



Federation requests more time to review Municipal Government Act

October 21, 2016 - According to Federation of PEI Municipalities President Bruce MacDougall, "the present municipal legislation in this province is decades behind the times." Last month, the Province released proposed new legislation and invited municipalities to provide input before it heads to the floor of the Legislative Assembly. October 22 is the last day of the consultation period.

MacDougall said the proposed Municipal Government Act is a major step forward, with many improvements over the current legislation, but added that the FPEIM Board is also recommending several important changes, including more consultation on decisions that affect municipalities.

"Our cities, towns and communities are the foundation for a strong province," explained MacDougall, "but to properly fulfill their role, municipalities need fair and predictable revenue, province-wide municipal incorporation, and modern legislation. The Province has given us an opportunity to modernize our legislation, so we need to take full advantage of it." He also points out that it will likely be a very long time, perhaps decades, before there is another extensive review of municipal legislation.

"The proposed Municipal Government Act introduces major changes for municipalities," explained MacDougall. "It's a lot to digest," he added, "and municipal councils and the Federation would benefit from more time to review and consider the proposed legislation." The Federation's Board of Directors has requested that the adoption of the Municipal Government Act be delayed until, but not beyond, the 2017 Spring Session of the Legislative Assembly to provide additional time for consultations. "The Municipal Government Act has far-reaching implications for municipalities, so if there is value in taking extra time, that's what we should do," concluded MacDougall.

On Saturday, October 22, municipal leaders from across the Island will be in Summerside for the Federation's semiannual meeting. MacDougall said there are lots of great topics on the agenda. The Honourable Robert Mitchell, Minister of Communities, Land and Environment, will address the delegates at the meeting, and presentations will include Charlottetown's youth retention initiative, a municipal restructuring toolkit, and the PEI Climate Change Mitigation Strategy. "We've also set aside time to discuss the proposed act," he noted, "and it will undoubtedly generate lots of discussion."