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### **Chamber Requests Relief for Tax Payers**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Yesterday the Yarmouth & Area Chamber of Commerce sent a letter to the municipal units of Yarmouth County asking for relief measures for all tax payers, individuals and businesses, due to the COVID-19 crisis.

"With the current pandemic situation unfolding, we believe that urgent action is needed in order to help address the immediate financial concerns that businesses and individuals are experiencing," says Rick Allwright, Executive Director of the Yarmouth & Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber of Commerce is suggesting four areas that the municipalities could potentially look at to help ease cash flow shortages over the next two months while provincial and federal relief measures come online:

- Suspend all interest charges and collections on property taxes until at least June 1, 2020
- Suspend all interest charges and collection on water and sewer charges until at least June 1, 2020
- Relaxed parking restrictions within the Town of Yarmouth to encourage shopping downtown as we come out of this crisis.
- To pay all outstanding bills as soon as possible to local vendors

Allwright says, "these initiatives are meant to help alleviate the immediate cash requirements of tax payers and to keep this money available in our community for the time being." He goes to say that, "these revenues will not be waved completely, just delayed until we are clear of this situation." They believe that this initiative will set the pace for other municipalities in the province.

The Chamber has been collecting information from their members around the mounting issues they are experiencing. "We expect that our economy will take a good amount of time to recover from this crisis," says Allwright. The Chamber says members have stated that they have already laid off many employees, lost significant revenue and some are concerned that they will not be able wait out another storm.

The Yarmouth & Area Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business in South Western Nova Scotia, with a progressive membership of almost 300 business and community leaders representing businesses of all sizes in all sections of the economy.

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