

To see if the Town of Norton will adopt one of the following two phrases as a town motto:

- (a) *ACUMEN ACUTUM* (“sharp point, talent *or* intellect”)**
- (b) *ACUMINA PRAEACUTA* (“points, talents *or* intellects sharpened to a fine point”).**

Excursus

A motto should combine existing Norton iconography with the excellence of our great cultural treasure, Wheaton College. Both Wheaton and Norton have sharp minds; Norton would always hope to be represented by sharp lances.

- (a) *ACUMEN ACUTUM*** (pronounced “uh-KOO-men uh-KOO-tum”) **doubles for ‘a sharp point’ and ‘a sharp intellect’**. Its brevity is easier to say and remember.
- (b) *ACUMINA PRAEACUTA*** (pronounced “uh-KOO-mihn-uh PRY-uh-KOO-tuh”) **would mean ‘talents sharpened to a fine point’, (or ‘finely-honed intellects’ [or lances])** most appropriate for scholars and for Lancers.

Norton is three hundred years old and should have a dignified rallying cry to match its age. Why not in Latin? The residents of Boston petition God for the same consideration He gave their forebears (*sicut patribus, sit Deus nobis*). Our Commonwealth seeks peace by the sword but only under Liberty (*ense petit placidam sub libertate quietem*). Even our parent municipality, Taunton, borrows a line from the Roman poet Virgil (*dux femina facti*, ‘a woman was leader of the exploit’) for its town seal. Norton could join their company.

One may see how the suggested motto includes both Town and Gown. More than this, the cost of a town motto is almost \$0.00. To bring the Town added clout for NO MONEY, i.e., virtually FREE, at a time when finances have become such an acute consideration must surely be taken into account.