

Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador

69th Annual General Meeting

St. John's Convention Centre – St. John's, NL
Friday, November 15th & Saturday, November 16th, 2019

Minutes

Friday, November 15th - 8:30 am – 10:00 am – Bowring Rooms 2 & 4:

1.0 Call to Order 8:45 am

President Tony Keats called the meeting to order at 8:45 am, welcoming the members to the 69th Annual General Meeting of Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador in St. John's, NL.

President Keats welcomed the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities 2nd Vice President and our other guests, and then introduced the Board of Directors for Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador.

1.1 Moment of Silence

President Keats called for a moment of silence to remember our colleagues that have been lost since the last annual general meeting.

1.2 Adoption of the Agenda

Motion 01-AGM-2019	Mayor Gerry Gros, Anchor Point/Mayor Harold Mallowney, Bay Bulls
Carried by Show of Hands	The agenda for the 69 th Annual General Meeting is accepted as presented.

1.3 Adoption of Standing Rules

Motion 02-AGM-2019	Councillor Josh Carey, Corner Brook/Mayor John Norman, Bonavista
Carried by Show of Hands	The Standing Rules for the 2019 Annual General Meeting were approved as presented.

1.4 Introduction of Procedures and Standing Rules Consultant – Brian Hudson

President Keats introduced Brian Hudson, Vice President of the Professional Municipal Administrators, and the CAO for the Town of Pasadena, as our Parliamentarian for the 69th Annual General Meeting.

1.5 Address by Affiliate Presidents

Members were addressed by our Affiliate Associations to give an update on the work of their Associations over the past year.

- Professional Municipal Administrators – President Nigel Black, CAO, Town of Bay Roberts
- Recreation Newfoundland and Labrador – President Gerry Hall
- Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Fire Services – Chief Joe Power
- Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Municipal Police and Enforcement Officers – Ryan King, Vice President

1.6 Address by Second Vice-President Joanne Vanderheyden, Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Mayor Joanne Vanderheyden FCM's Second Vice President brought greetings on behalf of the President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Highlights of her address include:

- Local leaders are building better lives for their residents, as it is the order that is closest to the residents of our municipalities. We build the roads and the bridges, the water systems and recreation centres. We are on the front lines of vital services and programs that drive prosperity and raise people's quality of life
- FCM was successful in securing key commitments – getting more infrastructure and transit projects built, supporting more local climate adaptation projects built, to building a rural lens into the heart of the federal government
- FCM reached out to the party leaders and FCM will release 'the first 100 days' of parliament which are the next steps that government can take to improve lives
- Infrastructure – FCM worked closely to help shape the 180 billion Federal infrastructure plan which raised the bar on how Federal Governments invests in local communities. FCM helped drive this year's doubling of the Gas Tax transfer for local projects. Municipalities own 60% of the core infrastructure, but only collect a small amount of taxes to support them. Empowering municipal governments to build and renew core infrastructure creates jobs, grows the economy and improves lives
- FCM is looking to build on and have predictable and long-term infrastructure funding and that they flow directly into municipalities
- Climate Change Adaptation - Protecting communities from weather extremes – climate adaptation is needed – increasing funding – asking to have the disaster mitigation topped up and eliminate the 20 million threshold so that all can get this funding.
- Thriving Rural Communities – we need to be creating the right conditions for thriving rural communities – drive key industries - agriculture and fisheries to tourism and manufacturing. Rural communities face unique challenges that can't use cookie-cutter solutions. Made important gains through funding - \$2 billion rural and municipal infrastructure fund and the investments into the universal-highspeed internet access.
 - FCM is urging that a rural lens be built into the heart of the federal government, adapting federal programs and projects, bringing more rural expertise to the table more often when national solutions are developed
 - Prioritize bringing highspeed internet into every community

Mayor Vanderheyden asked that when the 100 days road map is released that municipalities support it and share it with your Members of Parliament and the local media to discuss it.

Our voice is strongest when we are united.

1.7 Address by Minister Derrick Bragg, Municipal Affairs and Environment

Minister Bragg addressed the members on many of the priorities for the province and for the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment. As a previous Municipal Administrator, he noted that he knows the challenges that are faced by municipal leaders, firefighters and recreation leaders.

He gave an overview of the mandate letter received from the Premier and the priorities for the Department:

- Climate Change and addressing those issues - extreme storms, higher water levels, coastal erosion
- Electric Vehicles – working towards a cleaner economy, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, charging stations will be added across the province
- Waste management – there will be a complete review by the end of December by Ann Marie Hann. It is expected that early spring it will be brought back to this group
- Water Quality – we are at a record low for boil orders – 190 is the record low. The Minister issued a challenge to everyone to make every effort to get your communities off the boil order advisory. The Minister asked that everyone makes it a priority for your town
- Strengthening Local Governance
- Legislative Review – the Minister commitment to have a stakeholders group representing members of PMA and MNL to work on this
- Training – training is essential for the successful running of our municipalities. Training offered by MNL, PMA, the NLAFS – find a way to get out there and to take advantage of the training offered. Challenge yourself to get your colleagues to attend
- Municipal Infrastructure - Since January of 2019, there was \$74 million committed – 132 water & sewer jobs, If your Council has received letters about deficiencies in your applications for funding, please go

- through it and assess how quickly you can change that so that your applications can be processed
- Fire & Emergency Services – Fire Departments need to be prepared. As community leaders, you need to ensure that your fire department is seen as a vital part of the community. Training of your Fire Department is needed and you, as a Council, have to make training a priority for the fire department and review the budget funding for them. Towns need to be funding their fire departments so that they are prepared, to respond when needed. Residents are expecting top service – if you overtax them in the fire department you may lose them. Regional conversations are happening, having fire personnel assist in a neighbouring municipality is a great step, we should help each other
- Fire Departments, training, boil water advisories, are some of the priorities. The challenge to municipal leaders is to do your best job and let your residents know that you are doing all that you can possibly do for them

Saturday, November 16th – 8:30 am – 10:30 am – Bowring Rooms 2 & 4

2.0 Minutes from the 68th Annual General Meeting

President Keats referred the members to the 2018 Annual General Meeting minutes in their conference guide and asked if there were any errors or omissions. Hearing none, President Keats asked for a motion to accept the Minutes of the 68th Annual General Meeting of Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador.

Motion 03-AGM-2019	Moved by Mayor Maisie Clark, Campbellton/Mayor Ron Barron, Wabush
Carried	The Minutes of the 68 th Annual General Meeting are adopted as presented.

3.0 Chief Executive Officer's Report – Craig Pollett

The Chief Executive Officer updated the membership on the work of the organization, the many achievements and the plans for the future. He noted that we have gone through a transformation, with some new staff, a new building and new programs. We are taking on a new approach on how we are doing our work, investing in MNL and will achieve some of our goals that we could never do in the past. We are raising the bar on the work we do and how we do it.

Seat at the table – we are arming ourselves with the best possible research and ideas and showing up at the table with a solution already in hand, we are bringing solutions to Government.

Mr. Pollett also updated the members on other key areas such as:

- MNL's new headquarters building on Mews Place in St. John's
- The creation of a new MNL Strategic plan
- Other successful advocacy campaigns – banning of single use plastic bag in the province, and work on Municipal Accommodations levies – partnered with Hospitality NL
- We have built great relationships within the province and throughout the country with other associations
- Many successes of MNL are because of members supporting the work of MNL. The new Fiscal framework agreement was achieved with the province that added \$25 million a year for municipalities
- New Municipal Legislation - MNL raised the issue of the need for a new Cities Act and Municipalities Act. Currently, the jurisdictional scans are done, the public consultation is also completed, and we have been invited to join the Department and members of PMA to see where we go now on the new pieces of legislation
- MNL staff are now settled into the new headquarters building, they are working collaboratively. It is a very productive and inviting space for members. Leasable space and a meeting room that can also be rented. The new building is accessible for the members to use for meetings while they are in the City, the Staff are here to support you
- An MNL bulk purchasing program is now in place to help members save money
- Membership services – direct service model is being worked on for you, the members – advice and support will be available from the MNL office on the challenges that members are facing
- The Board understands their critical role to help us set policies and goals and the Staff we need to achieve those goals
- We are very excited for the advocacy we will do and the services that we can deliver for our members

4.0 Finance Report – Mayor Paul Pike

Mayor Paul Pike, MNL's Finance Chair referred members to the Finance report contained in the conference guide.

Mayor Pike reviewed the 2018 Audited Financial Statements and called for any questions from the members on the Finance Report.

A question was asked as to what some of the cost efficiencies and spending reductions were specifically. It was noted that savings are being achieved in all areas of the organization, in our events, day to day business operations and new revenues are being seen through rental income in the new headquarters.

A suggestion was made to the Board that the property on Torbay Road be kept for now, rent out the available space and sell it when there is an improved real estate market.

Appointment of Auditors - 2019

Motion 04-AGM-2019	Moved by Mayor Dan Bobbett, Paradise/Seconded by Mayor John Norman, Bonavista
Carried	Harris Ryan is appointed as the MNL Auditors.

5.0 President’s Address – President Tony Keats

President Keats addressed the membership touching on the work of the organization since the last Annual General Meeting and our many successes. Advancements and successes, through our advocacy, included our Emergency meeting held on wastewater management, and the banning of single use plastic bags. Meeting the needs of our members is paramount, and through new membership services and delivery and with the addition of our new Membership Services Manager, we are able to serve you better and have solidified some very successful partnerships.

In-house programming through BAM! NL and WelcomeNL continues. These programs allow members to better plan their upcoming infrastructure needs and help to change and diversify our communities.

MNL continues to lobby for a seat at the decision-making table, and asked candidates who were running in both the federal and provincial elections what plans they have for giving the municipal order of government a real seat at the table when making decisions about us. Additional revenue streams are needed for the sector such as access to income and sales tax, which will alleviate the burden currently on property taxes. The sector also needs an infrastructure plan to address how we are managing our sector’s aging public assets such as drinking water and wastewater systems, and a regional approach that would provide greater local democracy and enhanced government efficiency. We want a seat at the table. When legislation or regulations affecting our sector, or when new federal-provincial funding agreements for municipal infrastructure are negotiated, we need to be a part of the discussions.

President Keats also noted his active participation with the board of directors of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, serving on many committees and acted as the Chair of the Atlantic Regional Caucus and a member of the Rural Forum.

President Keats thanked the members for their support over the past 2 years, he also thanked the MNL board and staff. He added that support from his Council and Staff of the Town of Dover has been very important as well. He asked that everyone thank their families that support them as they serve on their local council and work for the residents of their communities.

6.0 By-Law Changes – President Tony Keats

6.1 2019 Notice of Motion

(1) Article II: Board of Directors – Section 3: Number of Directors and Quorum

It has been proposed that the By-Laws of Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador be amended to include reference to a new, non-voting, ex-officio Immediate Past President role, and in doing so also remove an outdated reference to the timing of the elections of Regional Directors.

Motion 5-AGM-2019	Moved by Mayor Craig Scott, Torbay/Seconded by Mayor Dave Aker, Mount Pearl
Carried	The proposed changes to the By-Laws of Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador, Article II: Board of Directors – Section 3: Number of Directors and Quorum, is accepted as presented.

(2) Article II: Board of Directors – Section 6: Election and Term

It has been proposed that the By-Laws of Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador be amended to adjust the population criteria for membership in the Urban Municipalities Committee downwards from 4,000 to 3,000.

Motion 6-AGM-2019	Moved by Mayor Bryan King, Bishop's Falls/Seconded by Deputy Mayor Todd Strickland, Channel-Port aux Basques
Carried	The proposed changes to the By-Laws of Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador, Article II: Board of Directors – Section 6: Election and Term, is accepted as presented.

7.0 Advocacy Report – Mayor Sheila Fitzgerald

Vice President Fitzgerald directed the membership to the Advocacy report in the conference guide which gives an update on the areas of current advocacy of MNL:

- Environmental – successful lobby for the legislative change to ban the use of single use plastic bags
- Fiscal – continue to advocate for a fiscal framework that sees an increase in municipal revenues that is predictable and sustainable. MNL joins with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in calling for a permanent doubling of the gas tax.
- Social/Cultural – WelcomeNL is building capacity in communities to welcome and retain immigrants. This year the MNL Advocacy Committee formed its women's caucus subcommittee with a focus on supporting women in municipal leadership in the province. The Women in Leadership Summit held with this conference is a direct outcome of this work.
- Infrastructure – Asset management through the BAM!NL project is an integral part of assessing and prioritizing infrastructure needs, and we recognize that more resources are needed. MNL's emergency meeting in September focused on Wastewater management. MNL supports the policy objectives of the 2012 Federal Wastewater System Effluent Regulations (WSER) to ensure clean and safe coastal environments, we insist that reaching the regulated goals require time and money. Work continues towards the reopening of the transitional authorization application window, and to securing more flexibility and resources for municipalities to reach regulatory compliance.
- Governance and Government – Our 2019 Advocacy Days focused on our priorities around regional government and governance. We continue to advocate for a regional approach to aspects of service and programming delivery in our province.
- Seat at the Table – MNL believes that local decision-making power leads to better outcomes for our communities. We continue to focus on the message that municipalities and municipal leaders need to have a seat at every discussion table.

2018 Resolutions Report

Vice President Fitzgerald referred the members to the 2018 Resolutions Report which is contained in the guide for information and called for any questions on this report.

It was noted that these resolutions will continue to be worked on, and any further updates will be communicated to the membership.

8.0 Resolutions Session – Mayor Sheila Fitzgerald

Mayor Fitzgerald referred the members to the resolutions that have been submitted for consideration by the membership. Those resolutions are contained on pages 52 to 64 in the conference guide.

Each resolution was discussed and voted on by the voting delegates, and here is the result of the session:

1-2019	Short-Term Rentals – Gander <i>** Mayor Danny Breen from the City of St. John's noted that there should be a discussion between MNL, HNL, the Provincial Government, the B & B Association and the AirBnBs. The MNL CEO responded that this is beginning to happen with Hospitality NL and it will expand.</i>	Carried
2-2019	Provincial Asset Divestment Protocol - Bonavista	Carried
3-2019	Federal Government Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations - Marystown	Carried
4-2019	Revising the Wastewater System Effluent Regulations Transitional Authorization Window - MNL Board	Carried
5-2019	Permanently Doubling Municipal Gas Tax Revenues - MNL Board	Carried
6-2019	Equitable Waste Management Services - Marystown	Defeated
7-2019	Municipal-Provincial infrastructure strategy & Communications - Portugal Cove-St. Philip's	Carried
8-2019	Performance/Service Standards for Crown Lands - Bird Cove	Carried
9-2019	Payment of Municipal Property taxes and poll tax on behalf of income support recipients - Grand Bank	Carried
10-2019	Streamlining municipal funding programs to provide long-term, predictable funding - Flower's Cove	Carried
11-2019	Improving service from the Crown Lands Division - Flower's Cove	Carried
12-2019	Banning Use of Studded Tires - Mount Pearl	Defeated
13-2019	Breastfeeding-Friendly Communities - St. John's	Carried

Saturday, November 16th - 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm – Bowring Rooms 2 & 4

9.0 MNL Board Elections – Craig Pollett, CEO

Mr. Craig Pollett, MNL CEO, and Chair of the Elections, advised the members of the results of the election for board positions.

Board Elections Results:
President – Mayor Sheila Fitzgerald – Acclaimed
Vice President – Mayor Paul Pike – Acclaimed
Eastern Director – Councillor Keith Keating – Acclaimed
Small Towns Director – Mayor Andre Myers, Town of Bird Cove
Urban Municipalities Director – Mayor Craig Scott, Town of Torbay

10.0 Other Business

There was no other business.

11.0 Concluding Motions & Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Motion 7-AGM-2019	Moved by Mayor Paul Pike, St. Lawrence/Seconded by Mayor Roger Barrett, Reidville
Carried	The 69 th Annual General Meeting of Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador be adjourned.

Please note: Although the Resolutions Session and Election of Officers is held separately from the Annual General Meeting for logistical and timing reasons, they are a part of the Annual General Meeting.