

Resolutions 2022 Update

Progress Toward a Sustainable Future

1-2022

Councillor protections against harassment and abuse

Town of Flowers Cove

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MNL explore possible actions and avenues to protect councillors from public harassment and abuse.

Update: MNL corresponded with Municipal and Provincial Affairs Minister Krista Lynn Howell via a letter to share the resolution. At quarterly meeting opportunities with the Minister, this issue was discussed.

Harassment and abuse in public forums are a widespread concern, not only in Newfoundland and Labrador, but across the country.

We continue to work with our partners and with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to best support our members.

2-2022

Modernize Labour Relations Act to be More Consistent with Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)

City of Mount Pearl

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador seek from the Department of Environment and Climate Change a review and revision of the provisions of the Labour Relations Act to ensure that:

Any behaviour by an individual or group, be it union, non-union or employer, which constitutes harassment, bullying, confinement, or intimidation is prohibited during strikes and lockouts; and

Recourse be legislatively instituted for such behaviours, which have no place in today's society.

Update: MNL wrote to the Honourable Bernard Davis, Minister Responsible for Labour, to request a meeting to discuss this issue and related legislation. That meeting occurred on March 28, 2023. Minister Davis is interested in exploring this resolution with us, and requested that we reach out to the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour. The MNL team has since met with their president, Jessica McCormick, to discuss. Additional cross jurisdictional scan work is required.



3-2022

Monitoring burden under the Federal Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations

Town of Marystown

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador approach the Federal Government and, on behalf of all municipalities in NL, lobby an amendment to the Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations that would allow for the cessation of monitoring and reporting of wastewater systems that have already been categorized as 'medium risk' and 'high risk' following the first year of data collection, which will reduce monitoring costs and allow those funds to be utilized towards future treatment solutions.

Update: The process to amend the Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations is ongoing. This includes addressing the administrative burden for smaller communities. On June 14, 2023, staff from the Wastewater Operations Unit with Environment and Climate Change Canada provided an update to MNL members, via a webinar, on the nature and status of the proposed regulatory amendments. The consultation period for the proposed amendments has now closed. MNL is also working with officials in the provincial government on how best to support members in their wastewater compliance work.

4-2022

Crown lands

Town of Gander

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador lobby Government of NL to ensure public land be granted to municipalities for the purpose of social, residential, commercial, and industrial development as determined by municipal plans.

Update: MNL wrote to the Honourable Derrick Bragg, Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture to request a meeting on Crown Lands. A meeting did not occur. However, the Division of Crown Lands presented to members at the 2023 Municipal Symposium.

5-2022

Provincial administration of Federal infrastructure funding

MNL Board of Directors

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MNL undertake a detailed, comprehensive review of current and historical federal-provincial capital works funding, administration, and allocation practices with the intent to improve the system for municipalities.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MNL lobby the provincial government to move infrastructure funding from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure back to the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs.

Update: MNL wrote to then Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Honourable Elvis Loveless, to request a meeting. MNL's pre-budget advocacy included specific reference to the need for transparency around the Investing in Canada Infrastructure (ICIP) Program. MNL met with Minister Loveless on March 14 to address this issue and to discuss the need for a long-term infrastructure plan. Since that time, MNL staff have been working on data analyses using publicly available federal infrastructure data (2006-2023). These analyses have been shared with both urban and small towns for feedback. Analysis work will proceed with the intention to also include, where available, provincial infrastructure data.

