



Media Advisory

Taxpayers Opportunity to Provide Feedback on 2016 Budget & Council Performance

Newmarket, ON, January 27, 2016 – The Newmarket Taxpayers Advocacy Group Inc., (NTAG) has provided Town of Newmarket residents with two unique and interactive methods for providing feedback.

On January 22, 2016, NTAG provided residents with an electronic poll regarding the recent 2016 Town of Newmarket budget. Participants were provided with the latest increases to affect Newmarket residents in 2016, such as:

Town of Newmarket Property taxes	2.34% increase
Newmarket Hydro	11.0% increase
Newmarket Water and Sewer	6.5% increase
Newmarket Recreation and User Fees	3.5% increase

To date, 140 people have participated in the survey which asks residents three questions: 1. Do you feel the Town of Newmarket should seek internal cost savings to reduce, or maintain property taxes? 2. What are your thoughts on the 2016 budget? 3. How does the most recent Town of Newmarket property tax increase affect your household? To date, 82% of participants feel the tax increase is unwarranted and the Town can maintain and/or increase services without increasing taxes. 72% of participants feel the Town of Newmarket should absolutely pursue aggressive internal cost savings and aim for a zero increase in property taxes, and sadly 43% of participants indicate that the tax increase causes great financial difficulty to their household. Comments provided by participants range from lamenting the number of Town of Newmarket vehicles, to widows concerned they are unable to keep their home.

Effective today, residents will be able to provide feedback about their Town Councillors vis-à-vis the NTAG Councillor Report Card. “NTAG wanted to provide residents with completely objective, measurable and fact-driven criteria to grade their Town Council” states Teena Bogner, President of NTAG. NTAG has used three criteria to grade Councillors: meeting attendance; response to NTAG’s written concerns to Council; and a question posed to all Councillors relating to their personal effort and initiative to curb internal spending at the Town of Newmarket. “NTAG continues to promote transparency, accountability and fiscal responsibility in local, municipal government. This is a small, yet effective, way to measure performance in 2015 without using subjective data” says Bogner.



The Councillor Report Card can be found at www.ntag.ca for two weeks.

The Newmarket Taxpayers Advocacy Group Inc. (NTAG) is a provincially incorporated non-for-profit ratepayers group in Newmarket, ON. NTAG is a non-political, non-partisan, advocacy organization dedicated to fair taxes, less waste and transparent and accountable government in all levels of government (town, region and school boards) in Newmarket, Ontario, Canada.

For information on Newmarket Taxpayers Advocacy Group Inc.:

Teena Bogner
President
president@ntag.ca

Doug Brown
Communications Chairperson
Doug@ntag.ca