

Upcoming Changes to Vacant Unit Tax Rebate Program

To help support economic growth and intensification, Halton Region is phasing out the Vacant Unit Tax Rebate Program currently administered by its Local Municipalities.

Background

In February 2017, the Region explored program changes in accordance with the *Municipal Act, 2001*, section 364. Staff engaged the Municipal Treasurers, Halton Economic Development Partnership and local Business Improvement Area representatives. These discussions identified that a phase-out would reflect resident priorities and support Provincial growth targets by:

- fostering site redevelopment;
- reducing vacancies and derelict buildings;
- encouraging landlords to enhance properties; and
- promoting equality amongst taxpayers.

The phase-out plan was approved by Regional Council (FN-11-17) and the Ontario Ministry of Finance.

Phase-out schedule

The program will remain unchanged for 2017 property taxes—the phase-out will occur in 2018 and 2019 to help mitigate its impact on local businesses.

Tax year	2017	2018	2019
Application deadline	Feb. 28, 2018	Feb. 28, 2019	--
Rebate:	No Change	50% Phase Out	100% Phase Out
Commercial	30%	15%	0%
Industrial	35%	20%	0%

Other business supports

To learn about community improvement programs and property tax rebates on buildings vacant for more than three months due to repairs or renovations, contact your Local Municipality.

To learn more about Regional tax policies, visit halton.ca/finances.