Terms of Reference for the Committee. The Terms of Reference as established by the Committee are set out below. It was the opinion of the Committee that there would be insufficient time to deal effectively with a policy to establish tax ratios other than the provincially prescribed transition ratios for the 1998 tax year prior to the deadline imposed on municipalities by the Province. This time constraint severely restricts the level and amount of public consultation that this Committee would be able to perform in preparation for the 1998 tax year. For this reason, it was determined that an effective and meaningful public consultation process would require more time and that the Committee would focus on completing this in time to recommend tax ratios for 1999.

Property Tax Policy Committee (Terms of Reference)

The purpose of the Property Tax Policy Committee is to provide residents, landlords, homeowners, tenants, and businesses in Ottawa-Carleton with a forum to provide input with respect to the setting of tax ratios for 1999. Given the importance tax ratios will have in determining tax policy, it will be essential for all affected parties to be given the opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions.

As a Committee of Council, the Property Tax Policy Committee shall be established to start early in 1998. The term of the committee shall end at the point when Regional Council approves the 1999 tax ratios for property classes.

The Property Tax Policy Committee shall:

- Organize the necessary public forum sessions to ensure property taxpayers and other stakeholders are given the opportunity to provide valuable input into the process of setting tax ratios for 1999;
- Report back to Regional Council with recommended tax ratios for 1999.