Hello, Municipal Colleagues especially those serving the many small towns in our province

My name is Harold Murphy and I have placed my name forward to represent the small-town caucus on the MNL Board of Directors.
I have served on council for the Town of Parker's Cove for over thirty years with most of my service in the role of mayor.
Parker's Cove is a small town on the Burin Peninsula with a population of 245. The population was 420 when I first joined council in 1988. At that time, the town owed $800,000 but taxes were low as debt payments were based on 25% of local revenues.
That was short-lived as in the early nineties the method of assessing debt payments were changed to a different format and our debt payments went from $6000 to $76000 a year.
The last thirty years has been a struggle dealing with the debt while trying to maintain basic services and dealing with population decline. By 2016 we managed to retire our debt and are presently debt free. This has allowed us to provide basic services and finally after many years we were able to lift the boil order on our water services.
Serving on a town that is even small within the Small Towns Caucus, has allowed me to experience the same frustrations and rewards that many of you who serve small towns.
I have repaired my fair share of water and sewer lines in difficult conditions when the town was unable to pay or find someone to do this work. Because the act forbids monetary compensation it was all done on a voluntary basis.
The Small-Town Caucus is representative of a broad range of towns with populations of less than 100 up to 3000. Their needs and experiences are just as varied. The issues facing small towns with populations in the hundreds are much different than those with populations in the thousands. The common issues we share is trying to develop or maintain a strong sense of community within our own boundaries while trying to provide quality municipal service to our residents at the lowest cost possible. We try to do this while navigating a myriad of government red tape.
If elected I hope to touch base with as many of you as possible, in groupings according to size, so that we can share best practices and common concerns.
Here is some more information regarding my volunteer and professional experience.

EDUCATION: *B.A. (History) 1984,*
B.ED. 1984,
Diploma in Industrial Education 1985
Teacher/Administrator 1974-2007

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

PARKER'S COVE RECREATION COMMISSION: *1970 to present*

Town of Parker's Cove: 1988 – PRESENT

PLACENTIA WEST DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION: 1979-2021

BURIN PENINSULA REGIONAL SERVICES BOARD/WASTE MANAGEMENT CORP.

FOUNDING MEMBER 2006-2008

CHAIRPERSON 2011-PRESENT

BURIN PENINSULA JOINT TOWN COUNCIL: EXECUTIVE MEMBER 2012-2021

RURAL SECRETARIAT; BURIN REGIONAL COUNCIL *2004- 2014*

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE 2012-14

SPECIAL AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

-Governor Generals 125 Anniversary Medal for Volunteers

-School Sports NL. Award

-Municipalities NL: 30 years service pin award

Contact Information: Email: hmurphy.murphy@gmail.com
Phone: 709 443 2632 ; Cell 709 689 9953