

The Chamber has created the chart below outlining the positions from the three main organizations involved in the tax reform debate. The three organizations are: the Nova Scotia Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) and the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS). They all believe that municipal taxation is unfair, regressive and antiquated. The Chamber is in full support of commercial tax reform; however, at this stage the Chamber is synthesizing the information and surveying its members for an official stance.

Nova Scotia Chamber of Commerce Position	CCPA’s Position	AIMS Position
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Nova Scotia Chamber of Commerce recommends that, until substantive changes are made, the Province of Nova Scotia should implement and legislate a cap on the multiple between commercial and residential rates. ➤ That property assessment as a measure of cost recovery for municipal units be eliminated and that the province of Nova Scotia seriously investigate the use of either the HST system or income tax or a flat tax and some combination of all three as a means to eliminate property taxes over a ten year period in order to meet the characteristics of a good tax. This will also serve to produce savings by not valuing property any longer and lower costs of administration in collecting taxes. <p>Source: Nova Scotia Chamber of Commerce ad Collins Click here to ready the report.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives recommends a Refunded Municipal Income Tax or REMIT. ➤ According to the CCPA, the REMIT works like this: the municipal income tax would be part of your income taxes paid to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). The CRA would send all of these new revenues directly to the relevant local government, based on the postal codes of the tax filers. These income tax revenues would allow local governments to reduce property taxes. (Alternative Municipal Budget 2013). <p>Source: CCPA’s Alternative Municipal Budget. Click here to read the report.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ AIMS is also in favour of an income tax based approach. According to AIMS, income taxes should replace property taxes as the principal source of local revenue. ➤ However, similar to CCPA, AIMS stresses a transition to municipal income tax should not occur in isolation. To be as beneficial to the taxpayer as possible, the introduction of a municipal income tax should be accompanied by the reduction and eventual elimination of transfers from other levels of government. The service delivery responsibilities between governments should also be clarified at the same time to ensure the maximum connectivity between taxes collected and services rendered. <p>Source: AIMS, This Rose, By Any Name, Stinks. Click here to read the report.</p>