

MuniLegislativeReview

From: Jackie Barrett [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2017 2:19 PM
To: MuniLegislativeReview
Subject: Municipalities Act Review - Relating To Section 126 (Poll Tax)

Good day, this is John "Jackie" Barrett [REDACTED]

I have a suggestion for the Municipalities Act review, and it relates to the Poll Tax.

As you're aware, Newfoundland and Labrador is the only Canadian province to charge a tax which discriminates against low income earners, senior citizens, low income families, students, and especially persons with disabilities [REDACTED] the "Poll Tax".

In addition, some Newfoundland and Labrador cities, particularly Corner Brook, are the only ones in Canada still charging this archaic tax, which puts that city and province in a negative light at a national level.

[REDACTED]

As part of reforms to the Municipalities Act, I propose that Section 126 be repealed and municipalities are banned from imposing this discriminatory tax, or if the tax stays, make exemptions to the tax from those whom belong to certain population segments.

The Poll Tax would be phased out over a five year period.

To make the Poll Tax less discriminatory, Sections 126 and 127 should also be amended to ensure that the following residents are exempt from paying this tax:

1. Senior Citizens
2. Students from outside Newfoundland and Labrador
3. Low income families with combined after tax income of less than \$50,000 a year. Child tax credits will not count towards income.
4. Low income individuals, defined as earning \$32,500 a year or less
5. Persons with permanent disabilities. Must show proof from Canada Revenue Agency (such as Permanent Disability Certificate), doctor's note, or medical questionnaires. Medical information from other provinces are accepted.

To send a message that Newfoundland and Labrador doesn't discriminate towards persons with disabilities, students, and low income earners as they don't have the huge financial resources to buy real property, meaning real estate or dwellings, the Poll Tax legislation has to be reformed and eventually phased out.

Its the only way to truly "Make Newfoundland and Labrador Great Again".

Thanks,

John "Jackie" Barrett