



Commercial Center for the Western Side of the Burin Peninsula

**Town of Grand Bank**  
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**A Rich History and Prosperous Future**

**REX C. MATTHEWS**  
*Mayor*

**CLAYTON WELSH**  
*Deputy Mayor*

**GEORGE BENNETT**  
*Councillor*

**ROGER BROOKS**  
*Councillor*

**JACK BURFITT**  
*Councillor*

**STAN BURT**  
*Councillor*

**RICK GRIKIS**  
*Councillor*

**WAYNE BOLT**  
*Town Manager*

**CATHY FOLLETT, CMC**  
*Town Clerk/Treasurer*

**SHEILAM DOLIMOUNT**  
*Office Administrator*

**MICHELLE PATTEN**  
*Secretary*

**TOMBURTON**  
*Recreation Director*  
*Facilities Manager*

**TONY SNOOK**  
*Fire Chief*

January 25, 2018

Ms. Victoria Woodworth-Lynas  
Legislative Renewal Director  
Department of Municipal, Affairs and Environment  
P.O. Box 8700  
St. John's, NL  
A1B 4J6

Dear Ms. Woodworth-Lynas:

The Town of Grand Bank would like to submit their list of recommended changes that should be considered in a new and improved Municipalities Act.

- \* Municipalities should have the authority to attach wages for any taxes/fees owed to the Town.
- \* Tax sales - make the process less time consuming, less expensive and a more straight forward process.
- \* Fee for Service – municipalities should have the legal authority to charge, and the legal means to collect, for services provided to property owners outside the municipal boundary but within the planning boundary.
- \* Conflict of Interest – legislation should be strengthened to include other relatives and cover the issue of bias, current legislation is very inadequate. The Act should further clarify the role of Councillors in official positions with other groups, associations, and organizations who bring or speak on matters before Council on behalf of organizations in which they hold office.

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- \* Give municipalities the authority to issue final approval permits for developments within their boundaries so that they are less dependent on the long drawn out and costly process of having to deal with Service NL. Service NL is a major impediment to development in rural NL.
- \* Give municipalities more authority in dealing with derelict, and vacant buildings and vacant property.
- \* Give municipalities more autonomy in the administration and operation of the Community.
- \* Regional Government – should not be mandatory and an opt-out clause should be provided for any municipality that does not want to participate. Sharing of services should be encouraged and supported.
- \* Sharing of confidential information between municipalities and government department and agencies. In particular, Advanced Education and Skills clients for the purpose of invoicing and paying of municipal taxes.
- \* Give municipalities more authority to deal with individuals and companies that have vehicles, equipment, materials, recreation vehicles and other debris scattered all over their property.
- \* Crown Land - municipalities should have more control over Crown Lands within their municipal boundary and the acquisition process should be more straightforward.
- \* Give municipalities more authority and more control in their planning boundary.

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- \* Provide increased protection to municipal employees from being harassed, interfered with or obstructed when carrying out municipal duties.
- \* Give municipalities more authority to deal with issues surrounding the protection and safety of animals.
- \* Strengthen the penalties for violations of Municipalities Act, Regulations, and other municipal infractions.
- \* Further define ordinary resident (ie, by primary residence, by tax return, by passport, by driver license or by other government issued identification).

Sincerely,

TOWN OF GRAND BANK

  
Cathy Follett, *CMC*  
Town Clerk

CF:smd