

## 2020 AGM Resolutions Progress Report

Members passed 10 resolutions at the MNL 2020 annual general meeting on May 8, 2021. This is the first of several progress reports to update members on actions associated with these resolutions.

### Category A resolutions

#### 1-2020: Elimination of Income Tax on Council Remuneration - Town of Cupids

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador actively lobby the Federal and Provincial Governments to repeal past legislation and the taxation on Council remuneration be halted.

**Update:** This resolution speaks to the *Federal income Tax Act* and changes implemented to this legislation in 2018. A letter was sent from MNL President Amy Coady-Davis to Federal Finance Minister, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, requesting a meeting to discuss.

Copies of the letter were sent to: The Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Development; MP Gudie Hutchings (Parliamentary Secretary); President Joanne Vanderheyden, Federation of Canadian Municipalities; The Honourable Krista Lynn Howell, Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs; The Honourable Siobhan Coady, Minister of Finance; and the Town of Cupids.

#### 2-2020: Regionalization - Town of Cupids

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador start the process of investigating, scheduling consultations, and all relative actions that would be required to bring the entirety of Newfoundland and Labrador together to start the process to create a fair and equitable blueprint to deliver to its membership for consideration.

**Update:** This resolution falls within the scope of Municipal and Provincial Affairs Minister, the Honourable Krista Lynn Howell, as per her 2021 mandate letter from the Premier. A letter requesting a meeting with the minister, along with a copy of the resolution, was sent to Minister Howell. The Town of Cupids was copied on this correspondence.

MNL President Amy Coady Davis and Vice-president Trina Appleby met with Minister Howell and senior departmental staff on June 29, 2021. Regionalization was one of the topics on the agenda. MNL updated the Minister on activities of the Regionalization Working Group (RWG), which includes representatives from MNL, the Professional Municipal Administrators (PMA) and the Department of

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Municipal and Provincial Affairs. The RWG meets weekly and is on schedule to deliver a report with recommendations on regionalization to Minister Howell this summer.

**3-2020: Municipal Cost Recovery – First Lien - Town of Carbonear**

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador urge the Provincial Government to make required changes to the Municipalities Act, 1999, so the cost of work is first lien where a council of a municipality lawfully causes work to be done pursuant to the Municipalities Act, the cost of the work, with interest, at a rate determined by the council, by policy, from the date of the completion of the work until the date of payment, is first lien on the property upon which, or for the benefit of which, the work was done.

**Update:** This resolution falls within the scope of Municipal and Provincial Affairs Minister, the Honourable Krista Lynn Howell. A letter and copy of the resolution were sent from MNL President Amy Coady-Davis to Minister Howell. The Town of Carbonear was copied on this correspondence. MNL staff are working on further research with respect to this resolution, particularly as it relates to the ongoing process of changes to the *Municipalities Act*.

**4-2020 Caretaker Convention Guidelines - Town of Gander**

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador lobby the provincial Members of the House of Assembly to develop clear and detailed Caretaker Convention Guidelines establishing what activities are restricted during future Provincial Elections; and

Be It Further Resolved that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador make representation to ensure routine and prior approved municipal projects and programs are exempt from the Caretaker Convention Guidelines.

**Update:** During the 2021 election and prior to the adoption of this resolution by members, urban municipal members notified MNL regarding the hold up of funding for and progress on projects already designated under multi-year capital works program. MNL convened a meeting of urban municipalities to further discuss and plan an approach moving forward that would address this aspect of caretaker convention in future elections.

After significant media attention to the issue and a subsequent meeting with the Clerk of the Executive Council, the provincial government agreed to draft Caretaker Convention guidelines as per MNL's request. A draft of those guidelines has been prepared and is undergoing internal review. MNL will be provided an opportunity to review those guidelines before they are adopted.

**5-2020 Reduction of administrative burden costs for capital works project funding - Town of Flower's Cove**

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador work with the provincial and federal government to address additional and unnecessary administrative cost burdens associated with capital project funding and find solutions that will save municipalities money.

**Update:** A letter and copy of the resolution were sent from MNL President Amy Coady-Davis to both provincial and federal officials, including: The Honourable Elvis Loveless, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and the Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and

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Communities. Also copied on this correspondence was the Honourable Krista Lynn Howell, Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs for information and the Town of Flower's Cove

MNL has received a response from Minister McKenna's office, advising that a meeting at this time is not possible but that the resolution will be reviewed by departmental staff. A copy of the response was provided to the Town of Flower's Cove.

**6-2020 Municipal Business Tax Exemption for Home-Based Artists in the province - Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's**

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador work with its members, organizations representing artists and artists themselves to identify municipal-level barriers for artists and explore opportunities for further support to the Arts community.

Therefore be it further resolved that this work will lead to a series of policy recommendations, which members can adopt and implement if they so choose.

**Update:** A letter and copy of the resolution were sent from MNL President Amy Coady-Davis to the Honourable Krista Lynn Howell, Minister of Municipal noting that we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss. Also copied on this correspondence was the Honourable Steve Crocker, Minister of Tourism, Culture, Arts & Recreation, and the Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's.

**Category B Resolutions**

**7-2020 Illegal All-Terrain Vehicle Use - Town of Flower's Cove**

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador seek a review of the enforcement provisions of the Motorized Snow Vehicles and All-Terrain Vehicles Act and Regulations to ensure dangerous, illegal usage of all-terrain vehicles is more effectively controlled.

**Update:** A letter written and copy of the resolution were sent from MNL President Amy Coady-Davis to the Honourable Sarah Stoodley, Minister of Digital Government and ServiceNL, noting that we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss. The Honourable John Hogan, Minister of Justice and Public Safety and The Town of Flower's Cover were copied on this correspondence.

MNL has received a response from Minister Stoodley, advising that she has been mandated by Premier Furey to review the Motorized Snow Vehicles and All-Terrain Vehicles Act and to advance amendments to modernize and strengthen safety provisions. A comprehensive review of the legislation, cross jurisdictional search of how other areas are managing off-road vehicle safety and consultations with stakeholders are also taking place. The Minister also noted in her response that it is hoped that new legislation will be ready for consideration by the House of Assembly soon. Departmental staff will be in contact with MNL to arrange a meeting to discuss. A copy of this response was sent to the Town of Flower's Cove.

## 8-2020 Rules for Public Servants in Provincial/Federal/Municipal Elections - Town of Flower's Cove

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador work with the federal and provincial government and other organizational partners to identify the nature and the impact of these stipulations on candidates/potential candidates and find solutions to these regulatory impediments.

**Update:** MNL is working with the respective provincial and federal departmental officials, along with partner organizations with shared interest in this issue, to determine the best course of action for first addressing the scope of this resolution, and appropriate contacts for this activity. We are aware that a fall federal election is quite probable, therefore advancing these conversations is of considerable importance.

### Category C Resolutions

## 9-2020 Regional Air Transportation Connectivity - Town of Gander

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador lobby the provincial Members of the House of Assembly, the Members of Parliament, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Senators to recognize air connectivity as a critical and essential service to be maintained in all regions of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

**Update:** Given that this issue is federal in scope, a letter and copy of the resolution were sent from MNL President Amy Coady-Davis to MP Gudie Hutchings, Chair of the NL Federal Liberal Caucus, with copies to the other five Liberal MPs. A letter and resolution were also sent to NDP MP Jack Harris. The Town of Gander was copied on this correspondence.

## 10-2020 RCMP Funding - Town of St. George's

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador work with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, the RCMP and municipalities to map solutions for safe communities with access to services.

**Update:** On June 28, 2021, the Government of Canada announced that it had reached a tentative agreement with the National Police Federation (NPF) to establish a first collective agreement for RCMP members and reservists. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities is requesting additional information from government and sharing concerns regarding the potential impact of large cost increases on municipalities. MNL staff met with RCMP officials prior to this announcement to better understand the scope of this issue. Additional research into the potential local and provincial impacts of this announcement is required and will be undertaken in conjunction with other municipal associations across the country.