



Town of Parrsboro Dissolution Information Newsletter December 2015

Transition Committee Appointed

Town of Parrsboro has appointed Mayor Lois Smith and Deputy Mayor Lisa Ward, with Councillor Norman Rafuse as an alternate, to the Transition Committee to oversee the best interests of local residents as it works with the Municipality of Cumberland in its dissolution application. Cumberland has appointed Warden Keith Hunter and Councillor Don Fletcher, Councillor Ernest Gilbert as the alternate.

The Committee has equal representation from both municipalities and is chaired by the Transition Coordinator. The Committee's role is to facilitate the successful dissolution of the Town, working with the Province to maximize future local benefits for the community. Both Councils have approved a Terms of Reference for this Committee which will be posted on both municipalities' websites shortly.

Councils Approve Values and Principles Document

At two separate council meetings, Parrsboro and Cumberland both unanimously approved a draft principles and values document that will lay the foundation for how they both agreed to work together cooperatively in the spirit of fairness and transparency over the next year as the dissolution process unfolds.

The document, which will be available on their websites soon, outlines their commitment to ensure the community is continually informed of the process and given numerous opportunities for input into the process. The document also includes the agreement to develop a public communications plan.

Communication Plan Approved

In addition to approving the Principles and Values document, both councils approved a Communications Plan outlining their commitment to keeping residents informed during the entire dissolution process. Highlights of this plan will be posted on Parrsboro and Cumberland's websites in the near future.

Transition Coordinator Appointed

Municipal Affairs Minister Zach Churchill announced on November 3, 2015, the appointment of John Leefe as Transition Coordinator for the Parrsboro dissolution application. He will work with the Transition Committee to ensure the best possible outcome for both Parrsboro and Cumberland.

Mr. Leefe most recently was the Transition Coordinator for the Springhill dissolution process.

Transition Committee Hires Legal Counsel

To ensure a smooth dissolution process, Parrsboro and Cumberland have agreed to engage the legal services of Peter Rogers of McInnes Cooper to represent them jointly.

Mr. Rogers has extensive municipal government knowledge and has represented numerous municipalities across Nova Scotia before the courts and the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board. Most recently, he represented the Municipality of the District of West Hants in the Town of Hantsport dissolution application.

Draft Transition Budget Approved

The Transition Committee has approved a draft budget for submission to the Minister of Municipal Affairs for consideration.

The total budget for the pre-dissolution costs expected to be incurred by both Parrsboro and Cumberland is slightly over \$400,000. This funding is required to pay for legal costs, completion of expert reports on infrastructure, financial analysis, human resources, etc., additional part-time staff to facilitate the dissolution process while normal Town operations continue as usual, communications with residents, hiring of a Transition Coordinator, and other related costs. The Committee expects a decision on funding assistance for these costs from the Minister of Municipal Affairs in the near future.

Tentative Timeline – Parrsboro Dissolution Process

December 9 – Parrsboro Public Meeting / Organizations Workshop,

Location: Fire Hall 7:00pm

February 10 – Parrsboro Public Meeting / Parrsboro Open House

Location: Fire Hall 2:00pm – 4:00pm and 6:30pm – 8:30pm

March 23 – UARB Deadline for Public Comments, Requests to Speak

March 30 – UARB Hearing Begins, Evening Sessions March 30, 31

Location: Legion Hall 9:30am

June 2016 – UARB Decision Anticipated

November 1 – Proposed Effective Date of Merger with Cumberland, subject to UARB Decision

Questions? Comments?

All residents and ratepayers are encouraged to contact Parrsboro Town Hall at any time with questions or concerns about the dissolution process. Parrsboro's Chief Administrative Officer, Raymond Hickey, can be reached at 902-254-2036, or email town@town.parrsboro.ns.ca