



## TOWN OF GILLAMS, NL

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# 2015 MUNICIPAL BUDGET AND TAX INFORMATION BULLETIN

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## **Why Taxes are Necessary**

Through its volunteer council, the town of Gillams strives to provide prompt, efficient, and courteous services to its residents, and it is the revenue from taxes that supports the town's financial ability to meet those goals.

As a resident, it is important to understand that the town's operation depends on income from taxes and that this is the most critical sustainability component of a municipality. Revenue from taxes is needed in order to maintain current town services, afford upgrades to existing services, and/or the development of new services. These services include water and sewer, fire suppression, garbage, snow clearing for public access to roads and facilities, street lighting, road maintenance, town office operation, and the availability of town maintenance and administration personnel.

Revenue from taxes, as based on tax rates, allows the town to operate for the betterment of all townspeople. Tax rates must coincide with budgetary and legislative requirements for the year; this means that the town requires funds to operate and is bound by provincial legislation in all relative areas of taxation. Your town's ability to meet its operational needs depends on your support.

## **Tax News**

### ***Municipal Assessment***

Please note that council does not determine the assessed value of your property, but does set the tax rate; therefore, based on recent property assessments by the municipal assessment agency - (<http://www.maa.ca>), council has adjusted the mil rate down to the absolute minimum value that will allow existing services to remain in place while providing for the service enhancements listed in the above section.

## **Tax Rates**

<b>Tax</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Mil Rate	8 mil	7.5 mil	7 mil	7 mil
Minimum Property Tax (\$)	400	400	same	same
Minimum Business Tax (\$)	300	300	same	same
Poll tax (\$)	240	240	same	same
Water/Sewer per unit (\$)	340	340	same	same
Water Tax per unit (\$)	220	220	same	same

## **Payment of Taxes**

1. All taxes must be fully paid before the end of the business day on May 31, 2015
2. The town is bound to operate within the Municipalities Act of NL; however, will discuss payment issues with taxpayers who are unable to meet the payment timelines.

3. A discount of 5% will be applied to taxes paid before the end of February 28, 2015, 4% discount before the end of March 31st , 2015, 3% discount before the end of April 30th, 2015, 2% discount before the end of May 30th, 2015. **Discount is on the property tax amount ONLY.** You do not take the discount of the water/sewer tax.
4. For those who avail of the Water/Sewer quarterly option. The payment is due before the quarter.

January 1<sup>st</sup> – due for January – March.

April 1<sup>st</sup> – due for April – June

July 1<sup>st</sup> – due for July – September

October 1<sup>st</sup> – due for October – December

**NOTE: For those who pay with post-dated checks please make sure your check is dated for the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month instead of the last of every month.**

5. Taxes paid by post-dated cheques will be charged 2% simple interest on any balance after the end of business day on May 31, 2015.
6. The town is bound to operate within the Municipalities Act of NL; however, will discuss payment issues with taxpayers who are unable to meet the payment timeline.
7. Failure to make payment arrangements with the town clerk, before the end of business day on May 31, 2015, will be issued a 2-week notice of water shutoff

### **Ways to make a payment**

Cash or check (no interact available)

Post-dated cheques

Payment Plan – discuss a payment plan option with the Town Clerk

If the office is closed a mailbox slot is available – receipts will be sent in the mail.

NEW – INTERACT E- TRANSFER

### **What is an INTERAC e-Transfer?**

With an INTERAC e-Transfer, you can send money to friends and family, even if you don't know their account number or banking information. CIBC sends an e-mail to the recipient, telling them how to complete the money transfer.

It's a fast and secure way to transfer money. And you can get started by logging on to CIBC's Online Banking service!

### **How it works**

First, you'll need the e-mail address of the person who will receive the money. You will also need to create a "security question", which the recipient must answer to complete the transfer.

E-mail is used for communications, but the money moves through the same secure network that CIBC uses every day.

### **Message from the Mayor**

*On behalf of the Gillam's Town Council and Staff it gives me great pleasure to extend New Year's Greetings to all residents, to welcome any new residents and to thank those who served on the volunteer organizations in our town during 2014.*

*In 2015 Council will strive to maintain the same quality and level of services provided in the past. We will also continue to evaluate the services we provide and seek efficiencies at all levels in an effort to enhance the delivery of these services wherever possible. Each year the cost of services, primarily snow clearing and waste management, increases and tough decisions have to be made as to how to best spend the limited resources that are available to us.*

*I would like to acknowledge the contributions of our Town Clerk/Manager, Mrs. Shelley Penney; our maintenance worker, Mr. Anthony Gauthier; and our maintenance helper, Mr. Sheldon Park. Our employees have displayed professionalism and dedication in their regular duties and have effectively coped with the many unexpected situations that have arisen this year.*

*The volunteer groups in our town have continued to offer their services for the benefit of our residents. Their volunteer service helps keep our costs, and taxes down. The Gillam's Volunteer Fire Department, The Gillam's Recreation Commission and the Golden Sunset 50 Plus Club contribute to the health and safety of our townspeople. Residents are to be commended for supporting each of these groups in their respective fundraisers and events throughout the year. Volunteers are the backbone of any small community and new members are always welcome. Anyone interested in joining either organization is encouraged to get in touch with the appropriate party or contact the Town Office for more information.*

*We look forward moving together towards a new year and new possibilities.*

### **Message from the Town Manager**

*On behalf of myself and the staff, I would like to extend a sincere and warm greeting to all residents as we move forward into 2015. May you enjoy good health and prosperity in the New Year.*

