



TOWN OF MADAWASKA
328 St. Thomas Street Suite 101
Madawaska, Maine 04756

February 8, 2017

Dear Madawaska Residents:

207-728-6351

The proposed state budget for the next two years was released on Friday, January 6th. I am writing today about one specific part of the proposed budget: the homestead exemption. You are currently receiving this benefit, which reduces your tax bill by \$308.55 per year because of a \$15,000 valuation exemption certified at the Town's ratio at 110% on your property. In the next tax billing year (2017-2018), current state law will increase the exemption by another \$5,000 certified at the Town's ratio which would provide an additional \$102.85 for a total of **\$411.40** off your property tax bill. Unfortunately, included in the budget is a proposal to immediately eliminate the homestead property exemption for homeowners under the age of 65. If adopted the homestead exemption change will take effect immediately for the 2017 tax year. This would have dire impacts on young families and dramatically increase property taxes.

If this is adopted and you are under the age of 65, you will lose your \$411.40 homestead benefit. If you are unhappy with this change, I strongly encourage you to contact your local representatives to share your concern about this proposed change, as the legislature will be debating the merits of the proposed change in the coming weeks.

You can contact our local area representatives as follows:

Senator Troy Jackson

Senate Democratic Office (207) 287-1515

Troy.Jackson@legislature.maine.gov

Rep. Roland "Danny" Martin

House Office: (800) 423-2900

Danny.Martin@legislature.maine.gov

Finally, this is just one of many complex changes to tax policy recommended in the proposed budget. I encourage you to be informed about all the changes so that you might judge the merits of each of them.

As always, Town staff are available to assist you with any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact the Town Office at 728-6351 8:00am – 4:00pm Monday through Friday.

Sincerely,

Ryan D. Pelletier

Town Manager