

**Update: Based on PWGSC Briefing on Payments in Lieu of Taxes  
(April 30, 2001)**

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- On April 30, PWGSC held a briefing for all Crown Corporations and those that still have responsibility for federal property.
- The Best Practices Study for unique properties of the federal government such as that held by Crown Corporations, Parks and Ports will commence soon. The contract has been finalized with the Appraisal Institute of Canada, but will not be complete by March of 2003.
- Ports will be included in the first class of property to be considered by the Best Practices Study.
- PWGSC noted that 'fairness, equity and predictability' were the key components of the new PILT Act replacing the Municipal Grants Act.
- PWGSC is now in the process of developing the policy and regulations related to the PILT Act. Once PWGSC has a draft of those policies and regulations, the ACPA will endeavour to mirror those of PWGSC for federal property on port lands as Crown Corps and Ports may wish to develop its own specific policy related to federal property under its control. However, it must reflect the overall intent of the Act.
- ACPA's PILT Task Force and Real Property Committee will monitor the progress of both the policies and regulations related to PILTs.
- They referred to the Dispute Advisory Panel which was put in place to deal with appeals made on property valuations, however, the decisions of this body are non-binding on the parties to the appeal.
- PWGSC is now seeking names across the country from each Province to propose as candidates for a GIC appointment to the Advisory Panel. They must have some background in appraisal/assessment law and must not be active members of a Crown Corporation. Should any ports have suggested nominees please advise the ACPA or PWGSC PILT Branch (Gary Abson, Director, PILT Branch).
- It was noted that the Dispute Advisory Panel appeals would be retroactive to January 2000.
- It must be noted that under the PILT Act those responsible for the management of federal property cannot make special arrangements with a municipality related to the Act.

- As per the Act, and as previously reported, there is also a Program Advisory Committee that will advise the Minister on changes required to the PILT Act as required. This Committee has not yet be formed.

- Members of the Program Advisory Committee will be a Chairman, President of Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Heads of Assessment, Crown Corporation Representatives, Departmental Representatives and the Appraisal Institute of Canada and its Quebec counterpart.

### **Government of Canada 1993 Program Expenditure Freeze**

- PWGSC also noted that a letter had gone to all Ministers pointing out that because of the expenditure freeze in 1993 those Crown Corps who froze payments to municipalities now have to reimburse the municipality for the amount frozen.

- This applies to the fiscal year 1993 only and only to those ports who were paying 'grants' to municipalities at the time. That may include all the former CPC ports; it does not apply to former Harbour Commissions.

- This came about as a result of a legal challenge by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. It has not yet been determined how Transport Canada will handle this matter related to 1993 and the grants in lieu vis-a-vis the government wide freeze. Transport will be reviewing this in the weeks to come and may contact respective ports directly on this matter.