

MUNICIPALITY OF
**EASTERN
CHARLOTTE**

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News Release

Tax Rates of Eastern Charlotte

28 February 2023

ST. GEORGE – In 2022, most municipalities and local service districts were impacted by the Local Government Reform by the Province of New Brunswick. Once a Province of over 300 communities, New Brunswick has now been reduced to 89 communities.

For our area, the former municipalities of the Town of St. George and the Village of Blacks Harbour, along with six (6) full or partial Local Service Districts (LSD) – consisting of the LSD of Pennfield, the LSD of Fundy Bay, the LSD of St. George Parish, the LSD of Beaver Harbour, the LSD of Bonny River & Second Falls, and a small portion of the LSD of St. Patrick – were merged to create the entity of Eastern Charlotte.

This new entity has a population of more than 7,700 people and measures at over 500 square kilometers. These changes created new boundaries, a newly elected nine (9) person Council, and new budgets with a general cost of over \$7 million annually. Tax authorities are changing and increases are expected, particularly for LSDs in this Province, which is impacting communities in Eastern Charlotte.

The tax rate is the number of cents per \$100 of property value. The tax rates for the sub-units of Eastern Charlotte are as follows:

TAX AUTHORITY	PREVIOUS RATE	NEW RATE	INCREASE OR DECREASE	DIFFERENCE
Town of St. George	1.3900	1.3700	Decrease	0.0200
Village of Blacks Harbour	1.5980	1.5297	Decrease	0.0683
LSD of Pennfield	0.9305	0.9801	Increase	0.0496
LSD of Fundy Bay	1.0183	1.0322	Increase	0.0139
LSD of St. George Parish	0.9905	0.9726	Decrease	0.0179
LSD of Bonny River/Second Falls	1.0411	1.0168	Decrease	0.0243
LSD of Beaver Harbour	1.0488	1.0618	Increase	0.0130
LSD of St. Patrick	0.9456	0.9589	Increase	0.0133

Residents are reminded that this budget is not a budget created by your new Council. This budget was mandated by the Province of New Brunswick.

In addition, at the first meeting of the new Council of Eastern Charlotte, the Council has requested that the Minister change the type of government which Eastern Charlotte was created as, that being a “Rural Community”, to be redesignated as a “Town”. There has not yet been a response from the Province on this request.

Under a “Rural Community”, some of Eastern Charlotte’s services are provided by the Minister of Environment and Local Government, including Police Protection and Dangerous & Unsightly Premises Enforcement. For 2023, Eastern Charlotte is paying over \$140,000 for services provided by the Minister though the cost of Police Protection has already been identified.

Furthermore, there are questions and serious concerns on how being a “Rural Community” will impact future recalculations of the Unconditional Grant from the Province, a fund that has already seen a reduction from \$709,000 in 2022, to \$513,000 in 2023, for Eastern Charlotte.

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