

March 7, 2021

Dear Mayors of the Avalon Region:

As a Councillor in the Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philips (PCSP), I am writing you today to respectfully ask for your support in the upcoming election for the Avalon Director position on the Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador (MNL) Board of Directors.

I was elected to the Town of PCSP council in 2017 and am preparing to campaign again in the upcoming 2021 Municipal Election. During this time, I have been actively involved in MNL and Council events and a strong advocate on issues concerning municipalities. Since being elected in 2017, I have been the UMC representative for Town of PCSP and in that role, I have become quite familiar with the issues being faced by urban municipalities, especially as they relate to Waste Management Strategies and Federal Wastewater Regulations. It is imperative that all municipalities in the Avalon region have an advocate who will support and encourage strong communication across municipalities as it relates to these issues, everyone is to be considered and no one is left behind.

With the support of the Town of PCSP, I introduced a resolution in 2018 to create a Municipal Mental Health Task force, an opportunity to express our concerns to all levels of government regarding the need to ensure mental health services and resources are available to all municipalities, not just those in the Metro area. This was met with a unanimous vote in favor of this initiative and the members of this task force have been active in addressing education, awareness, and training opportunities with a very successful outcome thus far. Urban and rural communities must be considered in all government initiatives as it pertains to mental health and wellness resources and as a representative of the Avalon region, I would ensure it is understood that the health and well-being of those we surround ourselves with must be addressed, everyone is to be considered, and no one is left behind.

Another area I have committed myself to in the Town of PCSP is the matter of climate change. I recently represented the Province as a participant in the Climate Change Leadership Course, facilitated by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and as Chair of Economic Development, Communication, Marketing and Tourism, I have been active in engaging with The Town of PCSP and supporting our adaptation and mitigation plans. We need to develop an opportunity for all municipalities in the Avalon region to engage in climate change initiatives while demonstrating an awareness as to how asset management provides an opportunity to effectively and efficiently respond to climate change through these adaptation and mitigation plans, in the context of sustainable service delivery. Rural communities must also receive the same level of support and resources as is available with their urban neighbours, everyone is to be considered, and no one is left behind.

We have a tremendous amount of influence if we work together to achieve these goals and objectives if you allow me to be the voice that will support and lobby for change. This is the type of coordinated approach I would like to bring to the Board of Directors; whereby together we identify an issue, develop a strategy, and then implement the plan. **Help me to Help you** and I will bring a new perspective and approach to the board for the complete benefit of the Avalon Region.

Sincerely,

Tina Neary
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**Tina Neary - Councillor
Town of Portugal Cove-St.
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