

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA

Tuesday, November 28, 2023
Following the Asset Management Committee Meeting
Council Chambers
Municipal Administration Building
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

1. Call to Order – Chair, Warden Owen McCarron
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of November 14, 2023 Committee of the Whole Minutes
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
5. Delegations
6. Continuing Business
 - a. Resignation of Deputy Warden
 - b. Letter of Support for Antigonish Affordable Housing Society
 - c. Decision on Boundary Review Scenarios for Phase-2 Consultation
7. New Business
 - a. Consideration of Extended Producer Responsibility Opt-In
8. Community Events

This item provides Councillors with an opportunity to briefly bring to the attention of Council events that are taking place in their communities.
9. Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions
 - a. Antigonish Heritage Museum Board
 - b. Antigonish Arena Association
 - c. Eastern District Planning Commission
 - d. Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee
 - e. Pictou Antigonish Regional Library
 - f. RK MacDonald Nursing Home
 - g. County Paqtnkek Joint Steering Committee
 - h. Consolidation Steering Committee
10. Additions to the Agenda
11. In-Camera Items
 - a. Potential Litigation
 - b. Contract Negotiations
 - c. Contract Negotiations
12. Adjournment

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES CHART (amended October 2022)

COUNCIL PRIORITIES	
<u>NOW</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WATER UTILITY DEVELOPMENT <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion & Renew Aging Infrastructure Securing Long-Term Source Water Long-Term Financial Plan 2. DEVELOP & IMPLEMENT AN EVENTS & TOURISM PLAN 3. CONNECTIVITY – CELLULAR AND BROADBAND 4. RENEWABLE ENERGY 5. NEXT GEN SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 	
<u>NEXT</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN: Update & Implementation ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN: Implementation COMMUNITY HUBS: Plan & Implementation 	<u>ADVOCACY/PARTNERSHIPS</u> <i>Connectivity Funding (Prov & Feds)</i> <i>TIR Service Provision (Prov)</i> <i>Long-Term Care Facility Funding (Prov)</i> <i>Aging In Place Program (Prov)</i> <i>Accessible/Affordable Housing</i>
ADMINISTRATION	FINANCE
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CELLULAR & BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY 2. EVENTS & TOURISM 3. ASSET MANAGEMENT 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING: Plan & Implementation - Ongoing
PUBLIC WORKS	RECREATION
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WATER UTILITY DEVELOPMENT 2. NEXT GEN SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION 2. COMMUNITY HUBS
SUSTAINABILITY	PLANNING
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RENEWABLE ENERGY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LCC COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECT 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MANDATORY MINIMUM PLANNING: Development & Implementation 2. EASTERN ANTIGONISH PLANNING STRATEGY & BYLAW: Complete Review

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday November 14, 2023, 5:30 pm
Council Chambers
Municipal Administration Building
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron
Acting Deputy Warden Bill MacFarlane
Councillor Mary MacLellan
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Shawn Brophy
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie
Councillor Harris McNamara (by Zoom)

Regrets: Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk

Others Present: Gallery
John Heseltine, LPP MCIP, Stantec
Jamie Burke, RPP MCIP, Stantec

Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden McCarron, at 5:30pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda.

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Approval of October 24, 2023 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the Committee of the Whole minutes of October 24, 2023. Councillor MacDonald noted that he was not present at the October 24, 2023 meeting. Staff will make that correction to the minutes.

Moved and Seconded

That the minutes of October 24, 2023 be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

Mr. Horne noted that both the Municipal Reform Act and Bill 329, regarding amendments to the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, passed by the Legislature earlier in the month.

Delegations

There were no delegations.

Continuing Business

Boundary Review Phase One Summary Report

Mr. Heseltine provided a review of the Boundary Review project to date, providing background on past boundary reviews, the existing boundaries, the results of the comparative scan of other municipal units, and the results of the Council interviews and public survey. Members of the Committee asked for copies of the maps of the options on a larger scale to allow for review in greater detail.

Questions from the Committee regarded requests for clarification on what areas were proposed to move. Discussion regarding the suggested number of districts followed. Some members of the Committee felt that the strength of the public feedback supporting 10 districts should mean that the 10-district options should be the options carried further in the process. Through discussion it was noted that putting forward an 8-district option provided an alternative for discussion in the second phase of consultation. A suggestion was made to look at putting forward multiple 10-district scenarios instead of alternative council sizes.

Direction was provided to have the consultant provide larger-scale maps for each of the scenarios that were created for the report, as well as a digital copy of the map to allow for further detailed review.

New Business

Winter Parking Regulation

Mrs. Schumacher introduced the annual winter parking regulations, which restrict the on-street parking on municipal roadways during certain hours between December 1st

and April 15th. Councillor Brophy suggested early notifications and ticketing to encourage compliance later in the season when heavy snowfalls can be more frequent.

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approves the signing of the Order for Winter Parking Regulations for 2023-24 setting out the period from December 1, 2023 to April 15, 2024 as the time in which Winter Parking Regulations will be in effect on roads/streets under the jurisdiction of the County of Antigonish.

Motion Carried

2020-2024 Strategic Priorities Update

Mr. Horne reviewed a brief review of the detailed summary of updates to the strategic priorities of Council that were established earlier in the current Council term. The progress for broadband connectivity were shared, and the recent provincial announcement about cellular connectivity was discussed. Infrastructure funding and water utility development were reviewed. An update was provided on the first phase of the Active Transportation project, which is nearing completion.

Deputy Warden MacFarlane expressed an appreciation for staff and Council for getting so progress on the many projects on the priorities list so far along. Mr. Horne noted his thanks to Council for providing such clear direction with their priorities.

Authorization of Arena Capital Over-Run

Mr. Horne spoke to the arena's replacement of their chiller and condenser over the past year. The tendered price for the project, and the delay between tender and installation, including some additional components that were identified during work, resulted in a project cost overrun of \$55,000. The Arena Commission Board is looking for the Town and County to split the cost over-run, which the Town has already agreed to cover their portion.

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approves a contribution of \$27,730 toward the cost overrun on the replacement of the Antigonish Arena chiller and condenser, with the same amount being provided by the Town of Antigonish.

Motion Carried

Community Events

- Councillor Dunbar shared that on Friday, December 1st the Antigonish Group Home will have a concert.
- Councillor Deveau shared that on the first weekend in December there will be the Pomquet Senior's dinner, with meals delivered to their door. Seniors 65+ are

invited to call in their order. The Pomquet Remembrance Day ceremony had very good attendance and a meal followed at the school.

- Deputy Warden MacFarlane noted that Catherine Novaks is doing a fundraiser for the hospital. An Antigonish Community Food Bank letter, requesting support from the community over the holidays, was read out loud for the Committee.
- Councillor MacDonald shared that he attended the November 10th Remembrance Day ceremony at Antigonish Education Centre.
- Councillor MacLellan noted that a holiday dance will be taking place at Arisaig Hall on November 25th and will include a dinner. On November 15th an Emergency Measures meeting was held in Arisaig. Floor curling has started again at the Arisaig Hall.
- Councillor Mattie attended the Remembrance Day at the high school. He shared details about the upcoming Rock-A-Thon in Monastery.
- Councillor McNamara attended the November 5th Havre Boucher Veteran's Day activities, which included a meal. November 18th over-50s are having a dinner and dance, to encourage community involvement and a membership drive. November 26th, Hank Boucher will be performing at a monthly concert at the community centre. Last month 130 people attended the concert. November 13th there was a flu-shot clinic held in Havre Boucher, and 62 people came for their shots. Updates also provided about card play and exercise classes being held in the community.
- Warden McCarron attended the November 5th Havre Boucher Veteran's Day activities, as well as the November 11th Remembrance Day ceremony at Columbus Field. He also attended the Legion's poppy campaign kickoff and shared that there was also a Veterans' Dinner at Legion. He shared that the Legion did an exceptional job on their events over the past few weeks. Warden McCarron also noted that Chase the Ace is running again in St. Andrews. Christmas activities in the community are upcoming, including Christmas on Main, Parade, Santa Tour, Lights of Love at the RK MacDonald.

Staff Reports

Mr. Horne reviewed

Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

In-Camera Items

Moved and Seconded

*That the Committee of the Whole adjourn to an in-camera session to discuss
Personnel Matters and Contract Negotiations at 7:11 pm.*

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session adjourns at 7:14 pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council excuses Deputy Warden
Stewart from the Municipal Council meeting of November 14, 2023.*

Motion Carried

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:32pm.

Motion Carried

The Committee of the Whole meeting was reconvened at 8:15pm

Moved and Seconded

*That the Committee of the Whole adjourn to an in-camera session to discuss
Contract Negotiations at 8:15 pm.*

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session adjourns at 8:53 pm.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:53pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Owen McCarron

Glenn Horne, CAO

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

TO: Committee of the Whole
FROM: Glenn Horne, CAO
SUBJECT: DEPUTY WARDEN RESIGNATION
DATE: November 24, 2023

Councillor Hughie Stewart has informed me that he will be returning to the Council table on Tuesday, November 28. However, has also communicated his resignation as Deputy Warden while remaining the councillor for District 3.

During Councillor Stewart's absence from Council, Councillor MacFarlane was appointed by Council as Acting Deputy Warden. With Councillor Stewart's resignation as Deputy Warden, Council must now fill the office of Deputy Warden for the remainder of the Council term.

The process to fill the office of Deputy Warden for the remainder of this Council term will take place during the Committee of the Whole meeting on Tuesday, November 28.

November 28, 2023

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
National Housing Co-Investment Fund

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Antigonish Affordable Housing – Appleseed Drive Phase 2 Application

I understand that the Antigonish Affordable Housing Society (AAHS) is applying for funding through the National Housing Co-Investment Fund for the second phase of their Appleseed Drive development in Antigonish County. Appleseed Drive provides proximity to local schools, amenities, and workplaces for those who may or may not have a vehicle or need access to the local transit services.

AAHS has had great success with their previous developments, a large part of which can be attributed to the hard work of their volunteer board and the help that their fundraising efforts receive from the community. The Municipality has been supportive of their projects through funding provided as part of the annual Community Partnerships Grant program, as well as the donation of municipal land to the organization for the first phase of their Appleseed Drive development. We expect that AAHS will be applying to the annual Community Partnership Grants program for this latest project when applications are accepted in early 2024, and Municipal Council looks forward to considering their request for support.

I hope that AAHS is successful in their application to the National Housing Co-Investment Fund for support with Phase 2 of their development on Appleseed Drive, and our Council looks forward to continuing to work with organization on their future developments in the community.

Sincerely,

Owen McCarron
Warden

November 28, 2023

Housing Nova Scotia
Affordable Housing Program, Capital Contribution

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Antigonish Affordable Housing – Appleseed Drive Phase 2 Application

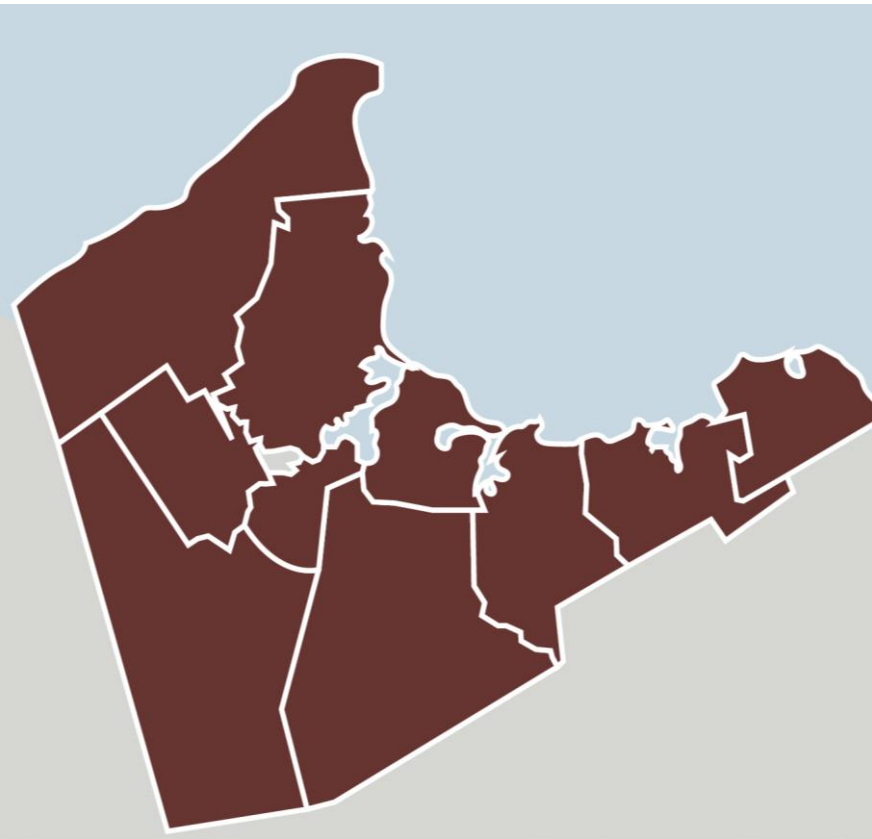
I understand that the Antigonish Affordable Housing Society (AAHS) is applying for funding through the Affordable Housing Program, Capital Contribution for second phase of their Appleseed Drive development in Antigonish County. Appleseed Drive provides proximity to local schools, amenities, and workplaces for those who may or may not have a vehicle or need access to the local transit services.

AAHS has had great success with their previous developments, a large part of which can be attributed to the hard work of their volunteer board and the help that their fundraising efforts receive from the community. The Municipality has been supportive of their projects through funding provided as part of the annual Community Partnerships Grant program, as well as the donation of municipal land to the organization for the first phase of their Appleseed Drive development. We expect that AAHS will be applying to the annual Community Partnership Grants program for this latest project when applications are accepted in early 2024, and Municipal Council looks forward to considering their request for support.

I hope that AAHS is successful in their application to the Affordable Housing Program for support with Phase 2 of their development on Appleseed Drive, and our Council looks forward to continuing to work with organization on their future developments in the community.

Sincerely,

Owen McCarron
Warden



ANTIGONISH COUNTY ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW 2023

Council Size Public Meeting
Antigonish County Municipal Office
285 Beech Hill Road, Beech Hill, NS

MEETING AGENDA

- Project Methodology
- Phase 1 Details
- Current Parity
- Survey Results
- Boundary Criteria
- Boundary Options/Recommendation
- Schedule/Next Steps



METHODOLOGY

A PRESCRIBED PROCESS

Phase 1 Council Size

... the desired style of Council, the governance structure of Council, and a determination of an effective and efficient **number of councillors** ... should not be decided by council until adequate **public consultation** has occurred.

Phase 2 Boundary Review

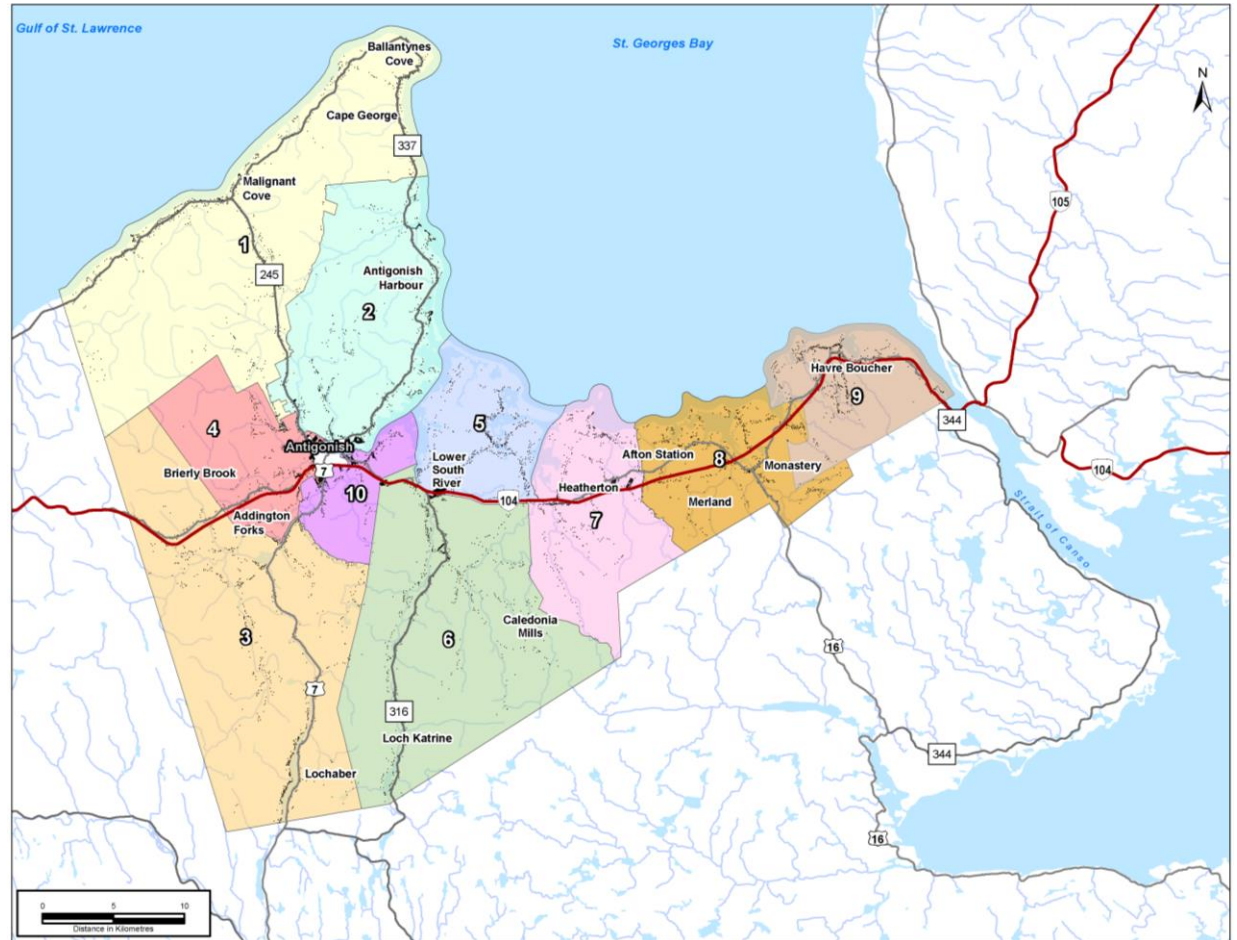
... the task becomes one of **distributing the polling districts** to satisfy the objectives ... of the Act. Just as with determining the desired number of polling districts, **public consultation** is essential to a successful process of setting boundaries.



PHASE 1 COUNCIL SIZE

1. Review and Data Assembly
2. Start-up Meeting
3. Public Consultation Plan
4. Council Size Benchmarking
5. Preliminary Boundary Scenarios
6. Council Size Public Consultation
7. **Council Size Report**


CURRENT ELECTORAL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES, 2023



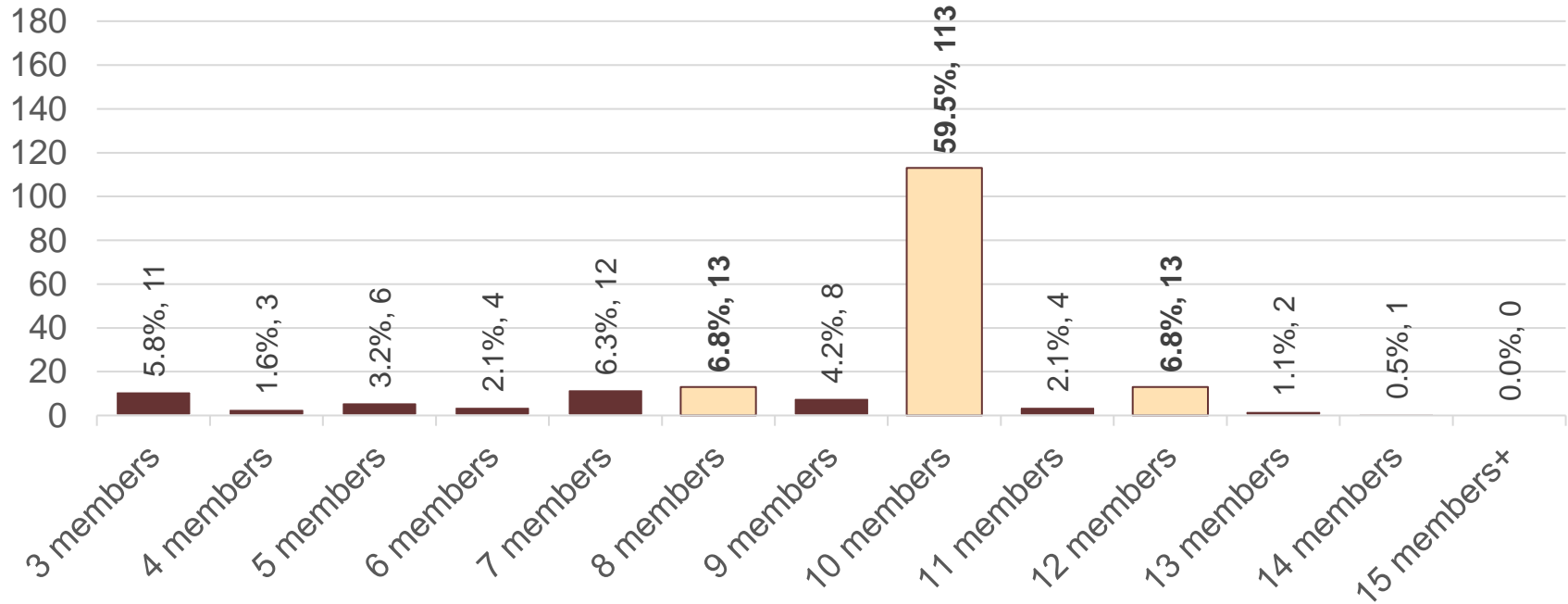
ELECTORAL DISTRICTS, ELECTORS AND VARIANCES

2015 AND 2023

District	Adjust- ments, 2015	Variance (%)	2023 Electors	Variance from Average	Variance (%)
1 Arisag	997	-9.8%	1,097	-181	-14.1%
2 North Grant, Cloverville, Lakevale	1,189	7.6%	1,700	422	33.0%
3 St. Joseph's, Lochaber	1,146	3.6%	1,250	-28	-2.2%
4 Fringe Area West	1,207	9.2%	1,577	299	23.4%
5 Pomquet	1,207	9.2%	1,282	4	0.3%
6 Lower South River, St. Andrews	1,164	5.4%	1,346	68	5.3%
7 Bayfield, Heatherton, Frasers Grant	1,038	-6.1%	1,165	-113	-8.8%
8 Tracadie, Monastery	1,006	-9.0%	1,041	-237	-18.5%
9 Havre Boucher, Auld's Cove	1,010	-8.6%	1,044	-234	-18.3%
10 Fringe Area South	1,190	7.7%	1,276	-2	-0.1%
TOTALS	11,154		12,778		
Averages	1,115		1,278		

 = outside the $\pm 10\%$ parity criterion (5)

COUNCIL SIZE PREFERENCES, COUNCIL SIZE SURVEY



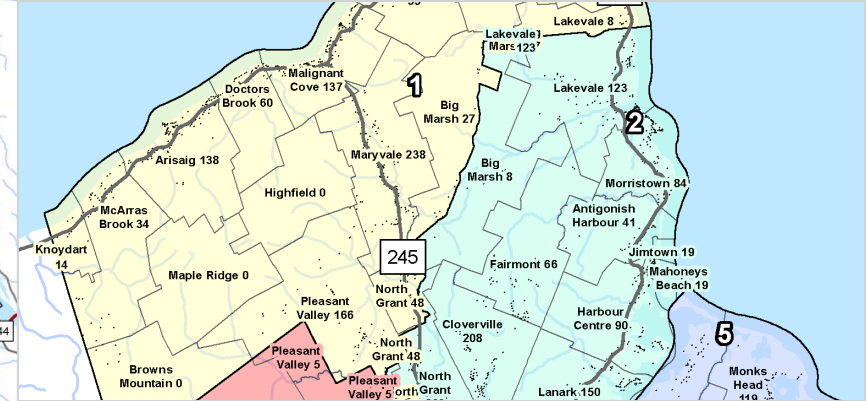
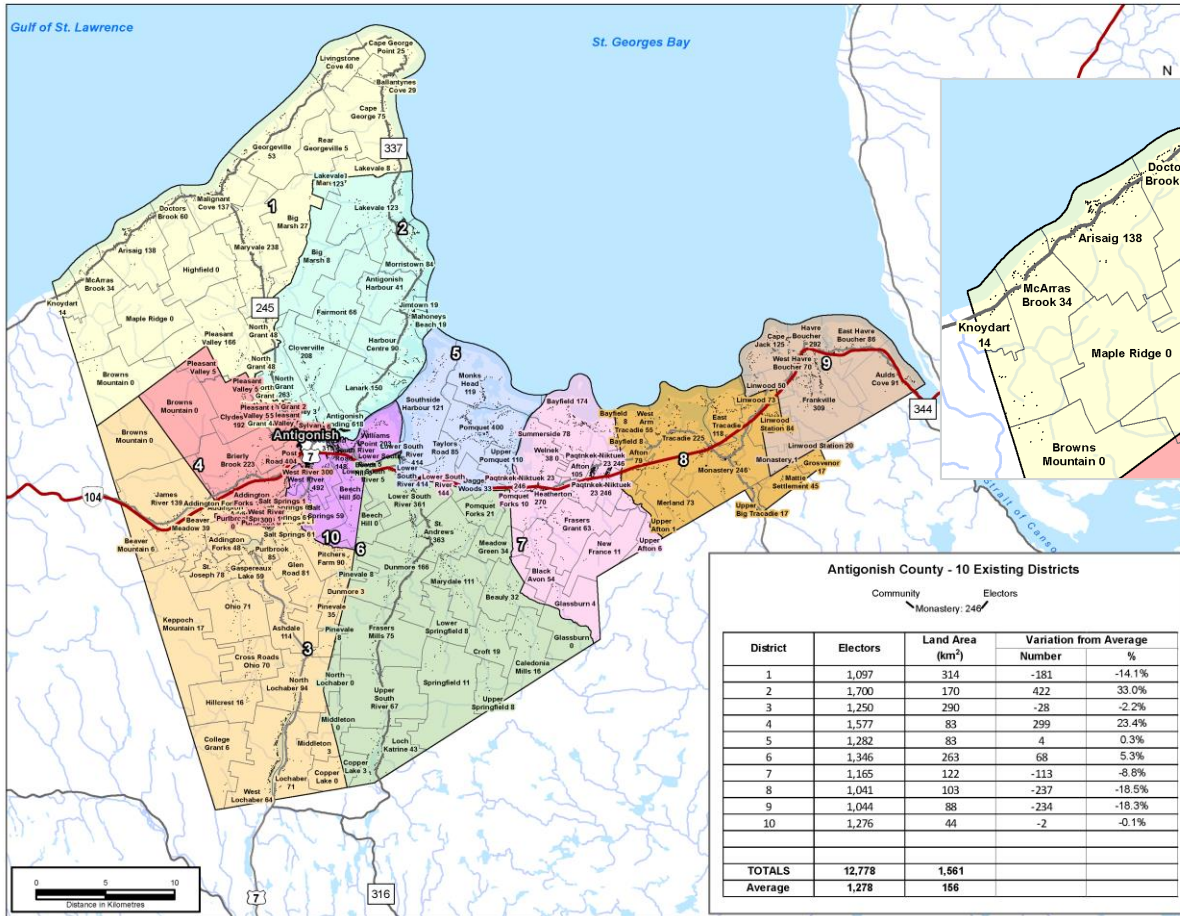
n = 190 responses

Average = 9.1



BOUNDARY CRITERIA

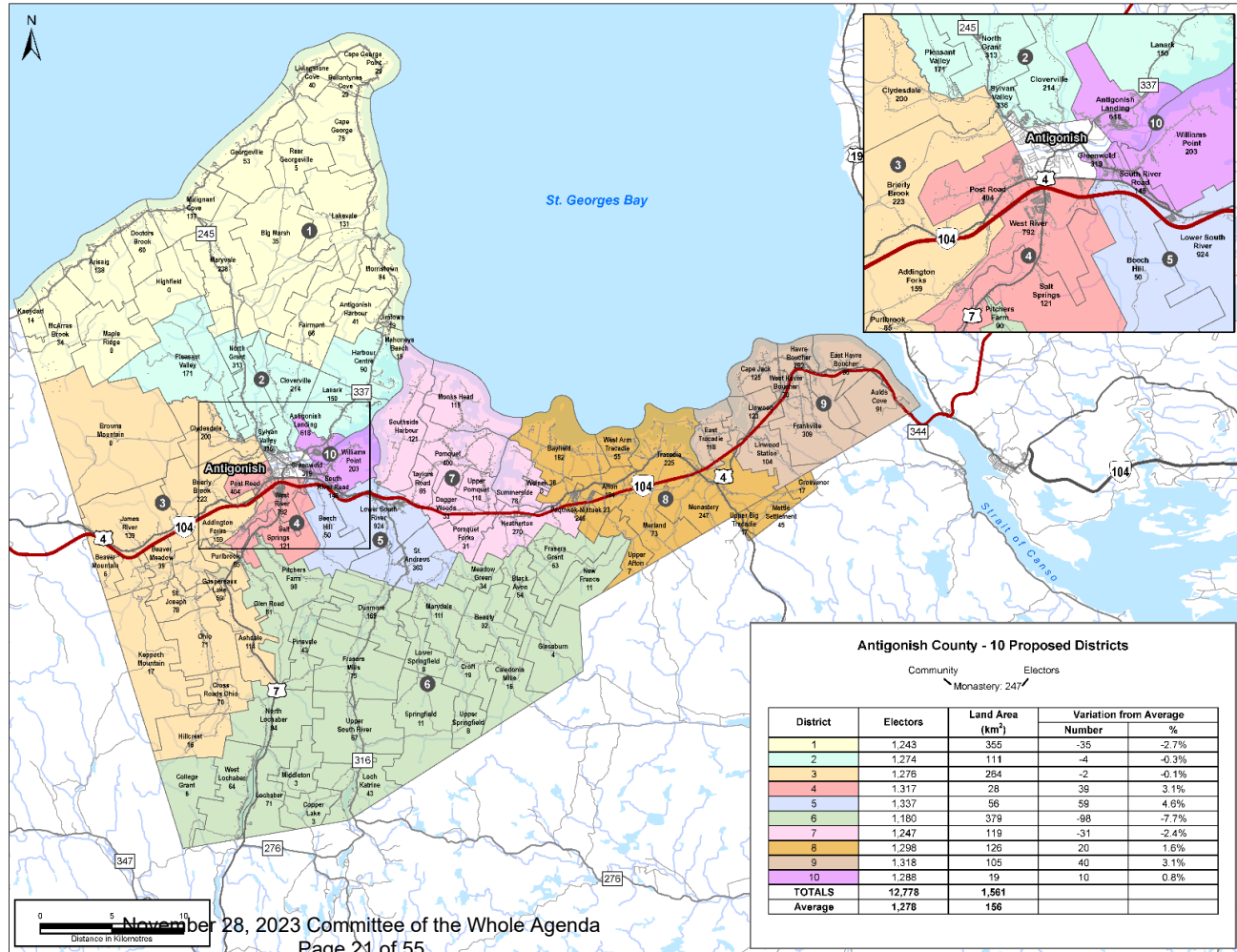
- **Voter Parity** – within $\pm 10\%$ of average of all districts
- **Community of Interest** – recognize distinct communities and maintain their integrity
- **Population and Area** – manageable population and territory
- **Contiguity** – a single area
- **Strong Recognizable Boundaries**





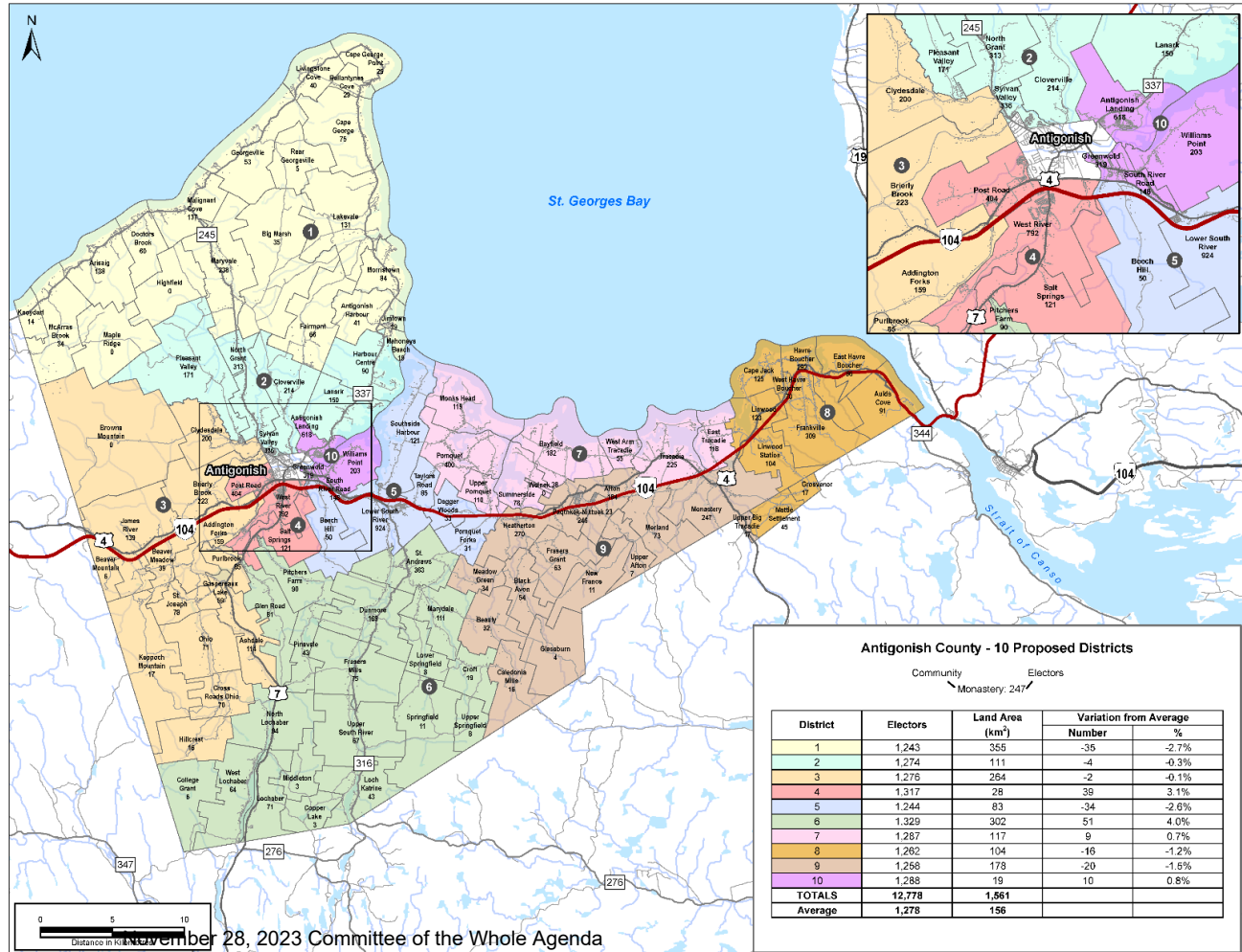
Proposed 10 Electoral Districts, Minimum Variance

Land Area	1,562 km ²
Average	156
Minimum	19
Maximum	379
Std. Dev.	123.7
Electors	1,278 total
Average	1,278
Minimum	1,180
Maximum	1,337
Std. Dev.	43.5



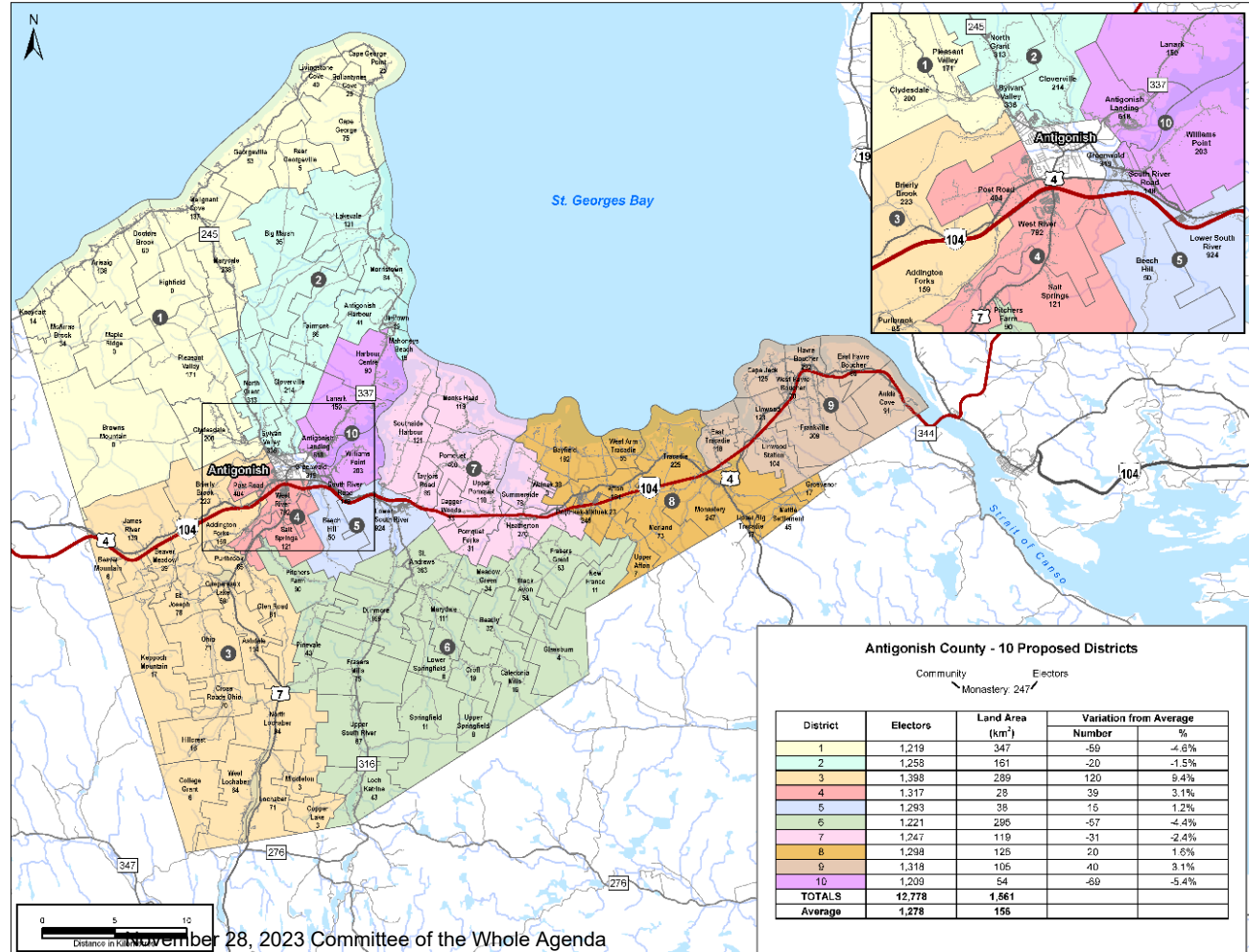
Proposed 10 Electoral Districts, Acadian Option

Land Area	1,562 km²
Average	156
Minimum	19
Maximum	355
Std. Dev.	109.5
Electors	1,278 total
Average	1,278
Minimum	1,243
Maximum	1,329
Std. Dev.	27.1



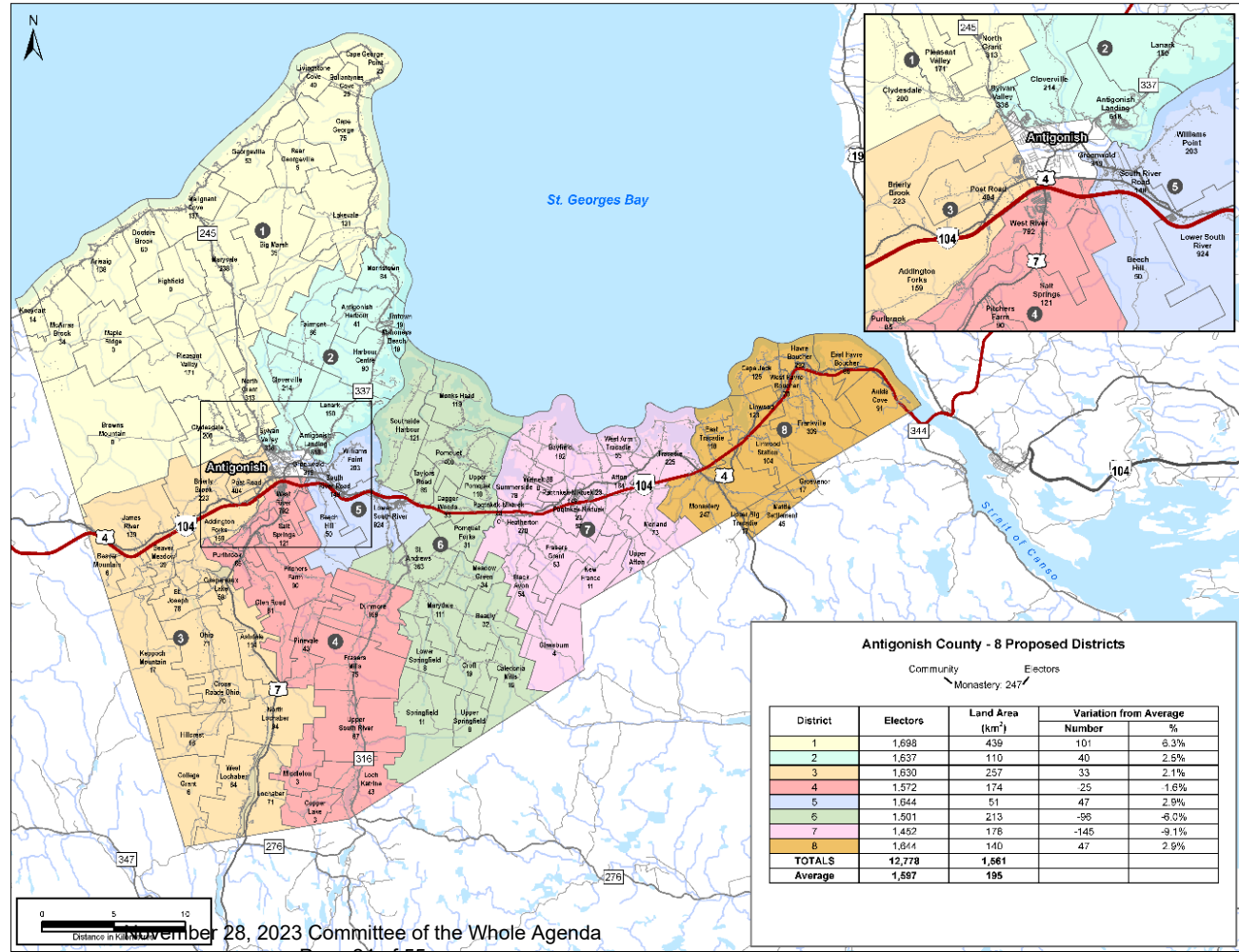
Proposed 10 Electoral Districts, Minimum Change

Land Area	1,562 km ²
Average	156
Minimum	28
Maximum	347
Std. Dev.	109.1
Electors	1,278 total
Average	1,278
Minimum	1,209
Maximum	1,398
Std. Dev.	55.7



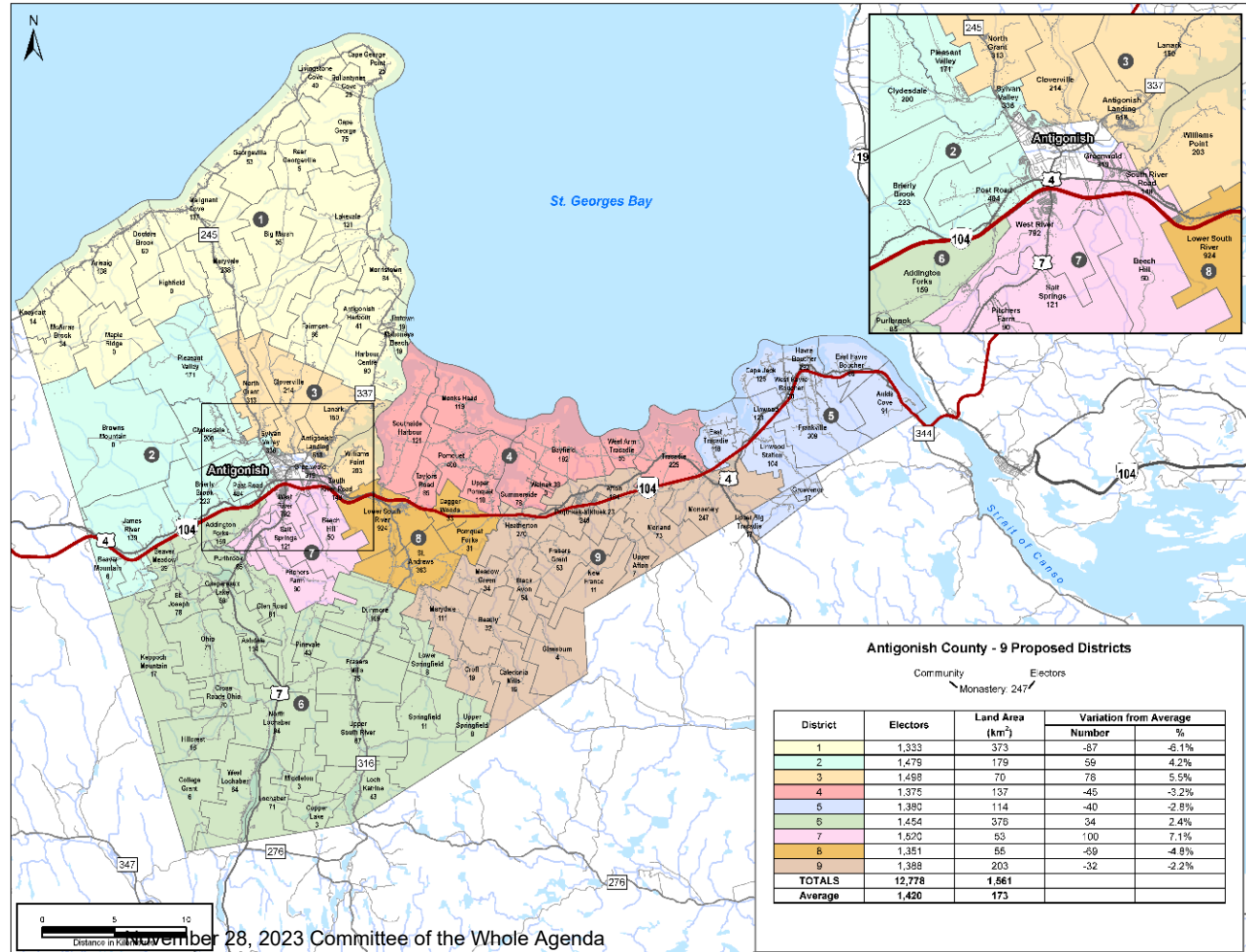
Proposed 8 Electoral Districts

Land Area	1,562 km ²
Average	195
Minimum	51
Maximum	439
Std. Dev.	109.2
Electors	1,278 total
Average	1,597
Minimum	1,452
Maximum	1,698
Std. Dev.	77.6



Proposed 9 Electoral Districts

Land Area	1,562 km²
Average	173
Minimum	53
Maximum	376
Std. Dev.	118.1
Electors	1,278 total
Average	1,420
Minimum	1,333
Maximum	1,520
Std. Dev.	64.7



SCENARIO COMPARISON

	10 Districts			9 Districts	8 Districts
	Least Variance	Acadian	Least Change		
Land Area	1,562 km²				
Average	156	156	156	173	195
Minimum	19	19	28	53	51
Maximum	379	355	347	376	439
Std. Dev.	123.7	109.5	109.1	118.1	109.2
Electors	1,278 total				
Average	1,278	1,278	1,278	1,420	1,597
Minimum	1,180	1,243	1,209	1,333	1,452
Maximum	1,337	1,329	1,398	1,520	1,698
Std. Dev.	43.5	27.1	55.7	64.7	77.6



We recommend taking Scenario 3 for ten districts along with Scenario 4 for eight districts to the public for consideration in Phase 2 of this Electoral Boundary Review.

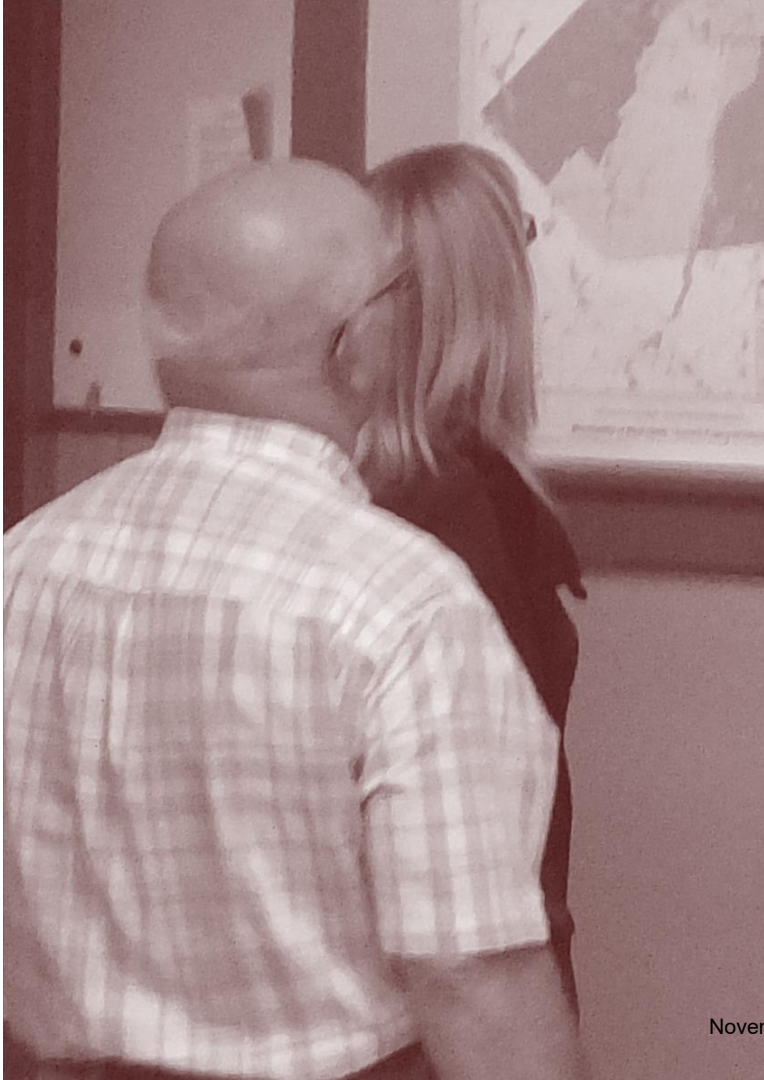
SCENARIO COMPARISON

	10 Districts			9 Districts	8 Districts
	Least Variance	Acadian	Least Change		
Land Area (km²)	1,562				
Average	156	156	156	173	195
Minimum	19	19	28	53	51
Maximum	379	355	347	376	439
Std. Dev.	123.7	109.5	109.1	118.1	109.2
Electors	1,278 total				
Average	1,278	1,278	1,278	1,420	1,597
Minimum	1,180	1,243	1,209	1,333	1,452
Maximum	1,337	1,329	1,398	1,520	1,698
Std. Dev.	43.5	27.1	55.7	64.7	77.6



PHASE 2 BOUNDARY REVIEW

1. Finalize Boundary Scenarios
2. Boundary Scenarios Online Survey
3. Polling District Public Consultation
4. Boundary Review Report
5. Final Report Submission



POLLING DISTRICT PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- We will have a second public survey to present boundary scenarios and determine which scenario is preferred by the public
- We will also take boundary scenarios to public sessions
- Sessions in three communities (suggest west, central, east)
- Dates, times, and locations to be determined

PROJECT SCHEDULE

			Aug				Sep				Oct					Nov				Dec				Jan			
Activity	Start	End	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22
Phase 1 – Council Size																											
Review and Data Assembly	08/11	08/25																									
Start-up Meeting	08/14	08/14	*																								
Public Consultation Plan	08/14	08/30																									
Project Website	08/14	01/29																									
Council Interviews	09/12	09/22						*																			
Council Size Benchmarking	08/11	08/18																									
Council Size Online Survey	09/04	10/13																									
Preliminary Boundary Scenarios	10/02	10/27																									
Council Size Public Consultation	09/18	09/26							*																		
Council Size Report	10/16	11/13														*											
Phase 2 – Boundaries and Polling Districts																											
Finalize Boundary Scenarios	11/13	11/20																									
Boundary Scenarios Online Survey	11/20	12/22																									
Polling District Public Consultation	11/27	12/15																*	**								
Boundary Review Report	12/18	01/16																							*		
Final Report Submission	01/15	01/20	November 28, 2023 Committee of the Whole Agenda																								

CONTACT US



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Atlantic Lead – Urban Planning
Community Development

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Email: Jamie.Burke@stantec.com



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MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Glenn Horne, CAO
Daryl Myers, Director of Public Works

SUBJECT: **EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY NEXT STEPS**

DATE: November 23, 2023

Summary

Staff recommend the Committee approves the following motion:

“The Committee recommends to Municipal Council that the Municipality of the County of Antigonish Opt-In to the provincial Extended Producer Responsibility for paper, packaging, and packaging-like products program.”

If approved, staff will work with Divert NS and producers to develop specific proposals for the blue-bag program in Antigonish County.

Background

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach considering principles of a circular economy (reduce, reuse, recycle) that shifts the responsibility and costs of managing specific wastes/recyclable materials from municipalities to producers (i.e. brand owners and manufacturers).

In December 2021, as part of the Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act, the provincial government committed EPR to include paper, packaging, and packaging-like products (PPP). EPR for PPP regulations were announced August 2, 2023. The waste-products that will be included in EPR are those commonly found in our existing blue-bag program.

Within the EPR regulations, producers are required to develop and manage a program for the collection and/or disposal of PPP as well as public education. They can do this by forming Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) that collect fees from producers and contract or provide these services. Divert NS will manage EPR and report annually to the province.

EPR has been a priority of the Solid Waste-Resource Regional Chairs and the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities for much of the past ten years. PROs will become fully responsible for PPP in Nova Scotia on December 1, 2025.

Considerations

EPR is intended to encourage producers of PPP to make products more easily recyclable because they are responsible for those costs. Municipal curbside recycling programs in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia are funded through EPR, which represents 82% of the Canadian population.

	2023-2024	2022-2023	2022-2023
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
REVENUE			
PAKQTNKEK SOLID WASTE AGREEMENT	\$ 32,760	\$ 29,782	\$ 30,013
OTHER LANDFILL - LANDFILL	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,315	\$ 10,000
RRFB - DIVERSION CREDIT	\$ 30,000	\$ 42,018	\$ 12,000
RRFB - COST SHARING PROGRAMS	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,417	\$ 1,600
EXPENDITURES			
RECYCLING PROGRAM SALARY- FULL TIME	\$ 145,193	\$ 112,533	\$ 113,662
OVERTIME-RECYCLING DEPT	\$ 9,464	\$ 3,919	\$ 1,964
BENEFITS-RECYCLING PROGRAM	\$ 28,933	\$ 23,659	\$ 21,686
TIPPING FEES TO COUNTY OF COLCHESTER	\$ 100,000	\$ 92,915	\$ 70,000
TRUCKING COSTS TO COUNTY OF COLCHESTER	\$ 30,000	\$ 23,501	\$ 30,000
HHW SITE	\$ 1,800	\$ -	\$ 1,800
RRFB - WASTE (HHW EVENT)	\$ -	\$ 1,120	\$ -
WASTE REDUCTION COORDINATOR	\$ 25,000	\$ 24,077	\$ 24,077
TELEPHONE-RECYCLING PROGRAM	\$ 300	\$ 515	\$ 300
CLOTHING ALLOWANCE-RECYCLING PROGRAM	\$ 500	\$ 892	\$ 500
INSURANCE-RECYCLING PROGRAM	\$ 4,996	\$ 4,552	\$ 4,552
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE-RECYCLING PROGRAM	\$ 30,000	\$ 62,849	\$ 30,000
FUEL-RECYCLING PROGRAM	\$ 50,000	\$ 43,008	\$ 40,000
VEHICLE REGISTRATION-RECYCLING PROGRAM	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,529	\$ 1,700
RECYCLING DEBENTURE INTEREST REPAYMENT	\$ 5,353	\$ 5,835	\$ 5,047
RECYCLING DEBENTURE PRINCIPAL REPAYMENT	\$ 97,680	\$ 8,880	\$ 8,880
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 530,919	\$ 409,784	\$ 354,168

The Solid Waste-Resource Regional Chairs estimate that the cost of recycling programs across the province has more than doubled in 15 years. In 2022/23, the County spent approximately \$410,000 on its recycling program. This was off-set by revenues that include a portion of the waste collection contract with Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation and RRFB diversion credits. The main cost drivers of the recycling program are wages, equipment, repairs & maintenance, fuel and tipping fees. This does not include capital costs associated with the purchase of new collection vehicles and the associated operational costs at the Transfer Station. We have budgeted Approximately \$530,000 in 2023/24, which includes the recycling program's portion of MFC balloon payment (ie: debt retirement).

Municipalities are not required to "opt-in" to EPR; they can continue to manage recycling as they are and remain independent of these regulations. However, if municipalities choose to "opt-out" of EPR, they are not eligible for any funding generated through the regulations and must continue to bear the full cost of their recycling programs.

Municipalities that provide their own collection services, like Antigonish County, and opt-in to EPR they may be contracted by a PRO to collect PPP. This means a PRO would

pay the County for its collection services, creating a new revenue source to support this service. Alternatively, a PRO may retain a private operator to provide collection services in Antigonish County. Savings from new operational arrangements are estimated between \$20-25 million annually for NS municipalities. There are service standards associated with the blue-bag program once it is the responsibility of PROs. However, staff have not yet reviewed them.

By January 1, 2024, municipalities must register with Divert NS if they intend to consider opting into EPR. If the County Opt-In by the January 1 deadline, staff will work with PROs and Divert NS to fully assess program details that best suit Antigonish County and provide further information to the Committee to make a final decision on participation.

If the County Opt-Out at this stage, it cannot reconsider the decision at a later date.

Options

Municipal Council may:

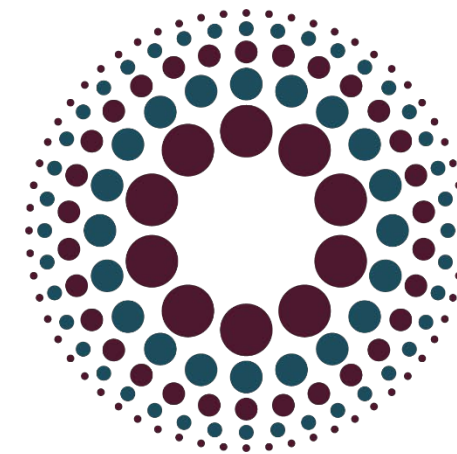
1. Opt-out of EPR for PPP and continue to service the blue bag program at cost.
2. Opt-in to EPR and work with PROs and Divert NS to determine how the blue-bag program will continue within the regulations.

Recommendation & Next Steps

Staff are recommending Option 2, to opt-in to EPR at this time and work with PROs and Divert NS to determine how the blue-bag program will continue within the regulations.

If Council supports this recommendation, the following motion is in order:

“The Committee recommends to Municipal Council that the Municipality of the County of Antigonish Opt-In to the provincial Extended Producer Responsibility for paper, packaging, and packaging-like products program.”




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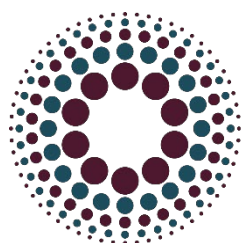
EPR FOR PPP REGULATIONS: IMPLICATIONS FOR MUNICIPALITIES

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September, 2023

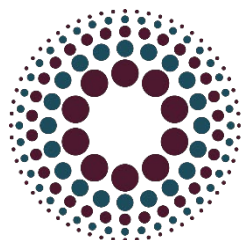
PRESENTATION OBJECTIVE

- 
1. Provide a brief background on EPR for PPP
 2. Share a high-level regulation overview
 3. Provide some insight into implications for municipalities



AGENDA

- 
1. Background on EPR for PPP
 2. Consultation
 3. Regulation Overview
 4. Implications for Municipalities

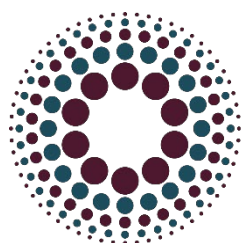


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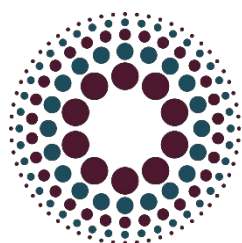
EPR FOR PPP RECAP

- EPR for Packaging, Paper Products, and Packaging-like products (PPP) regulates industry responsibility for both the operational and financial management of certain recyclable materials.
- Ideally this incentivizes industry to create easily recyclable packaging because producers become responsible for recycling costs.
- In Nova Scotia, EPR for PPP will include materials commonly found in the blue bag system.



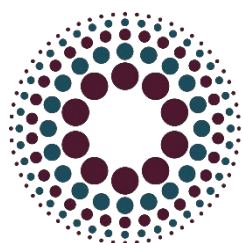
EPR FOR PPP RECAP

- NSFM & partners submitted a proposal regarding EPR for PPP to the provincial government in 2019.
- In December 2021, as part of the Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act, the provincial government committed Extended Producer Responsibility to include Paper, Packaging, and Packaging-Like Products.
- EPR for PPP regulations were announced August 2, 2023.
- Savings from new operational arrangements are estimated between \$20-25 million annually for NS municipalities.



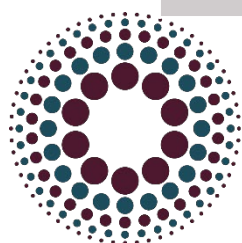
CONSULTATION & COLLABORATION

- Provincial staff worked with stakeholders to design EPR for PPP regulations, timelines, and exemptions.
- Municipal consultation took place through direct outreach to municipalities and through the Solid Waste-Resource Management Regional Chairs Committee.
- The Municipal-Provincial Priorities Working group (a subcommittee of Regional Chairs) has been identifying next steps from an operational/data collection perspective.



PROGRAM PLAYERS

Producers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulated to develop and manage a program• Permitted to appoint a PRO
Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appointed by producers to develop and operate the program (e.g., servicing blue bags)• Collects fees from producers• May contract municipalities for collection/processing, and education services• Provides information and education programs related to PPP
Provincial Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obligates producers, sets targets
The Administrator - Divert NS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manages registration and data collection for producers and municipalities• Oversees registration and compliance with regulation targets• Completes annual reporting to province
Municipalities and Regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registers with Divert NS and provides current collection data• Can be contracted by industry to continue collection, processing, and/or education



DATES AND DEADLINES

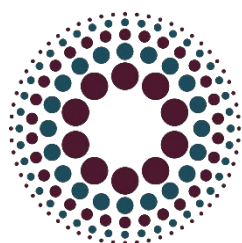
August 1, 2023 – EPR for PPP Regulations are approved.

January 1, 2024 – Last date for municipalities and Producers to register with Divert NS and provide information in the form and manner specified (details forthcoming).

January 1, 2024 - Producers must select a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) to consult with stakeholders, including municipalities.

October 1, 2024 – PRO must consult with every municipality in the Province and submit a readiness report to Divert NS.

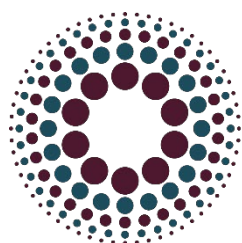
December 1, 2025 – Full EPR for PPP implementation.



READINESS REPORT

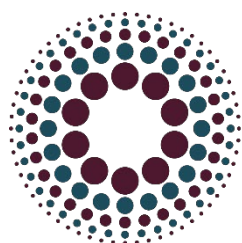
A PRO must consult with every municipality in the Province and submit a readiness report to Divert NS containing the following information:

- A description of the consultation with municipalities and how the feedback was addressed;
- A description of the actions planned to ensure that collection, material management, reporting/record-keeping, and promotion and education services meet the standards outlined in the regulations.



REGULATION OVERVIEW

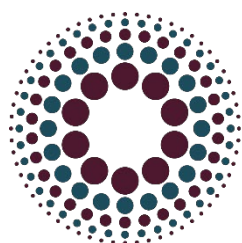
- In conjunction with the readiness report process, the PRO may begin engaging with municipalities to contract them for services (collection, processing, etc.).
- Regulations must be fully implemented by Dec 1, 2025.
- Divert NS will monitor the PRO and any other producers to ensure compliance with regulations.



PRODUCER DETERMINATION

Q. How will a business determine if it meets the ‘Producer’ threshold?

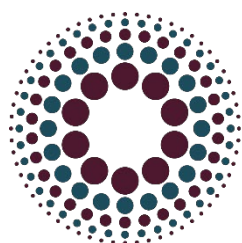
- Exemptions include businesses and organizations whose gross annual revenue in the Province is less than 1 million or who supply less than 1 tonne of designated material in the Province in the year.
- Businesses and organizations will be responsible for establishing designated material tracking and record keeping measures that demonstrate whether they meet exemption criteria, in accordance with the requirements provided by Divert NS.



PRODUCER DETERMINATION

Q. Can municipalities and other orders of government be deemed a Producer?

- Orders of government are exempt if they meet the current exemption criteria outlined in the regulations.
- Most relevant to municipalities is likely the tracking and recording of designated materials that are issued (e.g., tax bills, recreational pamphlets, Council bulletins).
- Municipalities should consider information sharing in terms of best practices for collecting and recording this information.
- If a municipality is deemed a Producer, they will likely have to pay a nominal fee.

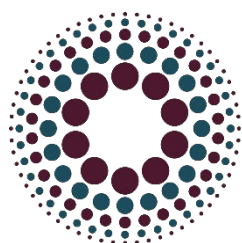


OPT-OUT, OPT-IN

Prior to January 1, 2024, Councils should consider the current costs associated with the collection, transportation, and processing of designated materials when deciding whether to opt in or out of EPR for PPP.

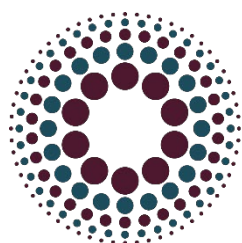
Municipalities can:

- 1. Opt-out of EPR for PPP and continue to service the blue bag program at cost.**
- 2. Opt-in to EPR and cease to provide any services related to the blue bag program (unless contracted by the PRO to provide collection, processing, and/or education services).**



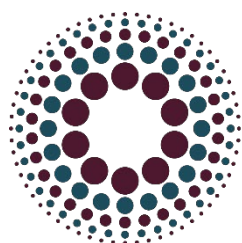
OPT-OUT

- Municipalities have a ‘first right of refusal’ and can continue to collect and manage blue bag materials without being a part of the program.
- Opting out of EPR means a municipality will continue to manage all blue bag collection services for residents and businesses (if applicable), at cost.
- If a municipality chooses to opt out and collect and manage their blue bag materials independently, they can assist obligated producers by sharing their collection data with a Producer Responsibility Organization so that these designated materials are accounted for.



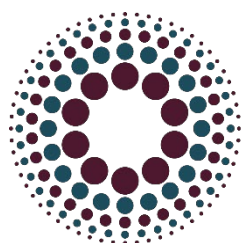
OPT-IN

- Unless contracted by a PRO to provide services, opting in to EPR means a municipality will not provide any servicing for blue bag material including collection or processing.
- The Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) will take full ownership of service after the readiness report is approved.
- **Note:** While apartment buildings, condos, some senior residences, schools and seasonal trailer parks are included in EPR - regulations do not apply to some Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICI) industries. Those municipalities currently providing service to these sectors will have to determine how the new regulations impact that service.



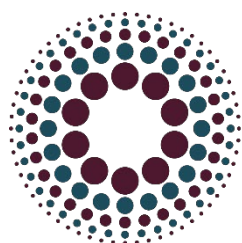
CONTRACT TO BE A SERVICE PROVIDER

- If a municipality opts in to EPR, the Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) may wish to engage that municipality as a service provider (e.g., collection or processing).
- Municipalities will enter into contract negotiations with the PRO regarding the nature of the service provided and the remuneration paid by the PRO to provide it.
- Those municipalities with existing recycling facilities will have to decide whether to leverage that facility for services to a PRO or otherwise re-purpose it if they do not continue to collect blue bag materials.



CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

- While contracts may be on 1:1 basis, municipalities can consider a regional approach to negotiations including retaining legal and Subject Matter Experts (SME) to advise during the process.
- The PRO will decide through their own procurement process who will provide processing services. Municipalities that own MRF's can respond to an RFP/Tender.



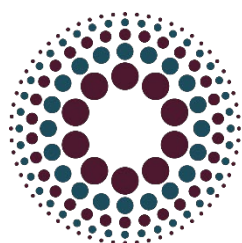
DELIVERY OF EDUCATION SERVICES

Currently, the seven Solid Waste Regional Committees, with support from Divert NS, deliver waste education and outreach services to municipalities and communities.

While Producers will now be responsible for providing information and education programs related to PPP, they will be focused on education and awareness related to running their program.

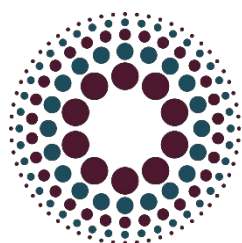
Municipalities may negotiate with the PRO to promote more community specific details like collection days, etc.

Municipalities may still wish to engage in their own waste-reduction education services related to other materials and targeting broad community stakeholders.



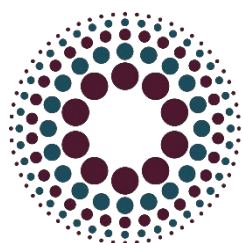
NEXT STEPS

- As part of registering in January 2024, municipalities will be asked to provide operational data relating to their blue bag service.
- Staff should be working to collect data and have been provided with some initial information.
- The Municipal-Provincial Priorities group, an operational sub-committee of Regional Chairs, has been working with Divert NS to ascertain the necessary data required.
- Additional data collection information will be forthcoming from Divert NS/Priorities.



REGIONAL CONTACTS

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