



Municipal Government Act (MGA) Review

UNSM Caucus Updates, November 4, 2015

MGA Review Time Line

- September 30 – MGA Review Website release
- Municipal / Village Consultation Sessions
 - Sept. 30 – Sydney Civic Center
 - Oct. 1 Pictou Wellness Center
 - Oct. 2 Truro NSCC Campus
 - Oct. 7 Yarmouth Mariners Center
 - Oct. 8 Liverpool Queens Place
 - Oct. 9 Wolfville Old Orchard Inn
 - Oct. 13 Halifax Westin AMANS fall conference
 - Oct. 27 New Minas Civic Center, evening session
 - Nov. 4-6 UNSM Conference
 - Nov. 9 South Shore, Valley, Western Regional Enterprise Networks
 - Nov. 10 Cape Breton / Strait area Regional Enterprise Networks
- November 9 – cut off for input from all
 - Prioritize and delegate input to working groups

MGA Review Time Line

- November – June, 2016
 - Working Groups complete policy reviews
 - Input from UNSM / ANSV as required
 - PVSC input
 - Legal reviews as required
 - Consultations on draft recommendations as they become available
 - To Municipal Councils and Village Commissions
 - Written Council / Commission positions
 - Public input through website
 - RENS?
 - Input from Ministers Roundtable
 - Presentation to Minister
- June, 2016
 - Deadline for input from all

MGA Review Time Line

- July – October, 2016
 - Feedback reviewed by Working groups
 - Options and recommendations finalized
 - Presentations of final recommendations
 - Steering Committee Approval
 - Input from Ministers Roundtable
 - Presentation to Minister
 - Written positions from UNSM and ANSV
- October, 2016 - Municipal Elections
- November 2016
 - Information sessions for new Councils
 - Prioritize recommendations for spring 2017 session of Legislature
- Winter / Spring 2017
 - Website update for public information
 - Prepare initial submissions to Legislature



MGA Review

Input Received to Date

Governance Efficiencies

- No Warden system, Mayors only
- Easier process for dissolution / amalgamation
- Provincial plan to reduce number of municipalities
 - Incentives for shared services, amalgamation
- Improved Provincial authority for municipalities not complying with MGA
- More clarity on roles of CAOs, Mayors, Wardens, Councils
- Natural Person powers

Fiscal Responsibility

- Additional tools for property taxation / fees
 - Frontage, dwelling units, size of land, floor space...
 - Define additional property classes
 - Commercial assessment using 3 year average
 - Phased in assessments for commercial
 - Deed transfer tax flexibility – exemptions
- Seasonal tourist tax credit, change to “may” from “shall provide”

Business and Economic Development / Planning

- Provide incentives for development
 - Expanded powers for tax exemptions
 - Phase in property tax / assessment
 - Brownfield redevelopment incentives
- Policies to encourage regional planning
- Sell land below market value
- Require Province to follow municipal planning on crown land
- Expand infrastructure development charges

Program and Service Delivery

- Clarity around cost sharing formula for road maintenance
 - Level playing field between towns and rurals
- Allow municipalities to sell signage on municipal roads
- Authority to remove derelict signage from TIR roads
- Solid waste sections are working well

Public Safety

- Universal, consistent, mandatory training requirements
- Strengthen role of Fire Marshall in defining service levels and resolving disputes
- “May” provide fire services versus “shall”
- Dangerous and unsightly premises
 - Need more authority to resolve