

Advocacy Report

Mayor Sheila Fitzgerald, MNL Vice President • Advocacy Committee Chair

Resolutions

1-2017 Project Management, Town of Paradise: Defeated

Therefore be it resolved that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador lobby the provincial government to work with the sector to implement measures to ensure that project management services are provided independent of other consulting services on capital works projects.

2-2017 City of Corner Brook Accommodations Levy, City of Corner Brook: Carried

Therefore be it resolved that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador support the City of Corner Brook's efforts to have the Province amend the City of Corner Brook Act to allow for the City to immediately implement an accommodations levy in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding developed between the City and Accommodations Providers.

MNL worked with Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador on a shared position on issue, reflecting the language in this resolution. In 2018 both Boards accepted the common language and we forwarded the position to the provincial government. MNL has discussed the position and the need for legislative amendments with the Minister and senior staff.

Response from Minister Parsons: *"MAE certainly appreciates your efforts to work with Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador to create a strong and sustainable tourism industry for the benefit of residents and communities. My staff is reviewing the legal and technical implications of including in the legislation the authority for municipalities to introduce accommodations levies, with a view to making recommendations, as appropriate, as part of the current legislative review. I have asked my Director of Legislative Renewal, Colleen Souliere, to reach out to you to have a further discussion and ensure your viewpoints are included in her analysis."*

3-2017 Fees for Provincial Permits Issued within a Municipal Planning Boundary, Town of Norris Arm: Carried with friendly amendment

Therefore be it resolved that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador lobby the provincial government to allow a municipality to receive a fee from companies that have been issued permits to harvest forestry resources (e.g. lumber, firewood) and all other natural resources within their municipal planning boundary based on the acreage of commercial cutting.

MNL has written the provincial government outlining the issues raised in the resolution. We have also committed to include this item in our submission to the Municipal Legislative Review for inclusion in a new municipal legislation. We will continue our advocacy work on this issue as new legislation is drafted.

4-2017 Capital Funding for Road Work, Town of Centreville-Wareham-Trinity: Carried

Therefore be it resolved that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador lobby the provincial government to work with the sector on a roads funding solution that lessens the burden on rural communities.

MNL sent correspondence to on this issue to our MPs, the Minister of Infrastructure, and the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment. We also held several meetings with the



Minister and Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment on this topic specifically. The inclusion of local road funding in the recently announced federal Rural and Northern Infrastructure Fund is a result of these discussions. We will continue to monitor this issue to see whether this solution is satisfactory.

5-2017 Changes to Residency Requirement in the Municipal Elections Act, Town of Brigus: Carried

Therefore be it resolved that the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment conduct a complete review of the Municipal Elections Act and particularly addressing and clarifying the definition of a resident, and have the legislation ready for use for the next municipal election in 2021.

MNL sent correspondence to Minister on this issue. We met with the Minister, Deputy Minister, and Assistant Deputy Ministers on this issue. They expressed their support for our position and are working to include this issue in upcoming legislative changes.

Response from Minister Parsons: *“Although the Municipal Elections Act was not included within the scope of our ongoing review of municipal legislation, MAE is always open to considering suggestions for improving our legislation. We have heard from your organization and others seeking clarification on issues pertaining to this Act in particular. With the objective of having any necessary amendments in place before the next general municipal election in 2021, I have asked my officials to set up a meeting to begin discussions as you have requested.”*

6-2017 Provincial Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags, Town of Torbay: Carried

Therefore be it resolved that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador request the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador to prohibit all retail stores from providing customers with single-use plastic carry-out (shopping) bags.

MNL's advocacy on this issue has generated tremendous public and expert support. Several provincial organizations have worked with us through our Bag Ban Working Group. We have met with the Retail Council of Canada to discuss our respective positions. They confirmed that if bans are adopted, they would prefer a province-wide ban. More and more retailers, most recently the NLC, are voluntarily eliminating single-use plastic bags. MNL has been invited to a one-day stakeholder consultation by the MMSB to discuss a strategy for single use plastics with an emphasis on single-use plastic bags.

7-2017 Provincial Advocacy Opposing Oceanex's Challenge to Remove the Federal Government Subsidy of Marine Atlantic Inc., Town of Channel-Port aux Basques: Carried

Therefore be it resolved that MNL lobby MHAs, MPs, Senators, and Tourism Advocacy groups to intervene standing strong opposing this challenge to eliminate the subsidy for the constitutionally guaranteed Gulf Ferry service.

MNL sent correspondence to our MPs and got some media coverage on this issue. The federal court has thrown out Oceanex's case.

