

MuniLegislativeReview

From: Christopher Parsons [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 10:52 AM
To: MuniLegislativeReview
Subject: Municipal Legislation Written Submission

Hello,

I would like to suggest the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador include in the various Municipal Acts the ability for a municipality to have various controls pertaining to select environmental issues. Issues like:

- Noise legislation that allows a Municipality to ban certain vehicles or vehicle modifications that disturb the majority of the populace. The Provincial government could provide some limits in the act by including a specified decibel level for exemptions. There could be exemptions required for vehicles like large Semi Trucks which are a necessary part of supply lines to our cities and towns but without hampering a Town or Cities ability to specify areas where these Trucks can not go.
- The ability to ban items or products that can have a proven direct effect on the environment - for example single use plastic bags, pesticides, etc. The act could have guidance that such bans would have to go through a typical public consultation process similar to those used in a re-zoning process before brought to a council vote. At the same time this legislation should not replace the Provincial Government's ability to apply a Province-wide ban on such items. This would simply be in place to allow municipalities some flexibility to move on Environment issues effecting the Town or City without or prior to a Provincial decision. Recognizing the Province has to consider the needs of different regions before making a decision that effects the entire Province.
- Finally include wetland legislation in the three City acts of St. John's, Mount Pearl and Corner Brook. This would require the Cities to protect and preserve wetlands and other environmentally valuable areas as defined by modern standards to be provided and regularly updated by the Department of the Municipal Affairs and Environment. The urban areas of the Province are rapidly losing wetland and forest areas which are not only important for the environment overall (controlling air pollution, wildlife) but losing these areas have proven to result in more water, wind and other weather related damage throughout the cities. These need to be protected to prevent further damage as Climate Change brings more winds and more water to our region. There could be exemptions for Crown owned land within City limits. That would continue to be controlled by the level of government which has stewardship over that piece of land be it Provincial or Federal.

Thanks for your time,

Christopher Parsons
[REDACTED]