

MuniLegislativeReview

From: Jackie Barrett [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 11:06 AM
To: MuniLegislativeReview
Subject: Another Suggestion For Municipal Legislation Review

Good day, this is John "Jackie" Barrett,

I have another suggestion for the Municipal Legislation Review, and its involves giving City and Town Mayors more power, including a power to veto or override a motion.

One of the biggest problems with Newfoundland and Labrador's current Civic Governance System is that while a Mayor is supposed to be a de facto leader of a City or Town, when it comes to motions, bylaws, and budgetary matters, they only have one vote and no vetoing power if such matters can cause detriment to the city/town people, tourism, and economy.

As a result of a Mayor having only one vote and no vetoing power, if a city or town council passes a motion that can cause detriment to their people, or potentially causes harm to their economy, its not an entire city or town council that takes the fall, its the Mayor as he/she is their leader, meaning he/she is vicariously liable for the actions of their council and city.

If I can use an analogy from a movie called "Any Given Sunday", if anything goes wrong in a Football Team, its the Quarterback whom takes the fall. Even when a Mayor is one voice, the same logic applies to city and town councils, which is why he takes the fall when things go wrong.

To reduce the stress of city or town's Quarterback, being a Mayor, when council makes a decision that goes against a town or city's best interest, the Newfoundland and Labrador Government should make changes to the Municipal Legislation to give a Mayor a right to veto that motion under certain situations.

A city or town Mayor can veto a motion in the following circumstances:

1. Taxation measures that goes against a Mayor's plans, such as the Poll Tax issue in Corner Brook.
2. Motions that are detrimental to the city or town's economy and tourism industry.
3. Motions that can cause financial harm to the city or town
4. Infrastructure issues that go against the will of the people, such as the Empire Avenue issue in Stephenville
5. Motions that single out certain population segments
6. Motions not deemed to be logical or make sense
7. Rejected business proposals that jeopardizes a city or town's business climate, which is evident in Corner Brook
8. Other motions that are a detriment to their people

If a Mayor is given a power to veto council motions, he/she will be able to serve their people better and bring greater stability to their city and town.

Keep in mind that a Mayor's job is to serve their people, not go against it as a result of council motions that are hurtful and goes against a Mayor's objectives.

Thanks,

Jackie