Municipalities
Newfoundland and Labrador

Regional Government: *Trying It On For Size*

Kathleen Parewick
Community Collaboration Officer

6 November 2015

Tides of Change

Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador

Increased regulatory complexity and costs?
Dated systems and legislation? Demographic crunch?
Rural economic erosion?
Democratic and financial deficits…



Need to strengthen the sector

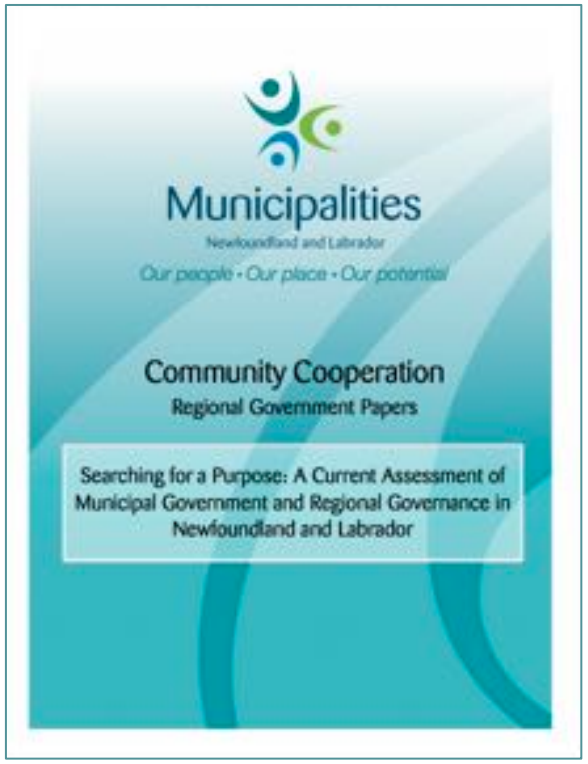
Need to bring more tools to the sector

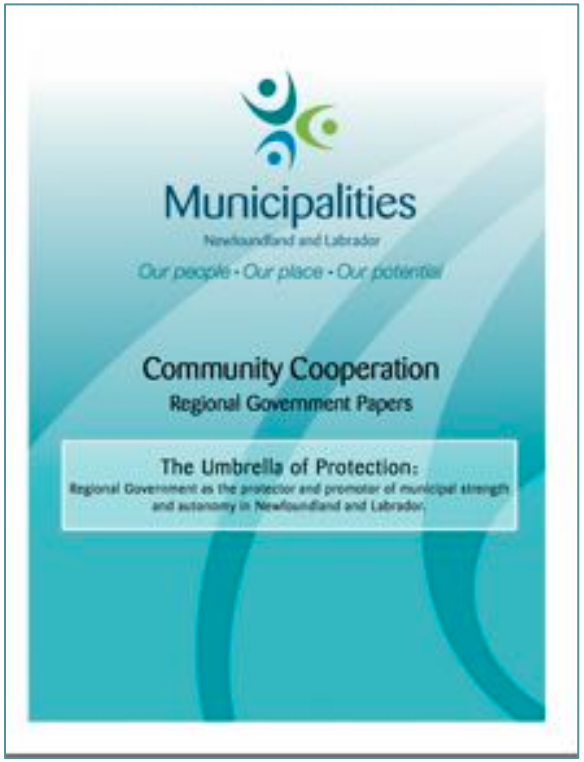
- Planning
- Engineering
- Water…

Municipalities
Newfoundland and Labrador

Regional Government Papers (2010)



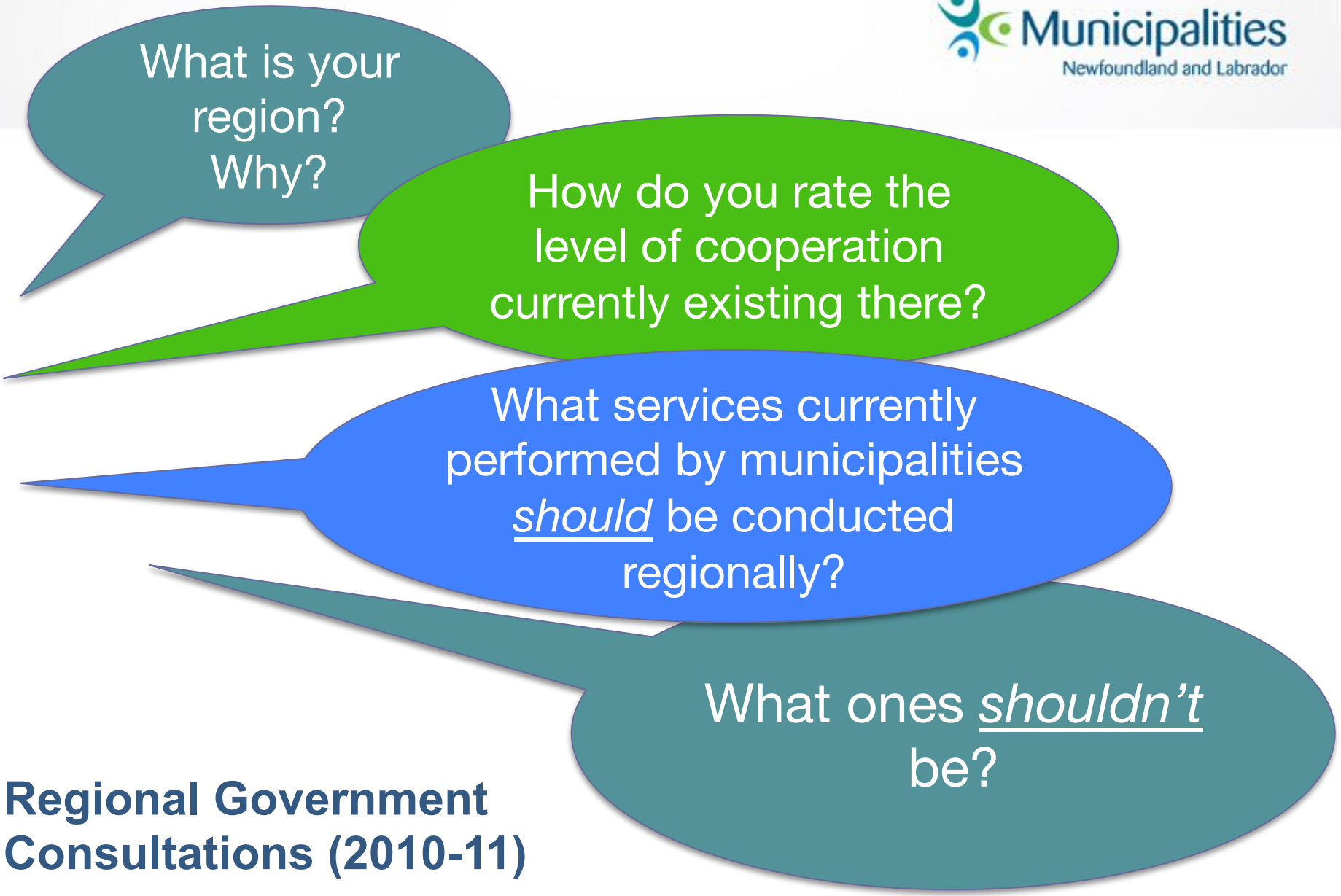




Symposium 2010

Municipalities
Newfoundland and Labrador





Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador

Regional Government Consultations (2010-11)

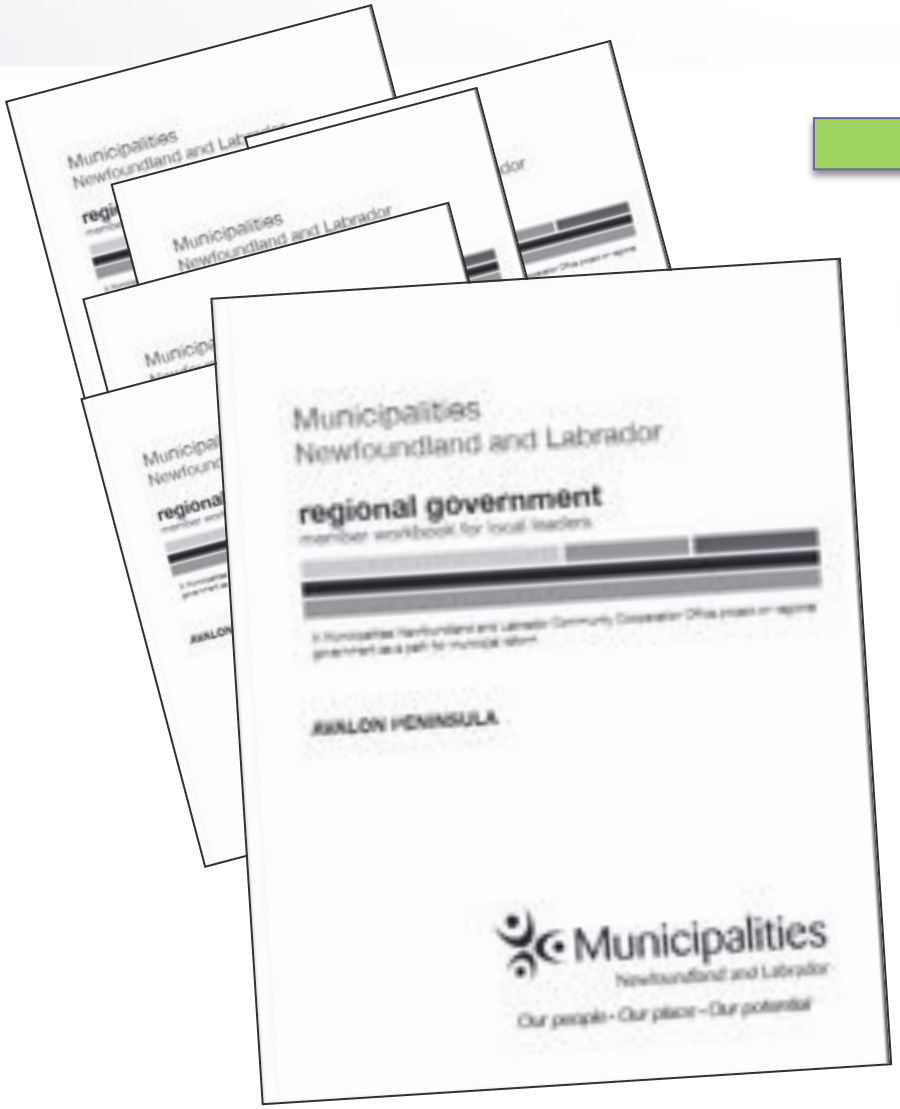
Regional Government Consultations (2010-11)

cont'd

Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador



Workbooks (2011)



Regional Councils
Part II – Municipalities Act 1999

Two Tier Regional Government Body
(e.g. B.C., Quebec)

Single Tier Regional County Body
(e.g. Nova Scotia)

Amalgamation
or **Annexation**
(e.g. Municipality of Fogo Island)

Voting options
(e.g. weighted voting, double majority)



Municipalities
Newfoundland and Labrador

Where things left off…

(2014)

Municipalities
Newfoundland and Labrador



Not just delivering services to bigger areas…

A way to strengthen regions and influence your own futures…

A way to access the benefits of *better* services and advice without paying through the nose…

Guiding Principles

Guidelines

- A minimum property tax assessment base of $300M
- A minimum population of 5,000

The Next Steps in the Regional Government Process
(MNL 2014, p. 8)
Attributed to New Brunswick's Finn Report



What's The Plan?

Fiscal Framework (2014-15)

Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador

REGIONALIZATION



RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the provincial government work with MNL to implement the necessary structural and legislative changes to create a sustainable regional municipal government system in Newfoundland and Labrador.

1 2 3

Budget 2015

Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador

$25M/yr

Provincial Gas Tax Transfer

HST Rebate

MOG 3-year commitment $22M/yr

Regional Government consultations

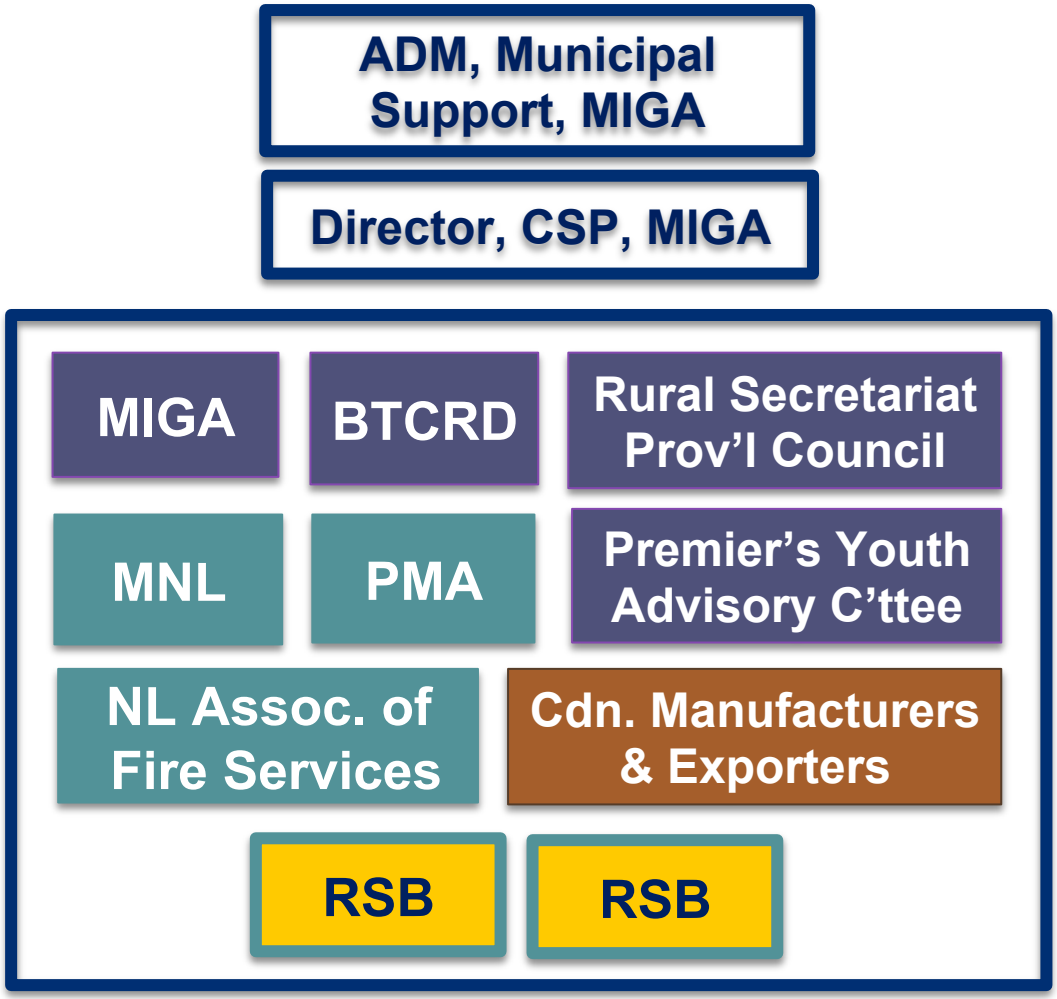


Regional Governance Advisory Committee

Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador

"…established to provide advice on the principles and main components of a potential regional governance model for Newfoundland and Labrador."

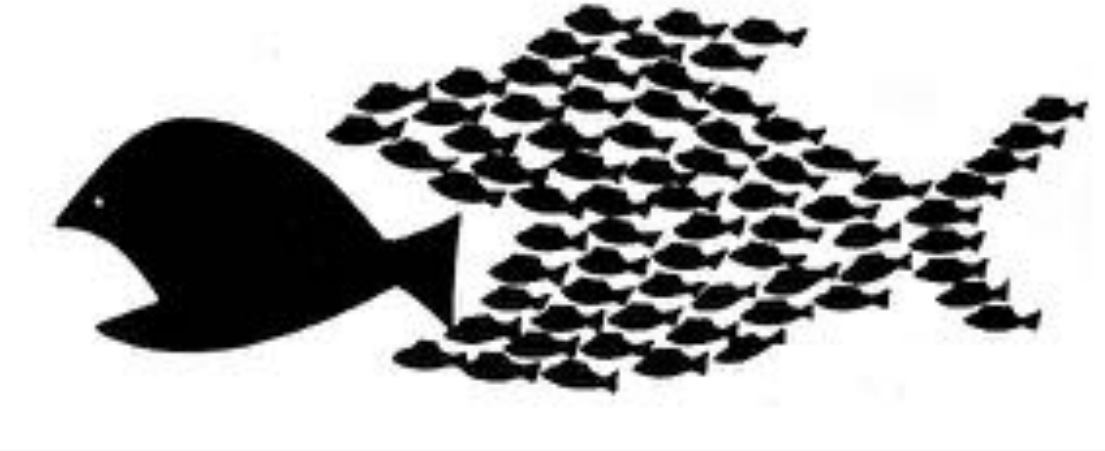
30 September 2015



Municipalities
Newfoundland and Labrador

Regional Governance Pilots

"In that there is little else that can be explored theoretically, at this stage it is recommended that the regional government model outlined in 'Next Steps' be tested through a series of regional, 'on-paper' pilot exercises. This would allow the membership to troubleshoot the model with the assistance of MNL facilitators."



MNL Municipal Governance Committee
Briefing Note
April 2015

Pilot Projects

Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador

- Participatory process for governance analysis
- Venue for in-depth discussion and scenario-building
- On-paper regional government design
- Mechanism for financial analysis
- Opportunity to identify *other* criteria
- More research and preps for upcoming consultation

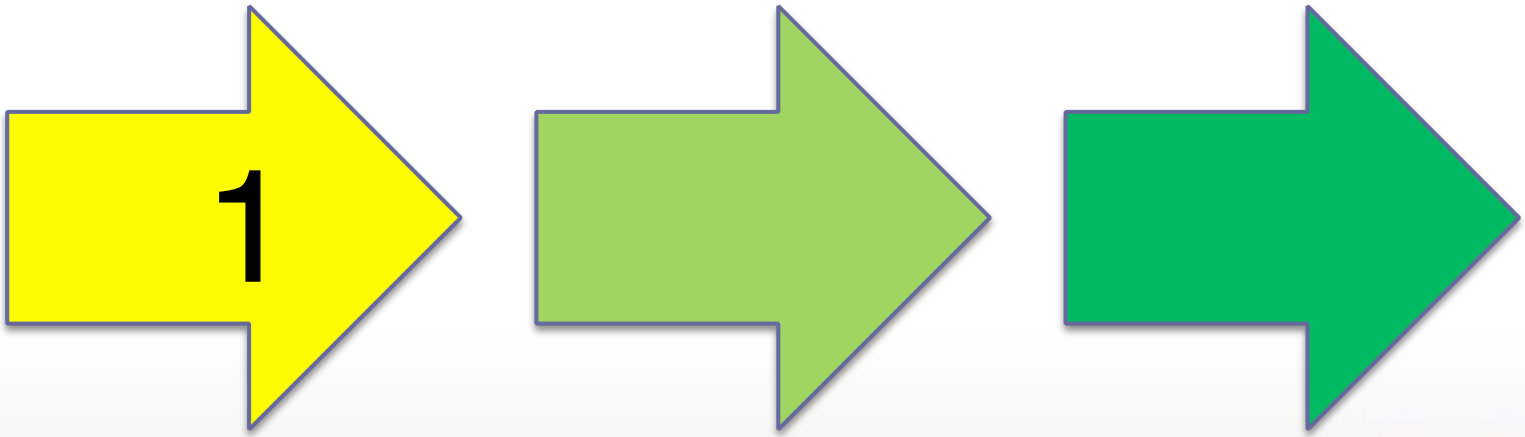


Recruitment

Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador

- November 2015 (*ongoing*)
- Referencing '*Next Steps*' minimum criteria

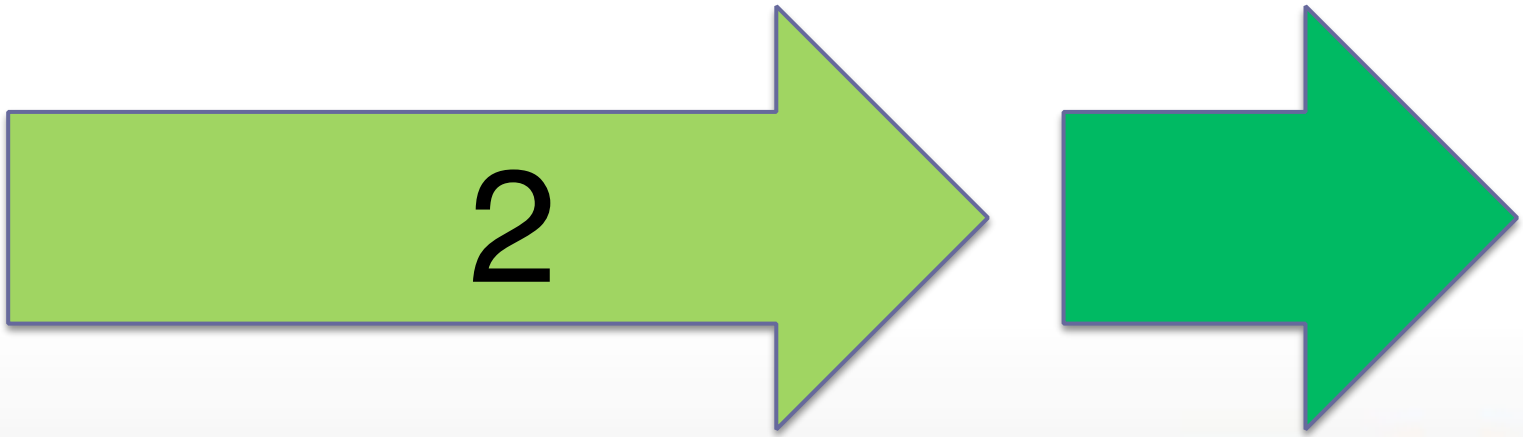
  but…
- Seeking applicants' ideas of their 'region'



Pilot Working Group Selection

Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador

- December 2015 - January 2016
- Consolidation of candidate region input
- Selection of 4-5 representative regions – selected to reflect the varied circumstances of different parts of our Province.



Working Group Facilitation

Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador

- Early 2016 (January-April)
- Conduct exercises to:

(a) describe how regional representation would be structured,

(b) identify the scope of the services each regional government could offer, and,

(c) dig deeper into the 'nuts and bolts' – the finances, the technical and legal implications, useful lessons learned elsewhere…



Municipalities
Newfoundland and Labrador

Responsibilities

- Land-Use Planning
- Regional Planning
- Economic Development
- Solid Waste Management
- Engineering
- Drinking Water
- Waste Water
- Fire and Emergency Services
- Sport, Recreation and Culture Infrastructure

Local government for LSDs and unincorporated areas

Other municipally requested services

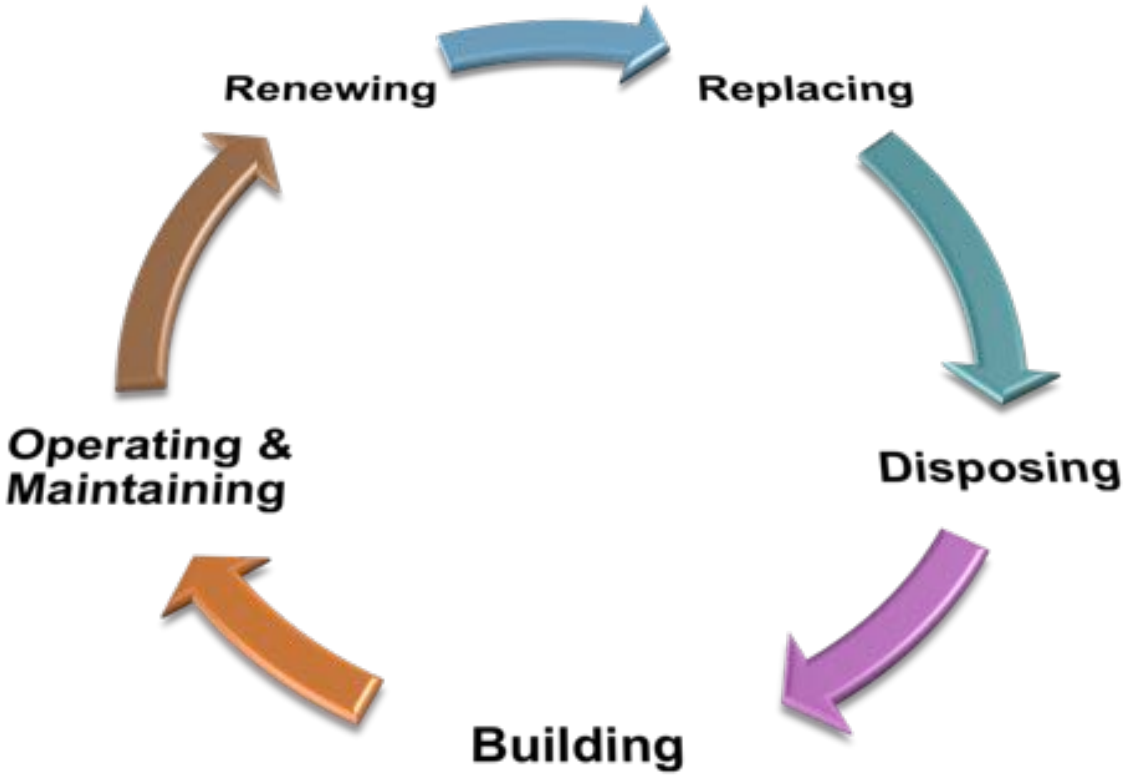

Source: Paula Dawe

Municipalities
Newfoundland and Labrador

Assets


Source: City of Hamilton

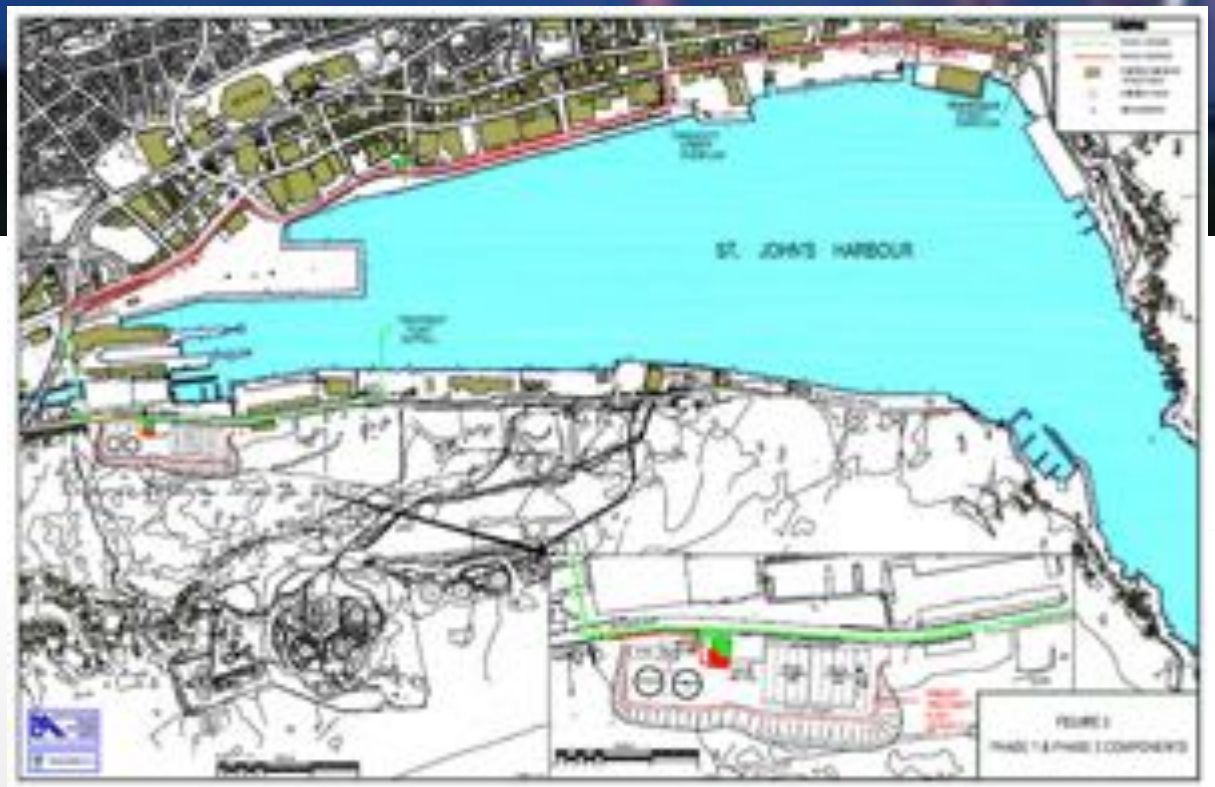
Asset Management Planning is…



"…the process of making the best possible decisions regarding the building, operating, maintaining, renewing, replacing and disposing of infrastructure assets."

'Building Together: Guide for Municipal Asset Management Plans'
http://www.moi.gov.on.ca





DIY

Demographics and the St. John's CMA









Source:Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency nlcims.ca/CIMS.aspx

Demo Projects (4)

- **BusFest** *(MetroBus & Happy City)*
- **Regional Planning Boot Camp** *(Happy City)*
- **Participatory Budgeting for Multicultural Resources** *(Public Library)*
- **Persons with Disabilities Roundtable** *(COD-NL)*

Community-based Research Partnerships



Adaptation planning consultation in Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove Photo: K. Bitterman

Economic Development

Municipalities
Newfoundland and Labrador



Questions?

Whether or not
you wish to get involved in the pilots,
what kinds of questions
about regional government
do you want the working groups to answer?







Municipalities
Newfoundland and Labrador

Thank you!