



## Media Advisory

### Town salary increases an insult to taxpayers

**Newmarket, ON, February 16, 2018** – A recent Freedom of Information request filed by the Newmarket Taxpayers Advocacy Group Inc. (NTAG) has uncovered unprecedented salary increases within the Town of Newmarket in 2018. NTAG recently requested information on salary increases for all staff positions ranked grade 10 and above, all levels, from 2014 to present. [Grade 15 is the highest grade for the Town of Newmarket. Grade 10 and above refers to Commissioners, Directors, and Management. There are six levels per grade, which denotes seniority.]

From 2017 - 2018 the following increases occurred with Non Union Regular Salaried Wage Scale, which the Town claims is a result of “market review”:

- Employees at grade 15 received an \$11,000 salary increase in 2018.
- Employees at grade 13 received a \$13,985 salary increase in 2018.
- Employees at grade 12 received a \$20,740 salary increase in 2018.
- Employees at grade 11 received a \$4,867 salary increase in 2018.

Non-unionized regular hourly workers received minimal increases to their salary in 2018, averaging \$1 – 3,000.

The Town of Newmarket also states in its response letter *“As a method of rewarding exceptional performance and as part of our Salary Progression Policy the Town has the ability to grant a salary increase greater than the established level. Accelerated increases can be applied where work performance is judged exceptional.”*

This is evident with the Chief Administrative Officer’s salary of \$254,631.50 — \$53,813.50 higher than the maximum salary of the Town Wage Scale.

The Town confirmed that remuneration includes a robust employer paid benefits package and a 50/50 contribution to the OMERS pension plan.

“It is mind-boggling, that with Council’s rhetoric of finding internal cost saving measures, and doing their best to limit annual property tax increases, that several employees enjoyed a \$5,000 - \$20,000 increase in salary this year”, states Teena Bogner, President of NTAG. “How can the Town rationalize these salary increases, in lieu of regular, predictable, and unpopular annual tax increases? It is truly offensive to the taxpayers that fund this corporation.”



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.

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