

ASSESSMENT *Facts*

Answering your questions about assessment

Tax Liability and Exemptions

The requirement to pay taxes (or tax liability) can vary from property to property depending on its ownership and use. Some properties are liable for municipal and school taxes, some just for municipal taxes, and some are exempt from taxes. On the assessment notice, tax bill, and in the assessment rolls found in your local municipal office, the tax liability of all properties is indicated as either:

- Taxable
- School Tax Exempt
- Exempt
- Grant-in-lieu

Taxable means that all municipal and education taxes apply to the property. School tax exempt means that only municipal taxes must be paid. Exempt means that no municipal or school taxes apply (though local improvement levies will apply in some cases). Grant-in-lieu means that the property is exempt usually because it is owned by the Crown, but a grant will be paid that is equal to the taxes.

Some general examples of different tax liability situations are:

- the average residence, your local gas station, donut shop and dental clinic, are Taxable
- the local community hall and the personal care home (if owned by a non-profit organization) are School Tax Exempt
- the neighbourhood church, hospital and school are Exempt
- the Manitoba Hydro office and RCMP detachment are Grant-in-lieu

The legislation that determines your tax liability status is The Municipal Assessment Act. It covers the basic criteria to be used in determining what properties qualify for exemption from municipal taxation (except local improvement levies) or from school levies. In some cases, properties must also conform to the criteria of other legislation. For example, a personal care home, in order to qualify for the school levy exemption must also meet the definition of such a facility in The Health Services Insurance Act.

If you have any questions or concerns about your tax liability status, or whether you qualify for an exemption, please call the assessment office in your area.