



Less Talk, More Action: Five Thoughts for a Changing Municipal Landscape

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Municipal Services

What's Eating You?

- MGA: provide services that are necessary or desirable
- What are our key service offerings?
- Questions:
 - *(i) Should we be in this business?*
 - *(ii) Better way to provide the service?*
- Cumberland Landfill Divestiture – shifting costs and operating expenditures to private sector
- Political will + guiding principles + good process;
- Other potential opportunities to divest / restructure to better serve the public?

Streamlining the Planning Application Process:

Clear Submissions & Consistent Standards



Clear checklists and expectations are crucial.

- Different checklists for different types of development approvals
- Collaboration NOT Isolation



Local standards fill provincial gaps and provide ‘backstops’

- Allows Councils to focus on core policy questions rather than technical details.
- Keep the conversation strategic!



Investing in process foundations benefits everyone!

Better Council Meetings



Knowing the Score:

Monitoring Your Municipal Plan Matters for Everyone

Bridging the implementation gap:

- Go beyond the minimum MGA review requirements (an opportunity)

What does monitoring look like:

- Active learning:
 - Ask the right questions
 - Measure what matters
 - Track and analyze
 - Report and discuss

Why monitoring matters:

- Boosts predictability & alignment
- Enables adaptation & accountability

Wastewater Service

A New Approach?

- Aging wastewater infrastructure + stringent Federal Regulations
- Properly fund capital and operating costs for long-term sustainability
- Council wastewater rate setting model - politically hard
- Funding challenges = infrastructure deficits/servicing issues
- Wastewater user fees – water in/water out model
- Alternative model – wastewater utility regulated by NSUARB
- Board provides independent review of funding/proposed rates and opportunity for rate payers to engage to ensure fairness in rates



Questions/Comments?

Thank you!

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