

If criteria for cities, towns, and local service districts were to be set, how should the province handle communities that do not meet the criteria for their current designation?

Responses

Do not want classification to change.

New classifications (villages, hamlets, etc.).

Regionalization

There should be criteria.

Should not be grandfathered into old classifications (everyone needs to be held to the same expectations).

No need for grace period because people are already overwhelmed.

Should have to provide certain services.

Should have joint services for certain core services.

If community meets set threshold, they should be expected to change classification (ex. LSD to town).

Should have mechanism so that places are required to change classification based on set criteria.

Criteria should be mandated by government.

Amalgamate - however feel this may be difficult for places that are far apart.

Should have basic criteria and regulations (default tools for municipalities to avail of).

If setting criteria and with required things to become that entity, communities will require more supports and resources

Additional resources needed in terms of core full time staff).

There should be distinct legislation for towns and LSDs.

Government should set minimum criteria and communities should have to meet that criteria.

Depending on the geographic area, and if the community doesn't meet criteria, they should be required to amalgamate.

Regionalization of services, not communities.

LSD's would need to find ways to increase population.

There's a lot of frustrations - we're asked by government to do their jobs (garbage/water/collect fees).

LSD's should have more authority on what goes on in their communities.

A grace period would be a good idea for communities to allow them time to meet the new criteria. Not just grandfathered in.

Everyone should be treated the same. This should not just apply to new municipalities.

If towns are not meeting criteria, it is a good idea to set criteria.

The legislation should be applied to all communities, not just new municipalities. x6

A lot of towns are likely meeting criteria. It's the LSDs that likely are not meeting them.

Any town that can sustain themselves should be able to continue to remain their own community.

Right now, our LSD is being used by government to do their work. We have lots of problems in our community (car wrecks/garbage) and we have no control.

The legislation needs to be broad enough that there is more than one criteria.

We were strong armed by government - if we wanted money for water/etc., you have to become a LSD.

Population is mostly a criteria now. Sustainability should also be a consideration.

The change should be immediate, there should be no grace period for these criteria to be applied.

If you set same criteria for LSDs, they have to go by the same rules too.

Port de Grave is not an LSD and has more pavement than in St. John's.

We need clout to collect back taxes.

We would like government help us collect our back fees (last response was taxes, should be fees).

To be fair, a grace period is reasonable.

All small communities are not struggling. The criteria needs to consider that.

Communities who over exceed their criteria should have another designation put on them.

There's no reason that anyone should be owing any amount of money to a municipality if they have a drivers license. When you go to get your license renewed, and you owe money, you shouldn't be able to get that license. Not mandated, because it's not politically favorable. Combine everything - moose license, fines, drivers license - if you owe to a municipality, you don't get it.

If supports need to be provided, is that an indicator that the city, town or LSD cannot meet the criteria?

Training, financial supports, less red tape should be ensured by government to support communities to achieve higher designations.

If I go down to get my license, and I owe the government a \$20 parking ticket, I can't get my license renewed. Shouldn't be any different for people owing to municipalities - but it's political suicide to enforce it.

The whole tax structure should be changed to ensure people pay their fair share. Should be enforced in legislation.

Just because you are sustainable doesn't mean government should provide less funding/support.

I'd like to be premier for 24 hours. That's all I want. 24 hours.

LSD structure should not exist. They should either be a town or a city.

MAE should have an obligation to assist the community to meet their criteria (i.e. provide expertise, training, keep communities informed of changes to criteria).

MAE should be auditing communities to ensure they are properly meeting their set criteria/objectives (i.e. safe storage of documents, elections).

Possibly have another community or regional government take over the governance of that community if unable to meet set criteria.

If a community is not broken – no need to fix it (but help us when we need it).

Government shouldn't set criteria that's impossible for communities achieve (forcing regionalization).

The residents of a community should have a say in what type of community they want to be (i.e. LSD, town, etc.).

Need to set criteria

Need to be applied to all areas

Grace periods are a good idea to see where and if they fit

Administrative and financial help needed

Regionalization - amalgamate resources from small towns

Training for responsibilities is required

If community doesn't meet set criteria they should be given an opportunity to meet the criteria. If they can't than amalgamation could be an option.

Eliminate funding for areas that do not meet criteria and force residents to regionalize

Taxable property base should be required depending on size of community's population

Municipalities should include poll tax not property taxes

Regionalization and amalgamation of places that do not meet criteria

Cut funding if they do meet the criteria, and all residents should pay taxes even if they live in a cabin

Increase tax rates through income tax (personal) and residents pay more to live in small areas that do not meet criteria

Criteria should include population and proximity to other towns. If a town exceeds set criteria they could possibly take in other towns that don't meet the criteria.

LSD's are outdated

Regionalization is important

A lot of small towns are going to lose services if they don't join another larger town that's well established

If you live outside the boundaries of a town/city, you should pay more taxes, especially if your area does not meet the set criteria

Essentially it comes down to financial issues/resources and that should be the most important determination.

Amalgamate them.

County systems or some sort of regional system is the option for communities that do not meet criteria.

This study needs to be apolitical and based on economic policy and jurisdictional research.

If you are not meeting your responsibilities as a municipality the provincial government should play a role in taking away the powers as well.

Town running many years without a council and only ramifications from province was a letter each year, population is continuing to drop and expect it will be soon unable to form a council again – town will need a form of government to help run the town. Government needs to provide permission to continue to operate if unable to provide full slate of councillors.

We are able to run our town with only five councillors and have done it with 2.

Shouldn't necessarily be population size - we are running okay on a small population. If unable to provide adequate documentation to show town is operating properly – government will need to step in.

Needs to still maintain some decision making power at the local level.

Should be grandfathered in.

Grandfathering them into the system.

Regionalization

Encourage them to regionalize.

No new classifications for areas.

Important to have criteria.

Amalgamate

Should have a period of time to comply.

Criteria should be tied to government funding (i.e. MOGs)

All depends on the designation and the authority conferred under each.

Cost consequences to amalgamation.

Everyone be in some entity - no unincorporated areas.

Legislation should be more flexible to allow towns to decide on their own structure.

Should be the choice of the town to decide if they are going to change classification (town to city or vice versa).

Feasibility should be assessed in each instance. Question remains regarding decision making power once assessment is completed.

Unincorporated areas should be under some legislation (pay certain taxes).

Town may have to be absorbed into a neighbouring community.

Financial supports could come through economic development initiatives.

Question is very confusing to table.

Depends on classifications. You may fit into or close to another classification.

Go to next lower classification.

Grace period to meet the selected criteria.

Needs to be on a case by case basis. There needs to be multiple criteria.

You may need to have another classification. A new one. More than just the current 3.

Lose the powers of the designation if not met after a grace period.

Should be a core population to form a town.

Need for a grace period will depend on criteria. Population needs less grace period.

Falling above criteria would have the same scenario as falling under criteria.

Some LSDs are more than capable of being towns, but they will have to be forced. They will not become towns on their own.

Should be forced into a certain designation with a specified population.

UIAs should not exist. They should be forced into a type of community.

If you exceed a certain number of people then you should be required to move to the next designation.

Some UIAs have more than towns, but they get everything for free.

What works for one town/LSD might not work for another.

UIAs only have to pay for some services. Meanwhile government clears their highways.

If UIAs paid something, they could give more services.

Assist in helping organize various LSD's and towns to work together and meet thresholds.

There are some UIAs that are bigger than some towns. They should be forced if they meet the criteria.

There shouldn't be criteria for LSD's and not based on population.

Everyone should have to pay a certain amount of taxes to government. They should have to provide the services paid for. Not the provincial government.

This would make it more fair.

Some have no bills (i.e. no water or sewer bills). Just garbage collection. It's not fair.

Amalgamation of LSDs should not be demanded.

If our plow breaks down, we have to get a new plow and pay for it or take out loan. UIAs don't have to worry about that.

The communities should be left the same (stresses on communities far away and financial issues prevent communities from being able to be grandfathered in, so towns would be better off remaining in their current designation) x4

Take objection to LSDs being included at all. They should be eliminated and not even included at this point. LSDs should be separate legislation.

Need to have a certain tax base and economic development base to survive - you won't be there if you don't have that.

One time you could not get out of being a town if you wanted. Hope that this is not a way to get towns out of the game of being a town.

Asset management should not be a road leading to a tiered organization.

Regionalization should be encouraged with incentives.

Too many unincorporated areas that are not paying their share and getting benefits.

What a community is should be about size. What is needed in each area is different in the various areas throughout the region.

Everyone should be paying a fee no matter where you live. No outcropping of building of homes because they want to get away from paying to live there whether it is collected by town, LSD, or by province itself.

Sustainability is different for everyone.

If the community is feasible then it should be okay. What happens if you change back to a LSD and pays the services?

Criteria needs to be applied equally across the board but some time is needed to meet the incomplete tasks required to meet set criteria. Should have an auditor come in to identify what is not done and then a consultant to outline what you need to do. The province should then give an interest free loan to get this work done. Complexity would be an issue that would be taken into account as well. Taxes may have to increase to reach the criteria.

Get rid of all small towns. Need to move towards regionalization - want the government to say that this is the way it is going to be. We have not been able to do it so we need someone to tell us to do it. There is only so much money to go around and we all need a share to get things done (i.e. road work) It's all going to be dog eat dog if we don't get together to set out the priorities for the region instead of trying to fight against each other.

What is important in the region and then what is the bigger area that can afford to make the items happen.

Has to be regionalization, sustainability is most important criteria, regionalization is not a loss of identity.

Northern Peninsula regional services board is already an example that can be used to share services within the communities.

How should the government help LSDs meet the criteria for towns.

If communities do not meet criteria, they shouldn't be someone else's problem.

LSDs should collect property taxes.

LSDs should have more authority.

Any criteria should apply to existing governments.

You need to have authority to collect taxes on services provided by area.

There should be a grace period.

Legislation needs to be set to allow LSDs and unincorporated areas to become towns if they meet criteria.

Amalgamation

Communities should be able to change designation if they meet certain criteria. (i.e. change from a LSD to a town and vice versa)

Clearly define boundaries of areas (boundaries should be a part of the criteria).

All communities should fit into designations once defined.

Grace period needed to meet criteria - also need support from provincial government and to engaging local businesses.

Provincial government to make the final decisions.

Weight on criteria (based on importance).

Grace period to be minimum of 1 fiscal year.

More classifications would be confusing.

Amalgamation

This is not a necessary question - regionalization is happening.

Provincial government should consider populations and demographics.

Regionalization

A grace period should be in place with guidelines on how they could qualify.

Government could dissolve.

Will regionalization be included in criteria?

Regionalization - provide assistance to change (i.e. facilitate moving to another community).

Criteria may tie down too much.

Cooperation between communities - should they need to meet all criteria if they have shared services with other communities?

If you do not meet criteria then legislation should step in and assist communities to make change.

