

# 2012 Resolutions Report

## Category A

### **1-2012 Cost of Shots/Vaccinations for Volunteer Fire Fighters** **Carried**

**Be It Resolved That** Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador urge the Provincial Government that the cost of necessary vaccinations for volunteer firefighters be covered under Newfoundland and Labrador Medicare.

#### **Response from Minister Steve Kent, Municipal Affairs:**

*The Canadian Immunization Guide, which is based upon best practices and available science, was used in developing Newfoundland and Labrador's current policies and practices regarding immunizations. The categories of persons who are covered for vaccinations are described in this guide, which is available online - <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cig-gci/>.*

*Following the 2012 Municipalities NL Convention, Fire and Emergency Services, the Department of Health and Community Services, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Fire Services met to discuss Resolution 1-2012-Cost of Shots/Vaccinations for Volunteer Fire Fighters, with discussion on the Hepatitis B vaccination in particular.*

*The group concluded that there is a very low risk of firefighters contracting Hepatitis B. There has never been a reported case of a firefighter being infected with Hepatitis B since the province began, in 1980, reporting cases. However, while the risk is low, the group agreed that the distribution of educational information on the topic of vaccinations and disease prevention should be pursued. The Department of Health and Community Services continues to work with the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Fire Services in this regard.*

### **2-2012 Wastewater Resolution** **Carried with a friendly amendment**

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador lobby, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to provide extra funding as part of a long term national infrastructure plan to substantially assist municipalities in becoming compliant with the Wastewater Effluent Systems Regulations;

**Be It Further Resolved That** the federal government direct Environment Canada to work in partnership with municipalities to establish a thorough and objective estimation of the front line costs and trade-offs of meeting the regulations and to resolve outstanding technical and implementation issues raised by municipalities and the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association.

#### **Response from Minister Thomas Hedderson, Environment & Conservation:**

*I write in response to your letter dated November 20, 2012 regarding Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador resolution 2-2012 – Wastewater Regulations. I note your concerns regarding the cost to municipalities associated with the implementation of federal wastewater regulations.*

*In the absence of any new federal funding programs for the implementation of the wastewater regulations, all wastewater infrastructure related requests have to be submitted and reviewed under the provincial capital works program administered by the Department of Municipal Affairs.*

**No response was received from Minister Denis Lebel, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities to this resolution at the time of printing.**

**3-2012 A New Provincial Government Plan to Improve and Guide the Municipal Sector in Newfoundland and Labrador**

**Carried**

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador lobby the provincial government to undertake a thorough review of municipal government and develop a plan that will guide provincial and municipal governments in the future development of the municipal system.

**Response from Minister Steve Kent, Municipal Affairs:**

*The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, in its Budget 2013, committed to reviewing the existing provincial-municipal fiscal framework to examine and identify other potential options with respect to the way services are delivered, paid for, and shared in our province, to better position local governments in the province to meet the needs of citizens now and into the future.*

**4-2012 Support for using Integrated Community Sustainability Plans to Build Local Sustainability**

**Carried as amended**

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador lobby the provincial government to provide additional supports – human resources, financial, expertise – at the sub-regional, regional, and provincial level to help municipalities implement or improve upon their integrated community sustainability plans, to coincide with the commencement of the 2013-2017 Municipal Councils.

**Response from Minister Steve Kent, Municipal Affairs:**

*My department continues to provide support to municipalities in relation to Integrated Community Sustainability Plans (ICSPs) through the Manager of Integrated Community Sustainability Partnerships. This position is available to provide guidance to all communities in the development, implementation and updating of ICSPs and in the facilitation of regional cooperation initiatives. I would advise that your membership utilize this resource in implementing and updating their ICSPs.*

**5-2012 Expedite the Ferry Replacement Strategy**

**Carried**

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador lobby the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to expedite work on the ferry replacement strategy so that there are minimal disruptions to the quality of life of residents who rely on the ferry service.

**Response from Minister Paul Davis, Transportation & Works:**

*Thank you for your correspondence of November 20, 2012 wherein you requested that work on the Ferry Replacement Strategy be expedited.*

*I am pleased to advise that we have made significant advancement in our plans to improve the quality of life of residents who rely on our ferry services. On December 17, 2012 we announced that the Department of Transportation and Works will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to construct a swing vessel, as well as a new vessel for Fogo Island and Change Islands. We recognize that there is a pressing need to advance vessel replacement; accordingly, we are now making these shipbuilding initiatives available in an open and competitive process that will ensure the best price and the most*

*competitive timeframe and terms for vessel construction.*

*As we move forward with the Vessel Replacement Strategy, consideration will be given to the other vessels within the Provincial ferry fleet. Meanwhile, we continue to maintain our existing vessels to ensure that they can safely provide service.*

**6-2012 Business Registration  
Carried**

**Therefore Be It Resolved** the MNL Board lobby the Department of Municipal Affairs to amend the Municipalities Act whereby all businesses carrying on business within the municipality shall be required to be registered with the municipality and a business at time of registration, shall be subject to the payment of a business registration or licensing fee as prescribed by the municipality.

**Response from Minister Steve Kent, Municipal Affairs:**

*The Corporations Act already requires companies operating in the province to be incorporated or registered. Service NL maintains the Registry of Companies in this regard, which has approximately 50,000 registered incorporations and 26,000 active companies. An additional business registration requirement in each individual municipality, through an amendment to the Municipalities Act, 1999, is seen as unnecessary with consideration to existing legislative requirements, the mandate of Service NL and the regulatory reform initiative, which aims to reduce overlap and duplication. If such a legislative amendment was made, it is unclear how this new requirement would be effectively and efficiently implemented and enforced by each municipality. Further details are needed in this regard in order for my officials to be able to adequately review and consider this resolution.*

**7-2012 Voting at Council  
Carried**

**Therefore Be It Resolved** the MNL Board lobby the Department of Municipal Affairs to amend the Municipalities Act whereby a council may adopt in its rules of procedure governing a municipal council meeting, a mechanism whereby attendance through the use of technology would be fully sanctioned including voting on a motion or resolution before council.

**Response from Minister Steve Kent, Municipal Affairs:**

*A potential legislative amendment to allow remote meeting attendance and voting is currently being reviewed by my officials.*

**8-2012 Municipal Permitting – Provincial Government Properties  
Carried**

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador lobby the provincial government to comply with section 194 of the Municipalities Act which require all persons within a municipality to obtain a written permit from Council and that the provincial government would pay for these permits as all other persons within the Municipality.

**Response from Minister Steve Kent, Municipal Affairs:**

*The Department of Transportation and Works is currently assessing provincial government practice as it relates to obtaining, and paying for, municipal permits on provincial government properties. This assessment aligns with the broader provincial-municipal fiscal framework review being led by my Department.*

**9-2012 Waste Management Authorities – Uniform Government Policies  
Carried**

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that MNL request the Provincial Government to adopt and implement uniform policies respecting the 3 established regional waste management authorities such that Province wide all municipalities irrespective of whatever authority governs them must adopt and apply uniform policies in key areas:

- That all waste management authorities be • required to uniformly bear initially the cost of the transportation of waste to regional authorities and recover such costs from all communities in the tip fee
- That the Provincial Government provide a subsidy to assist all 3 waste management authorities with the cost of transporting waste to regional facilities such that the communities with the greater travel time and travel distance to regional sites are not penalized and such the system is equitable
- That the Provincial Government require all regional authorities to be responsible to operate and fund all transfer and holding facilities and spread the cost out to all communities in the region through the tip fee.

**Response from Minister Steve Kent, Municipal Affairs:**

*The Regional Service Boards Act, 2012 and related regulations have established Regional Service Boards (RSBs), whom have the authority to construct, maintain and operate waste management systems within their respective regions. Each RSB is comprised of municipal representation from throughout their region who collectively establish applicable policies and fees for the communities in their region. My department understands that the RSBs are actively working on transportation cost issues in an effort to make it more equitable for all communities. My officials will continue to support the RSBs while they consider these issues.*

**Please note that resolutions categorized as B or C have been acted upon through media advisories from the MNL office.**

## **Category B**

**10-2012 Family Fireworks  
Withdrawn**

## **Category C**

**11-2012 Northern Resident Deduction  
Carried with friendly amendment**

**Therefore be it resolved** that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador lobby the federal and provincial governments to reinstate the Northern Resident Deduction for residents who previously had received the deduction.

**12-2012 Consistent Passing Lanes  
Carried**

**Therefore be it resolved** that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador lobby the Newfoundland and Labrador provincial government to make the necessary changes in our passing lane policies to eliminate confusion and to make them consistent with the other provinces in Canada.

**13-2012      Intra-Provincial Ferry Ticketing Systems**  
**Carried**

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that MNL lobby the Provincial Government to establish an efficient and customer friendly, modern ticketing system for paying intra-provincial ferry rates that provides for:

- Pre-sale of ferry tickets by shore based pursers before the ferries docks
- More efficient scheduling by eliminating time wasted each trip selling tickets only after the ferries arrive and thus not allowing for the optimum number of trips
- That advanced tickets for use over 3 week periods be mandatory for use for those travelling on working commuter status
- That modern ticket systems technology be adopted for the sale for ferry tickets employing scan-able tickets, etc.

**14-2012      Request for Assistance - Newfoundland and Labrador Crime Stoppers**  
**Carried**

**Therefore Be it Resolved** that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador lobby the Provincial Department of Justice to provide assistance to the Newfoundland and Labrador Crime Stoppers by means of funding the Crime Stoppers programs and keep our communities safe.