

2024 Resolutions

1-2024 Wastewater Monitoring in Small Communities

Municipality: Town of Mary's Harbour

WHEREAS many small communities in Newfoundland and Labrador are struggling financially because of decrease in populations and increased financial costs; and

WHEREAS many of these small communities have been forced to monitor and report their effluent flows to the Federal Government on a quarterly basis; and

WHEREAS flow rates in these small communities have been monitored for many years now and a good indication should be available from the reports submitted; and

WHEREAS the only ONE company in Newfoundland and Labrador that is available to do this, is located in St. John's and the costs of their quarterly visits, repairs/maintenance of flow meters, etc. continues to rise in costs; and

WHEREAS many of these small communities have maintenance staff that can do the meter-readings and reporting if they were provided the necessary training:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador lobby the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to provide the necessary training to the local employees to read, report, and complete maintenance/repairs to the flow meters.

Category: A

Staff Comments: Small municipalities in Newfoundland and Labrador continue to have concerns with wastewater monitoring requirements, as per the Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations. The amended regulations came into force on June 5, 2024. Provisions were established as per those amendments for smaller communities regarding the monitoring burden. Support for monitoring through training is entirely appropriate as an advocacy issue.

2-2024 Review of Assessment Act 2006

Municipality: Town of St. Anthony

WHEREAS the Assessment Act is used to govern property values in municipalities in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador; and

WHEREAS, the Assessment Act is established by the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador; and

WHEREAS the Assessment Act has undergone a review in 2015; and

WHEREAS the Assessment Act still does not meet the needs of today's municipalities due to changing technologies, associated costs to municipalities and need to better protect the interest of all parties involved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT MNL lobby the Provincial Government to address these outstanding issues by initiating a new review process of the Municipal Assessment Act, 2006 in consultation of MNL, PMA and provincial municipalities.

Category: A

Staff comments: The Assessment Act, 2006, did undergo a review beginning in 2015, and MNL did provide input to the consultations. Issues remain outstanding and require further investigation with members.



3-2024 Resolution for the Reform of Job Creation Partnership and Community Enhancement Employment Program

Municipality: Town of Cow Head

WHEREAS the current scheduling of programs such as the Job Creation Partnership (JCP) and the Community Enhancement Employment Program (CEEP) does not align with the operational needs of municipalities; and

WHEREAS the timing of the CEEP, typically beginning in the winter months, often coincides with holiday periods, leading to a lack of supervision due to staff unavailability; and

WHEREAS much of the work required by towns cannot be effectively completed in the winter months due to seasonal limitations, further reducing the program's efficacy, and

WHEREAS participants in both programs are not able to earn insurable hours, diminishing the attractiveness and usefulness of these initiatives for individuals seeking sustainable employment or benefits; and

WHEREAS the current timing of the JCP, which primarily starts in the summer months, deters participation as it fails to provide long-term benefits for workers; and

WHEREAS these programs are intended to benefit both the community and participants but are currently not fulfilling their intended purpose, thus resulting in wasted time, effort, and financial resources;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador request that the provincial and federal governments review and revise the timing and structure of the JCP and the CEEP to better align with municipal needs, seasonal work schedules, and provide participants with insurable hours. This change would ensure that both programs serve as true assets to municipalities and their residents, rather than burden local resources.

Category: A

Staff Comments: MNL has heard consistently from members that while these two programs are important to supporting municipal project work, and to ensuring additional staff can be hired, the timing does indeed not work for them so that these resources can actually be maximized.

4-2024 Resolution for Increased Funding for Volunteer Firefighter Training

Municipality: Town of Cow Head

WHEREAS communities in Newfoundland and Labrador rely heavily on volunteer fire departments for emergency response and public safety; and

WHEREAS the current funding provided for volunteer firefighter training is insufficient for municipalities to ensure that their volunteers receive the necessary, comprehensive training required to safely and effectively serve their communities; and

WHEREAS the need for well-trained volunteer firefighters in communities is equally as urgent as training for career firefighters facing the same risks and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS the most recent increase in training funding is still inadequate and does not allow municipalities access to vital training resources, leaving volunteers underprepared for emergency situations; and

WHEREAS properly trained volunteer firefighters would provide the province with additional, reliable resources in the event of large-scale emergencies such as forest fires, increasing the overall preparedness and response capacity of the province; and

WHEREAS training funding should be dedicated solely to firefighter training to ensure that all volunteers have access to necessary education and skills development, without compromising other town budget priorities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador call upon the provincial and federal governments to increase and earmark funding specifically for volunteer firefighting training, and ensure that municipalities are adequately supported in developing the skills and readiness of their fire departments. This would ensure that, in times of large-scale emergencies, such as forest fires, the province has a larger pool of well-trained resources to draw upon.

Category: A

Staff Comments: Volunteer fire departments are a core component of first response in our province. The work that they do is essential and proper training even moreso. Adequate funding to support this training that does not negatively impact municipal fiscal stability is necessary, as municipalities already operate on lean budgets.



5-2024 Equitable Distribution of Recreational Infrastructure Investment Across Newfoundland and Labrador

Municipality: Town of Gander

WHEREAS the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador makes decisions about the distribution of provincial event and recreational infrastructure, and investments therein; and

WHEREAS the equitable distribution of such infrastructure resources across all regions in the province is essential; and

WHEREAS communities throughout the province play a vital role in developing infrastructure that contributes to improved social determinants of health and the overall vibrancy of Newfoundland and Labrador; and

WHEREAS meeting the needs for recreation, sport, and cultural development has the greatest impact when municipally led, and supported by provincial and federal partners through equitable, robust, and accessible funding programs:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador (MNL) advocate for a balanced and equitable

distribution of provincial event and recreational infrastructure investments across Newfoundland and Labrador;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MNL encourage the provincial government to prioritize municipally led recreational and cultural infrastructure projects that address the unique needs of each region through more equitable, robust, and accessible funding programs.

Category: A

Staff Comments: Infrastructure is a considerable concern for members. Ensuring that municipalities have a seat at the decision-making table when it comes to the distribution of and investment in provincial infrastructure established in community is consistent with MNL's advocacy priorities.

6-2024 Cell Phone Coverage

Municipality: Town of Holyrood

WHEREAS the reliability of a consistent cell service is a key component of the economic productivity of communities; and

WHEREAS in all areas of the province, cell phone service is vital to emergency response and safety of people; and

WHEREAS the current level of service being provided lacks reliability and consistency and cannot be accepted; and

WHEREAS consistent, reliable cell service will improve safety for all residents and will support the sustainability of communities as well as improve overall quality of life for residents and municipalities across Newfoundland and Labrador:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador intervene on behalf of all communities to seek improvements in cell service by

lobbying to the Provincial and Federal Governments, as well as to service providers to improve access to cell service for every community in each region of the province.

Category: C

Staff Comments: Cell service is a concern across the province. Members and the public have expressed the ongoing issues with consistent and reliable coverage. Members have also put forward resolutions in the past addressing this issue including, Increased Cell Phone and Broadband Internet Coverage for Rural Communities (15-2014) and Cell Coverage - Trans Labrador Highway (10-2018).



7-2024 – Reversal of Decision on Northern Cod Stock Quotas

Municipality: Town of New-Wes-Valley

WHEREAS the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) recently announced the end of the 32-year Northern Cod Moratorium and the related stewardship fishery; and

WHEREAS a commercial fishery with 18,000 tonnes of Total Allowable Catch was announced, which included a share for the offshore fishery; and

WHEREAS the Northern Cod stocks have not rebounded; and

WHEREAS DFO went back on its promise to allocate a 115,000 tonne annual quota to inshore fishers under a commercial cod fishery with a rebounded stock; and

WHEREAS coastal communities in Newfoundland and Labrador are affected by this decision

because of the detrimental impacts on inshore fishers and local fisheries; and

WHEREAS this decision will compromise the ability of Northern Cod stocks to recover:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT MNL lobby the Federal Government to reverse said decision.

Category: C

Staff Comments: Coastal communities are always impacted by changes in the fishery, as the fishery is one of the core economic activities occurring within. Members have expressed concern about this decision from a community economic and ecological sustainability perspective.



Procurement support for the public sector

