

Municipal Requirements and Financing

Conclusions

More extensive and comprehensive planning will be needed in our cities and towns in the future.

The financial problems of the municipalities will have to be dealt with if they are to do the things which an increasing number of urban dwellers will require.

Suggestions

Many municipalities should be able to increase their long-term borrowing in order to finance needed capital expenditures.

Legislation should be passed to permit municipalities to issue non-serial debentures and they should be encouraged to lengthen considerably the term of such debentures.

There may be scope for some municipalities to increase their revenues from real estate taxation by increasing their assessments and/or tax rates.

Senior levels of Government should accept the principle of an assessment on federal and provincial properties in order to compensate the municipalities for the services they provide.

An annual tax on automobiles would seem to be a reasonable way of increasing municipal revenues.

Municipalities should impose adequate charges to cover the costs of specific services, e.g., water supply and sewage disposal.

There is need for a more clear-cut definition and agreement about the functions and facilities which should properly be the responsibility of the municipalities to perform and to provide. If, for example, the municipalities were relieved of financial responsibility for hospitals and some social services, their financial problems would be eased considerably.

The Atlantic Provinces

Conclusions

The prevalence of subsistence farming combined with part-time fishing and logging in the Atlantic region is the main reason for the continued lag in average incomes per capita in that area compared with other parts of Canada.

It is in everyone's interest to reduce the differential between living standards in the Atlantic region and in other parts of Canada if it is at all possible to do so.