# Municipal Report



6

## **Region of Queens Municipality**

## Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Municipal Profile and Financial Condition Indicators Results

2021-22

#### **Table of Contents**

Introduction	Page 1
Chapter 1	
Municipal Profile	Page 2
About the Municipality	Page 3
Population Highlights	Page 4
Population Trends	Page 5
Population Comparison	Page 6
Age Group Comparison	Page 7
Economic Indicators	Page 8
Chapter 2	
Assessment Information	Page 9
Chapter 3	
Financial Information	Page 10
Financial Highlights	Page 11
Consolidated Revenue	Page 12
General Operating Revenue	Page 13
Consolidated Expenses	Page 14
General Operating Expenses	Page 15
Comparison to Provincial Average	Page 16
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)	Page 17
Debt	Page 18
Chapter 4	
Financial Condition Indicators: House Model	Page 19
Overall Assessment	Page 20
Financial Condition Indicators: Highlights & House	Page 21
Two-Year Comparison of Financial Condition Indicators	Page 22
Base FCI: Reliance on a Single Business or Institution	Page 23
Base FCI: Three-Year Change in Tax Base	Page 24
Base FCI: Residential Tax Effort	Page 25

	- 3 -
Base FCI: Residential Tax Effort	Page 25
Structure FCI: Uncollected Taxes	Page 26
Structure FCI: Operating Reserve	Page 27
Structure FCI: Debt Service	Page 28
Structure FCI: Outstanding Operating Debt	Page 29
Structure FCI: Undepreciated Assets	Page 30
Roof FCI: Reliance on Government Transfers	Page 31
Roof FCI: Number of Deficits in the last 5 Years	Page 32
Roof FCI: Liquidity	Page 33
Roof FCI: Combined Reserves	Page 34
Appendix I - Additional Resources	Page 35
Appendix II - Municipal Website	Page 35
Contact Municipal Affairs and Housing	Page 35

## Introduction

The Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing compiles municipal indicators on behalf of the Nova Scotia Government and the Association of Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia (AMANS) that focus on three areas:

- financial matters;
- administration of the municipality; and
- characteristics of the community.

This report creates a snapshot from those financial and demographic statistics to help community members and decision makers better understand:

- the municipality in which they live;
- the municipality's key characteristics; and
- the municipality's financial risks.

For example, the snapshot makes it easy to:

- compare the Three-Year Change in Tax Base indicator to understand the municipality's revenue growth in comparison to cost of living; and
- use the change in population to indicate whether a community's population is growing or declining and its potential impact on municipal revenues and expenses.



## **Chapter 1 - Municipal Profile**

Municipalities are diverse and operate within unique demographic and economic characteristics. These characteristics have a significant impact on municipal performance and subsequent strategies required to ensure a sustainable environment. This chapter outlines the unique demographic and economic characteristics of the Municipality, specifically its composition, population trends, demographics, median household income levels, employment rates, and educational attainment. The municipal profile trends could have impacts on the current and potential future tax base for a municipality.



## **About the Municipality**

Located in: Queens County

Approximate size: 2,388 km<sup>2</sup>

Number of dwellings\*: 7,008

Government: 8 Elected councillors (including the Mayor)



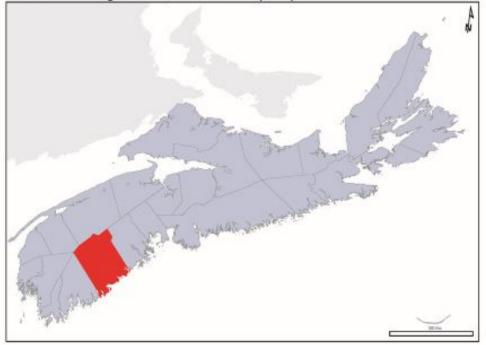


Figure 1 - Location of Municipality

## **Municipal Profile - Highlights**

## **Population Highlights**

Municipal Population 2021 Census:	10,422
Percent of Provincial population:	1.09%
Municipal Population 5-year trend:	1.12%
County's 5-year trend:	1.12%



#### Population Change from 2016 to 2021

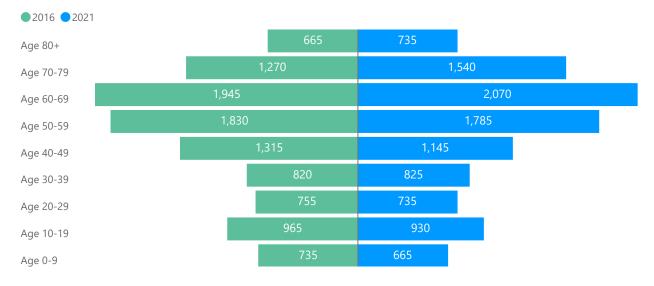


Figure 2 - Population Change from 2016 to 2021 (rounded to nearest five). Source: Statistics Canada

## **Population Trends**

20-year trend: Declining (supported by Figure 3 below)

Highest Age Bracket: 60-69 years of age (supported by Figure 4 below)

#### Population Trend from 2001 to 2021

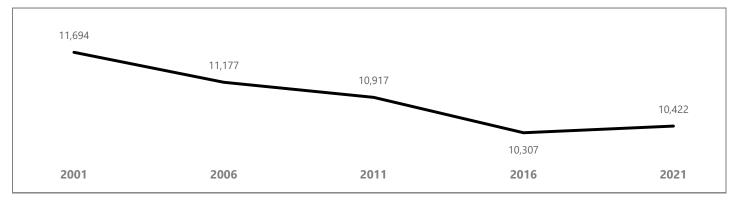


Figure 3 - Population from 2001-2021. Source: Statistics Canada

#### Population Change from 2016 to 2021

Year ●2016 ●2021

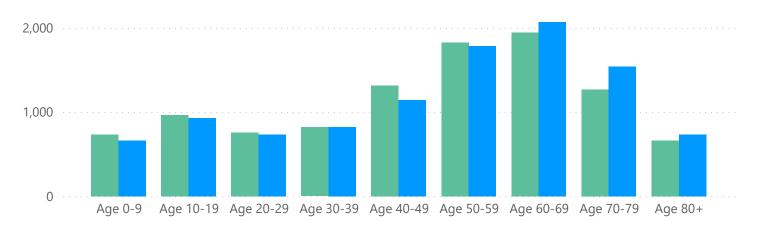


Figure 4 - Population by Age Group from 2016 to 2021. Source: Statistics Canada

## **Population Comparison**

#### Comparison of the Region of Queens Municipality vs. the Region Average

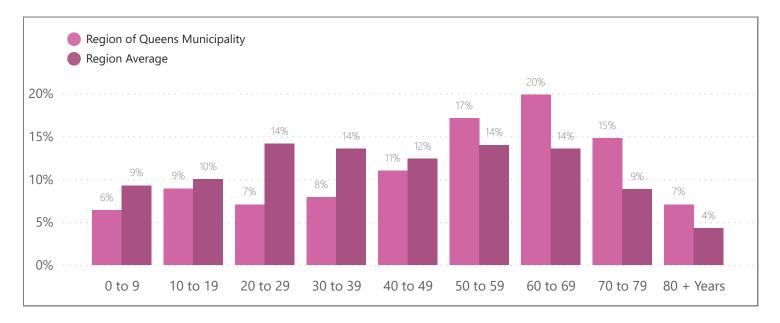


Figure 5 - Population by Age Group. Source: Statistics Canada

#### Comparison of the Region of Queens Municipality vs. the Provincial Average

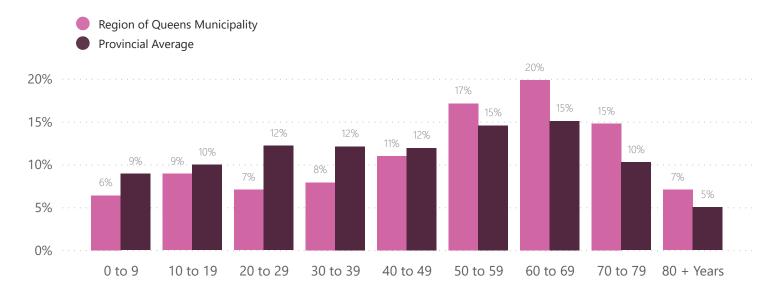


Figure 6 - Population by Age Group. Source: Statistics Canada

## Age Group Comparison

#### **Population Age Groups**

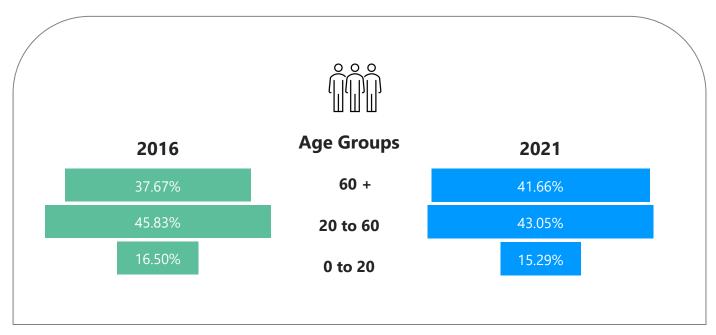


Figure 7 - Population by Age Group 2016 vs 2021. Source: Statistics Canada

#### **Generational Groups**

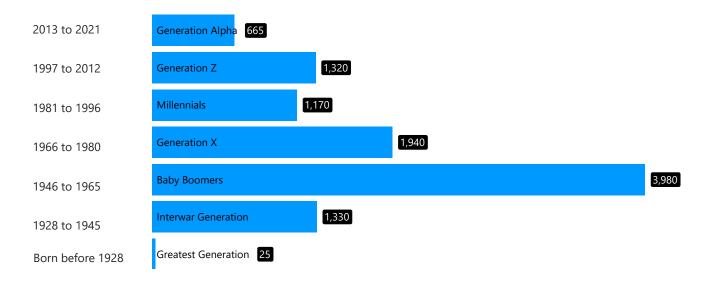


Figure 8 - Population by Generation for 2021 (rounded to nearest five). Source: Statistics Canada

## **Economic Indicators**

Along with population trends, employment rates and median household income are important economic indicators. Education levels can also play a crucial role in economic and social progress and can help improve income distribution. These factors provide an indication of the wellbeing of the economy and labour force. The educational level noted in the chart below represents the percentage of population, aged 15 and over, who have education beyond a high school diploma.

	2016 Census	2021 Census	+/-	Provincial Average
Median household Income:	\$47,680	\$56,800	\$9,120	\$61,724
Employment rate:	41.9%	38.9%	-3.0%	46.2%
Education level:	46.5%	45.6%	-0.9%	50.5%

Figure 9 - 2021 Census; Source: Statistics Canada

Median household Income:	Region of Queens Municipality median household income increased since 2016.
Employment rate:	The employment rate at the Region of Queens Municipality decreased since 2016.
Education level:	The education level at the Region of Queens Municipality decreased since 2016.

## **Chapter 2 - Assessment Information**

Since property taxes are a primary source of revenue for most municipalities, special emphasis has been placed on reviewing assessment trends. For more information about the following financial indicators, please refer to Chapter 4 - Financial Condition Indicators.

Three-year change in Tax Base (Uniform Assessment <sup>1</sup> ):	6.8% Growth is not keeping pace with the cost of living (Moderate risk)
Reliance on a Single Business or Institution:	3.8% Not dependent (Low Risk)
Residential Tax Effort:	2.6% Has some flexibility (Low Risk)

The line graphs below show the five-year trend of residential and commercial portion of the municipality's taxable assessment.

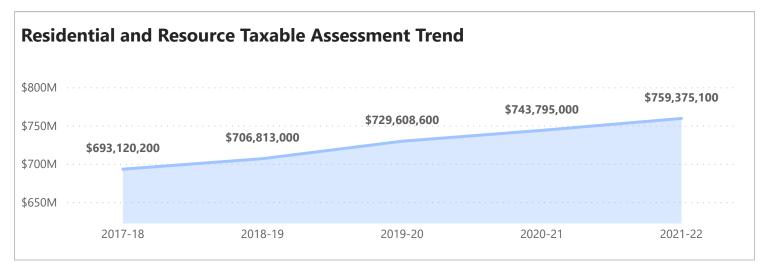


Figure 10 - Residential taxable assessment over the last five years. Source: 2017-18 to 2021-22 Statement of Estimates - Assessment

#### **Commercial Taxable Assessment Trend**

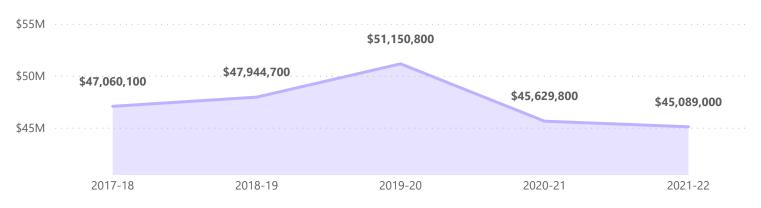


Figure 11 - Commercial taxable assessment over the last five years. Source: 2017-18 to 2021-22 Statement of Estimates - Assessment

<sup>1</sup> Uniform assessment is the value of a municipality's taxable property assessment plus the capitalized value of payments in lieu of taxes.

## **Chapter 3 - Financial Information**

## **General Overview**

Audited financial statements are presented on a consolidated basis. These consolidated financial statements present all municipal entities as one single reporting entity:

- all the individual funds managed by the Municipality
- organizations or enterprises that the Municipality owns or controls, such as:
  - N/A

The Municipality's non-consolidated financial statements present the individual funds managed by the Municipality, such as the General Operating Fund, General Capital Fund, Non-operating Reserve Fund, Operating Reserve Fund and, if applicable, Water Operating Fund, Water Capital Fund, Water Reserve Fund, Electric Operating Fund, Electric Capital Fund, and Electric Reserve Fund. Non-consolidated financial statements are reconciled but not audited<sup>2</sup>.

#### **Financial Reporting Compliance**

#### Legislated Requirements

Submitted before deadline<sup>3</sup>:

<ul> <li>Audited Consolidated Financial Statements</li> </ul>	Yes
<ul> <li>Financial Information Return (FIR)</li> </ul>	Yes
<ul> <li>Statement of Estimates - Assessment (SOE-A)</li> </ul>	Yes
<ul> <li>Statement of Estimates - Budget (SOE-B)</li> </ul>	Yes
<ul> <li>Management Letter/Internal Control Letter</li> </ul>	Yes
<ul> <li>Summary Report of Expenses</li> </ul>	Yes
<ul> <li>Summary Report of Hospitality Expenses</li> </ul>	Yes
Financial Statements include:	
<ul> <li>Unqualified Audit Opinion</li> </ul>	Yes
<ul> <li>Elected Officials remuneration and expenses</li> </ul>	Yes
Expense and Hospitality report posted online quarterly	Yes

<sup>2</sup> Please be advised that, although the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing reconciles, at a high level, a municipality's non-consolidated financial statements to the consolidated financial statements, the non-consolidated financial statements are usually not audited nor presented in full accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

<sup>3</sup> Annually, municipalities are required to submit their financial information by Sept 30th.

## **Financial Highlights**

#### Revenue

Total consolidated revenue:	\$23.8 Million
Revenue generated from own source revenue*:	\$18.9 Million
Total general operating revenue:	\$21.2 Million
Largest general operating revenue:	55% Net property taxes and payments in lieu of taxes

#### **Expenses**

Total consolidated expenses:	\$20.2 Million
Total general operating expenses:	\$17.0 Million
Largest general operating expense:	24% Protective services

#### **Annual Surplus**

Annual consolidated surplus (deficit):	\$3.6 Million
Consolidated accumulated surplus (deficit):	\$76.1 Million
Annual general operating surplus (deficit):	\$3.5 Million

#### Debt

Total consolidated long-term debt:	\$4.3 Million
Total general capital fund long-term debt:	\$3.7 Million
General operating fund bank indebtedness:	\$0

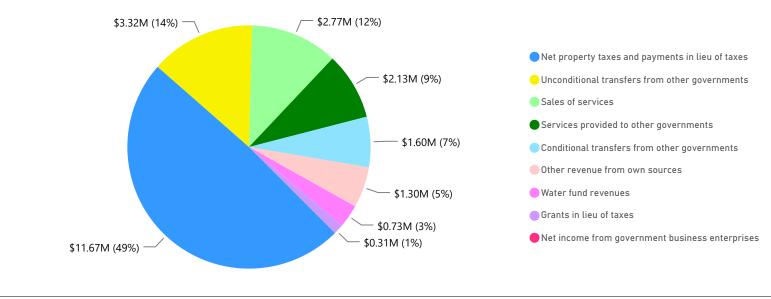
\* Total consolidated revenue excluding government transfers

#### Revenue

## \$23.8M

#### 2021-22 Consolidated Revenue

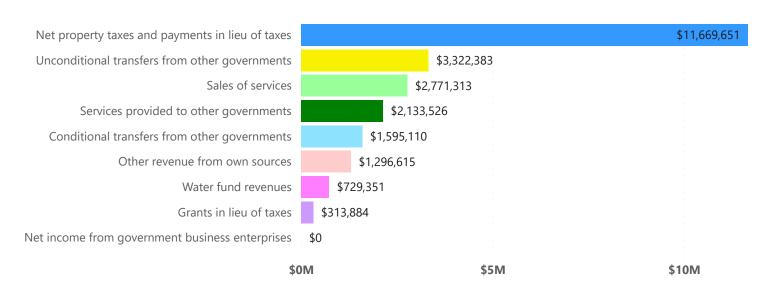




#### Figure 11 - Consolidated Revenue Source: 2021-22 Financial Information Return

The graphs above and below show the Municipality's consolidated revenue divided into categories.

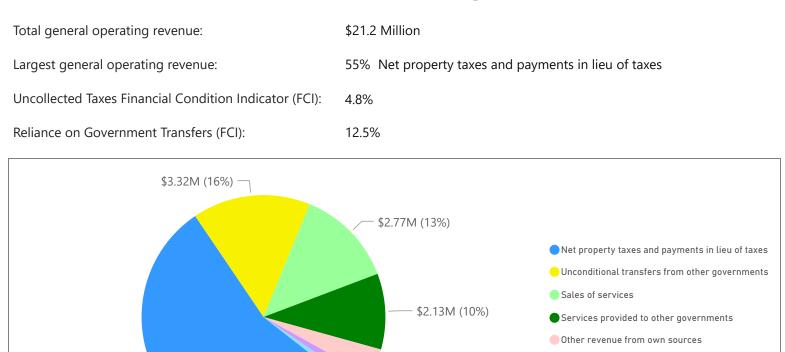
#### **Consolidated Revenue**



#### Revenue

## \$21.2M

#### 2021-22 General Operating Revenue



\$0.80M (4%)

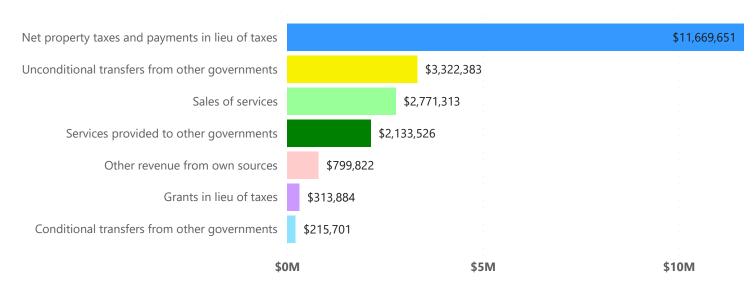
\$0.31M (1%)



The graphs above and below show the Municipality's general operating fund revenue divided into categories.

#### **General Operating Revenue**

\$11.67M (55%)



Grants in lieu of taxes

Conditional transfers from other governments

#### **Expenses**

## \$20.2M

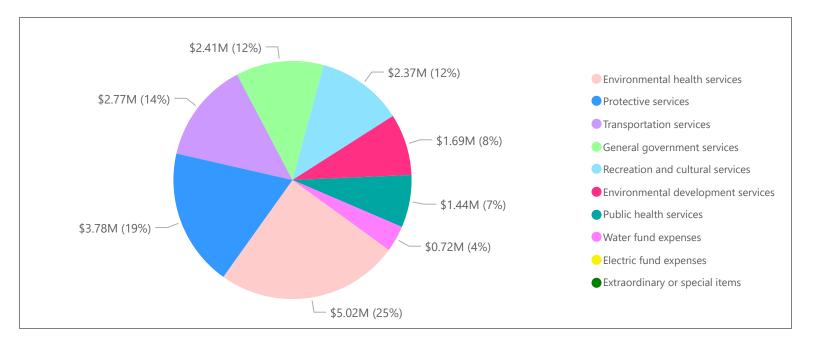
#### 2021-22 Consolidated Expenses

Total consolidated expenses:

\$20.2 Million

Largest expense:

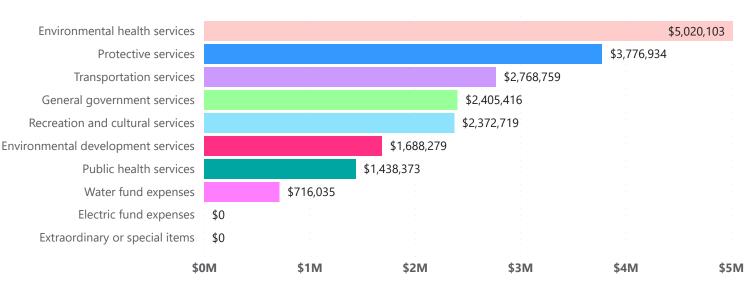
25% Environmental health services



#### Figure 13 - Consolidated Expenses Source: 2021-22 Financial Information Return

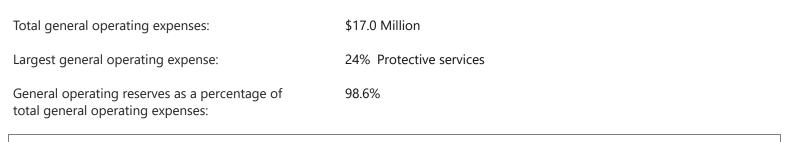
The graph above and table below show the Municipality's consolidated expenses divided into categories.

#### **Consolidated Expenses**



#### **Expenses**

## \$17.0M 2021-22 General Operating Expenses



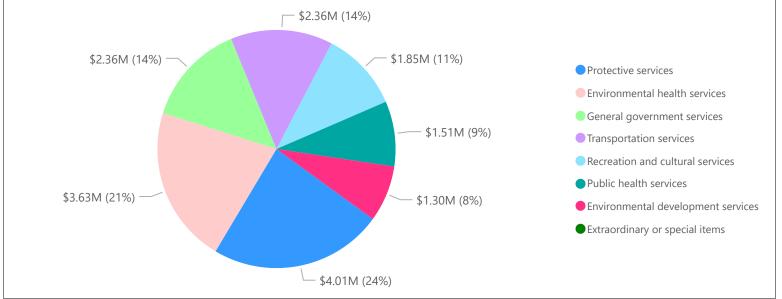
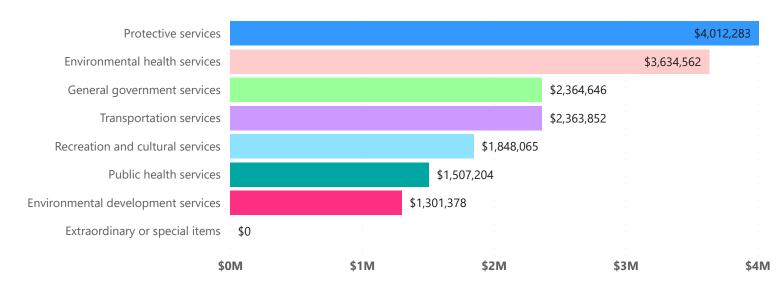


Figure 14 - General Operating Fund Expenses: 2021-22 Financial Information Return

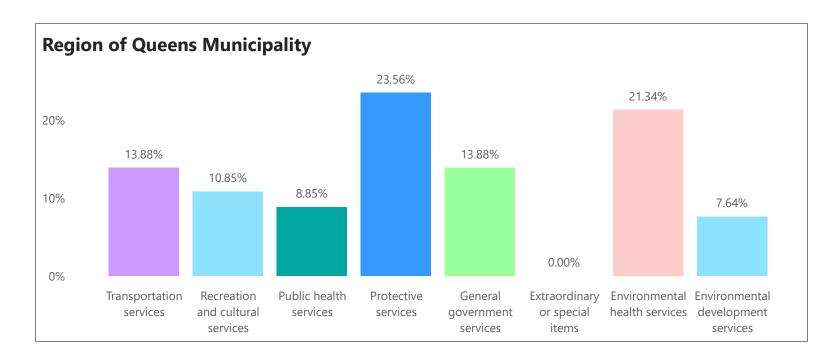
The graph above and table below show the Municipality's general operating fund expenses divided into categories.

#### **General Operating Expenses**

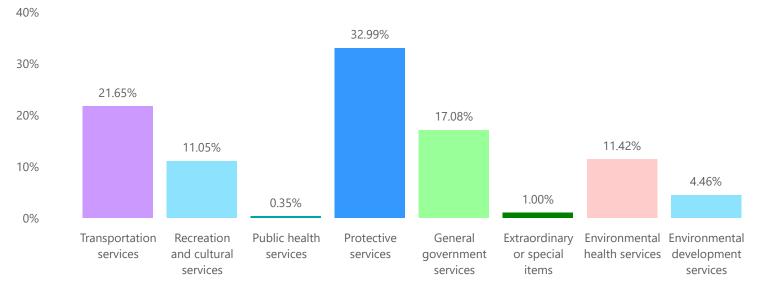


## 2021-22 General Operating Expenses Comparison to the Provincial Average

The graph below shows the expense by function for the municipal operations or General Operating Fund expenses compared to the Provincial Average.



#### **Provincial Average**



\* Please note, these results do not include details from the Town of Mahone Bay due to outstanding financial reporting.

Figure 15 - Comparison of General Operating Fund Expenses to Provincial Average. Source: 2021-22 Financial Information Return

## **Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)**

Annual surplus (deficit): Revenue - Expenses Note: Annual surplus (deficit) is added to the accumulated surplus (deficit)

Annual consolidated surplus (deficit):	\$3.6 Million
Consolidated accumulated surplus (deficit):	\$76.1 Million
Annual general operating surplus (deficit):	\$3.5 Million
Number of Deficits in the Last 5 Years Financial Condition Indicator (FCI):	0

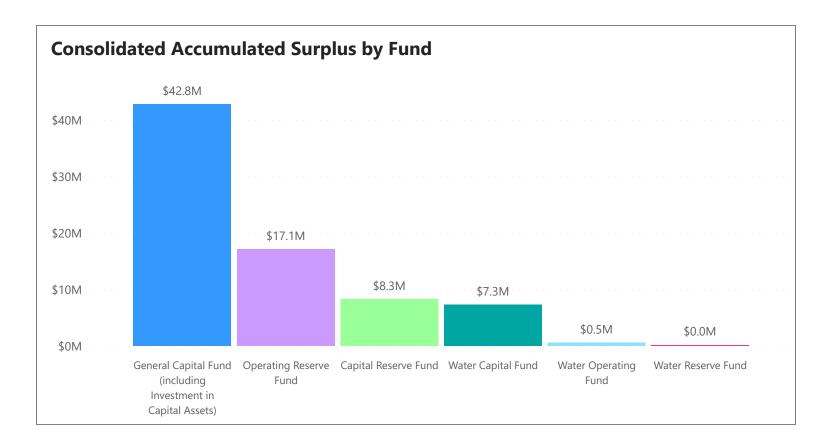


Figure 16 - Consolidated Accumulated Surplus by Fund. Source: 2021-22 Financial Information Return

## Debt

Total consolidated long-term debt:	\$4.3 Million
Total general capital fund long-term debt:	\$3.7 Million
Debt Service Financial Condition Indicator (FCI):	2.4%
Operating fund bank indebtedness:	\$0
Outstanding Operating Debt FCI (as a percentage of Net Property Taxes/Payment in Lieu of Taxes, Grants in Lieu of Taxes and Government Transfers):	0.0%

## Chapter 4 - Financial Condition Indicators: House Model

The Financial Condition Indicators (FCIs) condense multiple sources of information into a single visual "House Model" graph. The House Model gives a quick visual of a municipality's strengths and possible areas where a municipality may want to focus its attention.

## The Model:

The Model consists of twelve indicators organized into base, structure and roof, focusing on:

- Base: Three indicators relating to internal and external factors that could impact the municipality's revenue stream.
- Structure: Five financial indicators that concern management and debt; and
- Roof: Four key performance indicators, that reflect the municipality's ability to meet current and future needs in a balanced and independent manner.

#### Risk thresholds:

Each indicator is assessed against a risk threshold:

- low risk (green);
- moderate risk (yellow); and
- high risk (**red**).

#### **Overall assessment:**

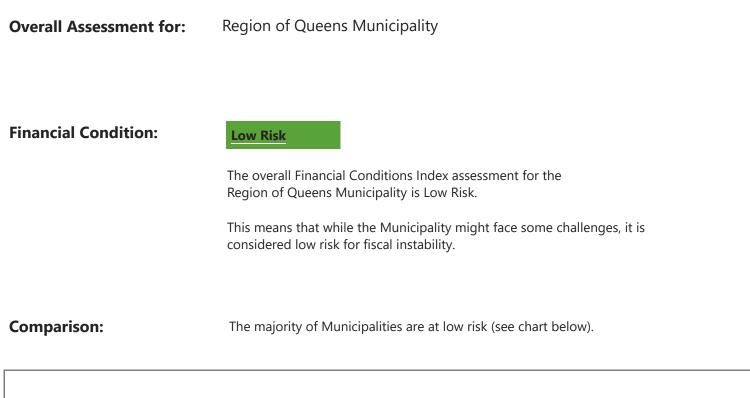
The Department calculates an overall assessment for fiscal instability:

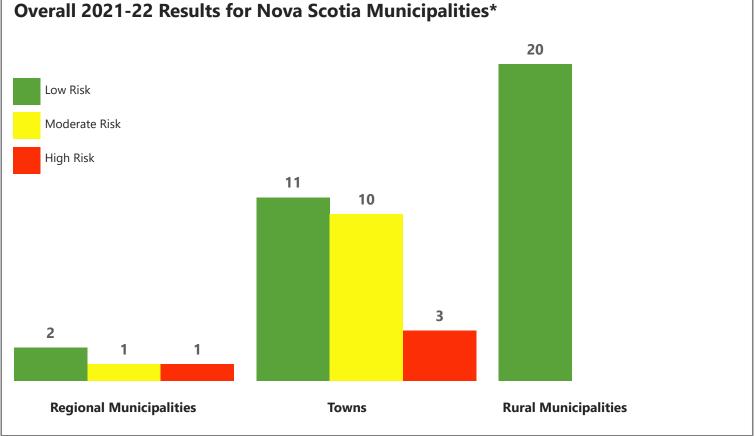
- low risk (green): 9-12 FCIs meet low risk threshold;
- moderate risk (yellow) : 7-8 FCIs meet low risk threshold; and
- high risk (red): 6 or less FCIs meet low risk threshold.

#### For Comparison:

Prior years included the 5-Year Budget Accuracy as a financial condition indicator. Due to the impact of COVID-19, use of the 5-Year Budget Accuracy indicator has been suspended for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. Its future inclusion or possible replacement will be re-evaluated for the 2022-2023 municipal reports.

## **Overall Assessment**





\* Please note, these results do not include details from the Town of Mahone Bay due to outstanding financial reporting.

## **Financial Condition Indicators Highlights for 2021-22**

**Overall Assessment** 

#### Green (Low Risk)

The overall Financial Conditions Index assessment for the Region of Queens Municipality is Green (Low Risk).

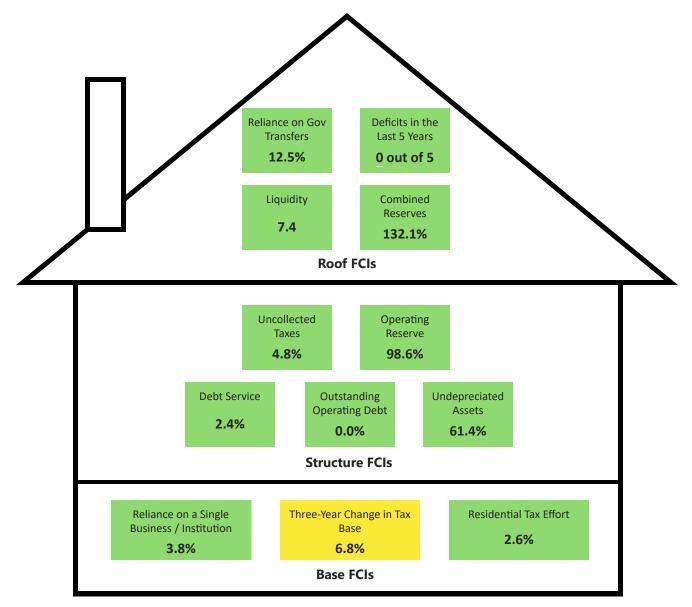
This means that while the Municipality might face some challenges, it is considered low risk for fiscal instability.

As shown in the House model below, the Region of Queens Municipality's FCIs are comprised of:

Low Risk <b>(green)</b> :	11 Indicators
---------------------------	---------------

- Moderate Risk (yellow): 1 Indicators
- High Risk (red): 0 Indicators

Individual FCI results are presented in the House below and are compared to last year's result on the next page.



## **Two-Year Comparison of Financial Condition Indicators**

BASE	2020-21	2021-22	+/-
Reliance on a Single Business or Institution	4.0%	3.8%	-0.2%
Three-Year change in Tax Base	7.9%	<b>6.8%</b>	-1.1%
Residential Tax Effort	2.9%	2.6%	-0.3%

STRUCTURE	2020-21	2021-22	+/-
Uncollected Taxes	5.7%	4.8%	-0.9%
Operating Reserve	78.5%	98.6%	20.1%
Debt Service	2.6%	2.4%	-0.2%
Outstanding Operating Debt	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Undepreciated Assets	63.2%	61.4%	-1.8%

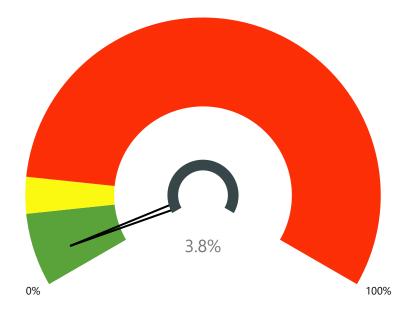
ROOF	2020-21	2021-22	+/-
Reliance on Government Transfers	8.7%	12.5%	3.8%
Number of Deficits in the Last 5 Years	0	0	0
Liquidity	8.9	7.4	-1.5
Combined Reserves	114.3%	132.1%	17.8%

\*For 3-year Change in Tax Base, CPI change for 2020-21 was 6.7% and for 2021-22 was 12.1%.

## **Base FCI Indicator - Municipal Revenue Dimension**

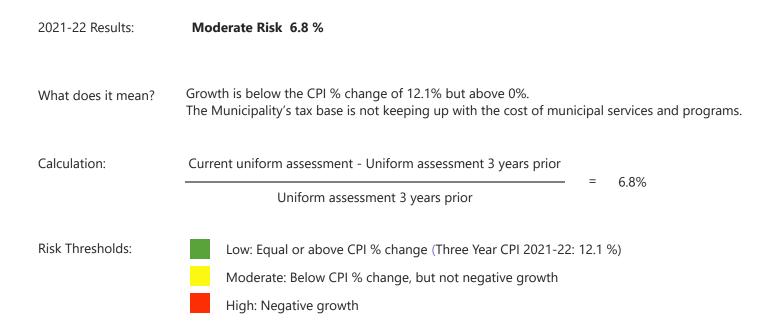
## **Reliance on a Single Business or Institution**

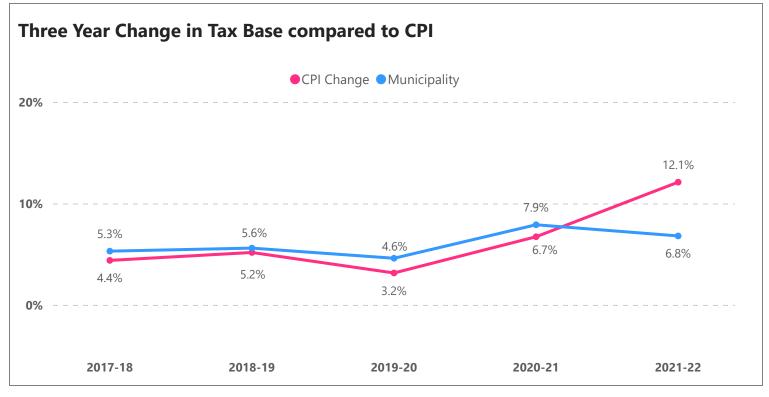
2021-22 Results:	Low Risk 3.8 %
	The largest single commercial or institutional account is 3.8 % of the Municipality's total Uniform Assessment.
What does it mean?	The Municipality is showing no vulnerability in this area. The Municipality's tax base is not dependent on one single business or institution.
Calculation:	Taxable assessment value of the largest business or institution Uniform assessment
Risk Thresholds:	<ul> <li>Low: Less than 10%</li> <li>Moderate: 10% to 15%</li> <li>High: Greater than 15%</li> </ul>



## **Base FCI Indicator - Municipal Revenue Dimension**

#### **Three-Year Change in Tax Base**





*Figure 17 - Three-year change in Uniform Assessment in comparison to three-year change in CPI for the last 5 years. Source: Statement of Estimates-Assessment and Statistics Canada* 

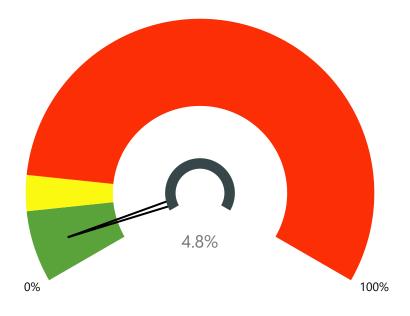
## **Base FCI Indicator - Municipal Revenue Dimension**

## **Residential Tax Effort**

2021-22 Results:	Low Risk 2.6 %
	2.6 % of median household income is required to pay the average tax bill.
What does it mean?	The Municipality has some flexibility to increase the taxes, if required.
	This indicator helps council assess the affordability of municipal taxes in relation to the current service levels.
Calculation:	Total residential tax revenue per dwelling unit = 2.6%
	Median household income
Risk Thresholds:	Low: Less than 4%
	Moderate: 4% to 6%
	High: Greater than 6%

## **Uncollected Taxes**

2021-22 Results:	Low Risk 4.8 %
What does it mean?	The Municipality is managing tax revenue collection.
Calculation:	Total cumulative uncollected taxes = 4.8% Total taxes billed in current fiscal year
Risk Thresholds:	Low: Less than 10% Moderate: 10% to 15% High: Greater than 15%

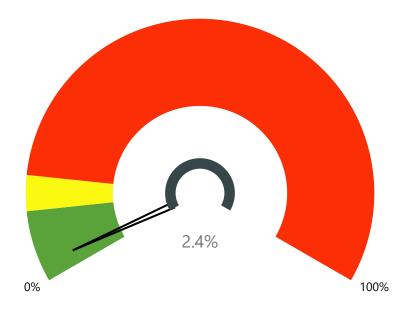


### **Operating Reserve**

2021-22 Results: Low Risk 98.6 % The Municipality is setting aside sufficient funds to help mitigate any unforeseen risks or future What does it mean? needs. This indicator provides the value of funds set aside for planned future needs, to smooth expenses, or for unexpected expenses. Calculation: Total operating reserve fund balance 98.6% = Total operating expenditures **Risk Thresholds:** Low: Greater than 20% Moderate: 10% to 20% High: Less than 10% 98.6% 150% 0%

## **Debt Service**

2021-22 Results:	Low Risk 2.4 %
	2.4% of own source revenue is spent on principal and interest payments.
What does it mean?	With adequate cash flow, the Municipality may have the flexibility to increase borrowing levels to help finance future capital expenditures.
Calculation:	Principal and interest paid on long-term debt = 2.4%
	Total own source operating revenue
Risk Thresholds:	Low: Less than 10%
	Moderate: 10% to 15%
	High: Greater than 15%

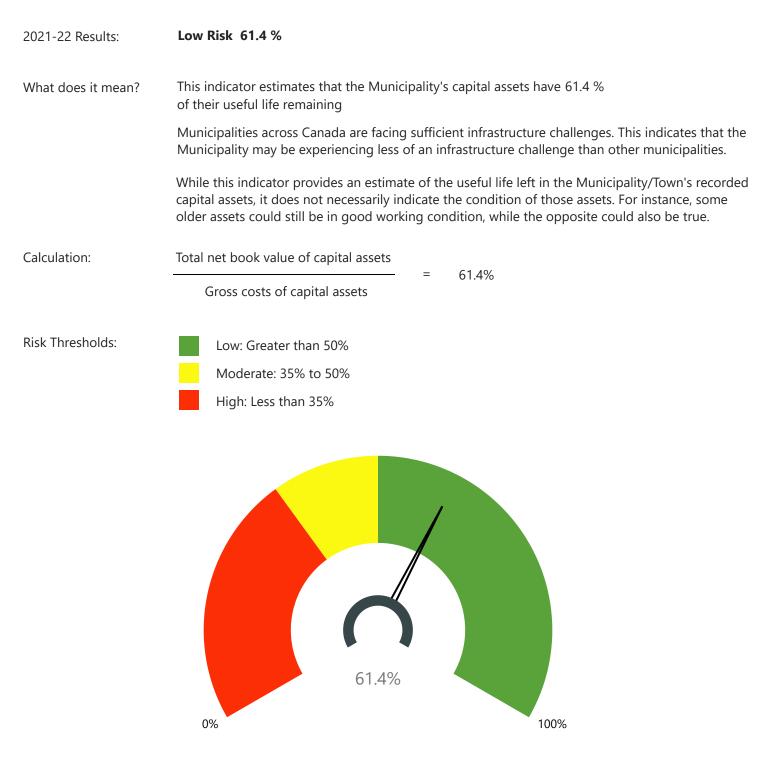


## **Outstanding Operating Debt**





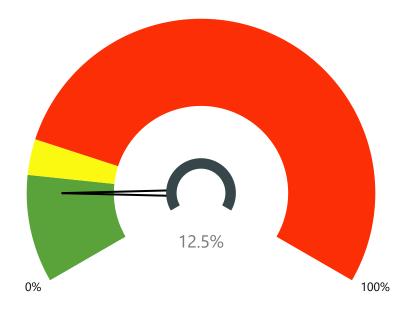
## **Undepreciated Assets**



## **Roof (Key Performance) FCI Indicator - Overall Assessment** Dimension

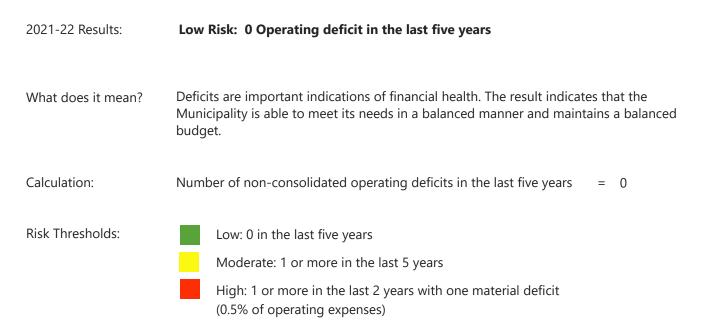
## **Reliance on Government Transfers**

2021-22 Results:	Low Risk 12.5 %
What does it mean?	The Municipality is not dependent on another level of government to meet its service obligations.
Calculation:	Total government transfers = 12.5% Total revenue
Risk Thresholds:	Low: Less than 15% Moderate: 15% to 20% High: Greater than 20%



## Roof (Key Performance) FCI Indicator - Overall Assessment Dimension

#### Number of Deficits in the last 5 Years



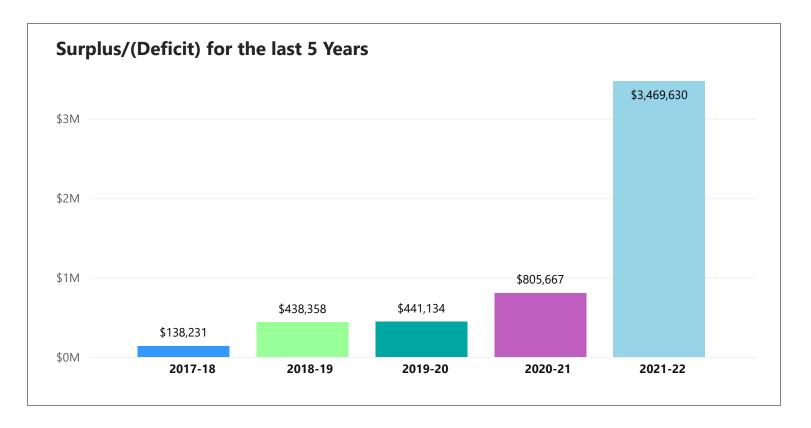
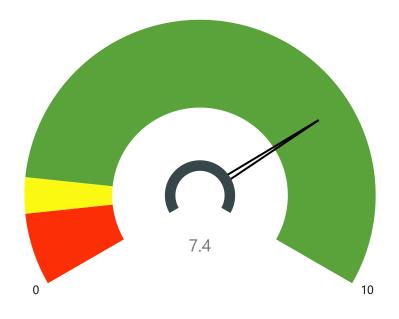


Figure 18 - Annual operating fund surplus (deficit) for the last 5 years. Source: Financial Information Return

## **Roof (Key Performance) FCI Indicator - Overall Assessment Dimension**

## Liquidity

2021-22 Results:	Low Risk 7.4
What does it mean?	Liquidity is key to financial performance. The result indicates that the Municipality does not have a cash flow problem and is able to meet its service obligations.
Calculation:	Total current financial assets=7.4Total current liabilities
Risk Thresholds:	Low: Greater than 1.5 Moderate: 1 to 1.5 High: Less than 1



# Roof (Key Performance) FCI Indicator - Overall Assessment Dimension

## **Combined Reserves**

2021-22 Results:	Low Risk 132.1 %
What does it mean?	This result indicates that the Municipality does appear to have sufficient reserves needed to address unexpected events or provide flexibility to address future projects.
Calculation:	Reserves are critical components of a municipality's long-term sustainability. This indicator shows the value of the funds held in the reserves compared to a single year's operation including amortization expenses.
Risk Thresholds:	Total operating and capital reserves
	Total operating expenses plus amortization expense = 132.1%
	<ul> <li>Low: Greater than 40%</li> <li>Moderate: 30% to 40%</li> <li>High: Less than 30%</li> </ul>
	0% 150%

## **Appendix I - Additional Resources**

#### Nova Scotia Government's Open Data Portal (data.novascotia.ca)

This portal provides access to various government data in a free, accessible, machine-readable format.

Financial datasets currently published through the Nova Scotia Government's Open Data Portal:

- Consolidated Revenues and Expenses by Municipality
- Municipal Affairs and Housing Funding Programs
- Farm Land Grant
- Financial Condition Indicators by Municipality
- Municipal Contributions to Roads
- Municipal Financial Capacity Grant
- Municipal Operating Fund- Summary of Revenue and Expenses by Municipality
- Municipal Operating Expenses by Function 10 Year Summary
- Municipal Operating Revenue by Source 10 Year Summary
- Municipal Property Tax Rates
- Nova Scotia Power Grant-in-Lieu
- Uniform Assessment

## **Appendix II - Municipal Website**

The municipal website is regionofqueens.com

A municipality's website can be a helpful resource to access various financial information. Currently, most municipal websites provide:

- Audited Financial Statements
- Approved Operating Budget
- Quarterly Municipal Councilor and CAO Expense Report
- Quarterly Municipal Hospitality Expense Report

#### **Contact Municipal Affairs and Housing**

For more information, for support in action plan development, or to obtain a guide on action plan development: <u>municipalfinance@novascotia.ca</u>.

