

**INTRODUCTION**

The City of Owen Sound is seeking public input in regards to the potential elimination of a property tax rebate program for vacant commercial and industrial properties. Input received via this survey will contribute to the information available within the final decision making process.

**Part 1: Respondent Information**

- A. Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Email Address or Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Please confirm that you have not submitted a previous response to this survey \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Please indicate where you reside, conduct business and/or pay property taxes (check all that apply).

<b>Ontario Municipalities</b>	<b>Own / Operate Business</b>	<b>Reside</b>	<b>Pay Property Tax</b>
City of Owen Sound	_____	_____	_____
Other Municipality in Grey County	_____	_____	_____
Other Municipality – Ontario	_____	_____	_____

- E. Are you responsible for the payment/administration of property taxes for a commercial or industrial class property within the City of Owen Sound?
  - i) Yes: \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii) No: \_\_\_\_\_
- F. Please indicate one (1) stakeholder category that you feel best represents your perspective in completing this survey:
  - i) Residential Property Owner: \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii) Commercial / Industrial Property Owner / Occupant: \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii) Commercial / Industrial Landlord: \_\_\_\_\_
  - iv) Commercial / Industrial Tenant: \_\_\_\_\_
  - v) Tax Agent / Taxpayer Representative: \_\_\_\_\_
  - vi) Other (Specify) : \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 2: Vacant Unit Rebate Program**

The Vacant Unit Rebate program allows owners of commercial and industrial buildings to apply for a partial rebate of property taxes if all or part of the property was vacant for at least 90 consecutive days and various other criteria are met. Rebates are paid against taxes already levied / paid and are prorated based on the vacant portion and the number of eligible days over the taxation year.

A. Which best describes your familiarity with the Vacant Unit Rebate Program?

- i) Not previously aware of this program: \_\_\_\_\_
- ii) Generally aware of the program: \_\_\_\_\_
- iii) Current or past applicant: \_\_\_\_\_
- iv) Potential applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

B. What best describes your personal experience with the Vacant Unit Rebate Program over the past 5 taxation years?

- i) I have not applied for a rebate during this time: \_\_\_\_\_
- ii) I have applied periodically over this time: \_\_\_\_\_
- iii) I have applied for each of the past five years: \_\_\_\_\_
- iv) I have applied for rebates on behalf of clients: \_\_\_\_\_
- v) I have applied for rebates outside the City of Owen Sound: \_\_\_\_\_

C. If you have made an application to the City of Owen Sound under this program within the past 5 years, what is the approximate annual/average value of rebate(s) received?

- i) \$0: \_\_\_\_\_
- ii) Less than \$1,000: \_\_\_\_\_
- iii) \$1,000 to \$2,500: \_\_\_\_\_
- iv) \$2,500 to \$5,000: \_\_\_\_\_
- v) \$5,000 to \$10,000: \_\_\_\_\_
- vi) Greater than \$10,000: \_\_\_\_\_

D. If the program were available would you expect to make an application for all or part of the 2018 taxation year?

- i) Yes: \_\_\_\_\_
- ii) No: \_\_\_\_\_
- iii) Unsure at this time: \_\_\_\_\_

E. The City is considering the discontinuation of the Vacant Unit Rebate Program. Would you support or oppose this change?

- i) Support: \_\_\_\_\_
- ii) Oppose: \_\_\_\_\_

F. How do you believe such a change might impact any or all of the following?

<b>Group/Sector/Circumstance</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
i) Your own business / property:	_____	_____	_____
ii) The broader business community:	_____	_____	_____
iii) Commercial / Industrial vacancy rates:	_____	_____	_____
iv) Active / occupied businesses:	_____	_____	_____
v) Non-business taxpayers:	_____	_____	_____
vi) Other Groups (specify): _____	_____	_____	_____

G. Is there an alternative policy direction that you think should be considered in regards to the Vacant Unit Rebate Program?

- i) Maintain the program in its current form: \_\_\_\_\_
- ii) Phase-Out the program over fixed period: \_\_\_\_\_
- iii) Maintain the program with modifications: \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Enhanced compliance measures: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. More rigorous application requirements: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Alternate rebate percentages / amounts: \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Caps / Limits on benefits: \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Other (please specify in comments section) : \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 3: General Comments**

Please provide any general comments or additional information that you feel could not be expressed within the context of the survey questions above.

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**Survey Submission:** Completed Surveys may be submitted in one of the following ways.

- 1) Fax to: 905-878-9092
- 2) Return to the Owen Sound Municipal Office located at 808 2nd Avenue East.
- 3) This survey may be completed on-line by visiting <https://secure.mte.ca/owensound>

**The deadline to make a submission is Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**