

Great Northern Peninsula Joint Council

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Mayor Gerry Gros
Chair
Mayor Dale Colbourne
Vice Chair

January 31, 2018

The Honourable Eddie Joyce
Municipal Legislation Review
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment\
4th Floor, West Block, Confederation Building
P. O. box 8700
St. John's, NL, A1B 4J6

Dear Minister Joyce:

The Great Northern Peninsula Joint Council (**GNPJC**) asks that you take the following points in consideration in your review of the Municipalities Act:

- LSD's be removed from the Act
- Provide municipalities with the ability to set and enforce fines, without police assistance at all times to help enforce bylaws such as animal control, garbage disposal of junk items such as old vehicles.
- The Act be written in clear language so that municipalities do not have to consult lawyers for clarification and/or interpretation.
- Build incentives in the Act to encourage regionalization.
- The New Act needs to be written in a manner that can be easily interrupted by Town Staff and elected officials. Not ever municipality has staff or financial ability to hire legal representatives to interpret the legislation.
- The Act should clearly outline a town's role in Economic Development and encourage all towns to support it on a regional scale.
- Resettlement/Relocation could also be looked at as an option for some municipalities, with a more reasonable majority e.g. 75% as opposed to the current 98%.
- Establish a Municipal Elections NL similar to Elections NL, to oversee all Municipal elections with set election dates set back to late spring as opposed to late September.

- Conflict of interest – Clear definitive language, easier to interrupt and should also include grandchildren.
- Need for a review board established to deal with various conflicts, when Towns have questions better transfer of answers, there shouldn't be any need to call a legal advisor.
- Land sales – Town's need the right to sell its own property as it sees fit. No need for minister approval or tender calls.
- Vacant land, easier less costly means to take ownership of vacant land inside a town boundary that taxes are owed. Taxes sales improved. no leans. Taxes sales need to be made simpler. Advertising for 30 days in a paper not necessary, with social media
- Easier means to collect outstanding taxes. Wage attachment by calling company. verse legal action.
- Town's should be permitted to charge outside residents (LSD/UI/Etc.) fees for services fire/recreation/waste/etc. Similar to what the authorities presently have.
- Rezoning issues need to be made easier, less time consuming and controlled by Town's. More local government control. Urban and rural planning act.
- Municipal Government should put in place defined harassment and have a committee in place to investigate such activity and make a stand to protect employees and volunteers.
- Code of Conduct to hold office. Workers require it so why wouldn't elected officials.
- Where it says Town Clerk it should include Town Manager/clerk
- All Federal/provincial government buildings charged property/water and sewer
- All federal employees required to provide employee information for poll tax.
- Cleaning up dilapidated properties and wrecks. Need a better process to do this work.
- Ticketing for violations. Wrecks, snow clearing, etc. how to enforce. Otherwise no good to put in place a regulation.
- Taxation for data, internet, wireless providers,
- Allow towns to do more work. Charge back that work.
- Differing property mills.
- Social media pieces. Allowing municipalities to use social media (Website/Texts/face book/twitter/ new technologies) for advertising and sending messages to residents. No need for print advertising. (Costly).
- The Act should better clarify what constitutes a business. Provide municipalities with the ability to charge groups/individuals doing work illegally in a town without a permit.

The GNPJC would like to thank you for taking these points into consideration when reviewing the current Act.

If you require further of additional information do not hesitate to contact me at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Gerry Gros
Chair
The Great Northern Peninsula Joint Council

c. GNPJC Members