

## **ATLANTIC MAYORS CONGRESS**

Hotel Shediac, Shediac NB

October 29-30, 2015

PRESENT: Chair Bruce MacDougall, Federation of Prince Edward Island  
Warden Ronnie Baillie, municipality of Pictou Co., NS  
Mayor Paul Beazley, Town of Windsor, NS  
Warden Diana Brothers, Municipality of the County of Kings, NS  
Mayor Jeff Cantwell, Town of Wolfville, NS  
Mayor Rowan Caseley, Town of Kensington, PEI  
Mayor Don Downe, Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, NS  
Mayor Claude Elliot, Town of Gander, NL  
Mayor David Hanson, Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick  
Mayor Keith Hunter, County of Cumberland, NS  
Mayor Jacques LeBlanc, Shediac, NB  
Mayor Clifford Lee, City of Charlottetown, PEI  
Mayor Barry MacMillan, Town of New Glasgow, NS  
Mayor Bill Martin, Town of Summerside, PEI  
Mayor Bill Mills, Town of Truro, NS  
Mayor Karen Oldford, Town of Labrador City, NL  
Warden Reg Ritchie, County of Annapolis Co. NS  
Deputy Mayor Lorelei Nicoll, Councillor City of Halifax, NS  
Deputy Mayor Shawn Crossman, Monton, NB  
Mayor Ann Seamans, Town of Riverview, NB  
Mayor Bob Taylor, Town of Colchester, NS  
Mayor David Walker, Town of Bridgewater, NS  
Councillor Vince Burton, Town of Paradise, NL  
Deputy Mayor Eric Megarity, City of Fredericton, NB

STAFF: Mr. Matt Kerrigan, Executive Director, Atlantic Mayors' Congress

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceeding of this meeting.

### **1. WELCOME REMARKS**

Chair Bruce MacDougall called the meeting to order on Thursday, October 29, 2015 at 9 a.m. in the Paturel Room of the Shediac Hotel located at 222 Belliveau Avenue, Shediac, New Brunswick.

He welcomed those in attendance and thanked Mayor Jacques LeBlanc and the Town of Shediac staff for hosting a reception the evening before. He also thanked the major sponsors of the Congress.

Mayor Jacques LeBlanc welcomed the Congress and thanked the staff that helped organize the conference.

Chairman MacDougall led the Congress in roundtable introductions.

## **2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

MOVED by Mayor Downe, seconded by Mayor Mills, that the agenda is revised by adding Homarus Inc. to the agenda. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - APRIL 23 & 24, 2015, HALIFAX, NS**

MOVED by Mayor Seamans, seconded by Mayor Walker, that the minutes from the Halifax, NS meeting of April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 be approved  
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

## **4. FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES UPDATES**

Mr. Adam Thompson, Senior Advisor of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities addressed the Conference. He explained what the Federal Election may mean for municipalities.

Mr. Thompson provided the Congress with a verbal update. He explained that municipalities should ask to achieve the race to the top. He also informed that there is three (3) major component of the campaign, such as the Hometown Proud Campaign and National Leaders debate. He also mentioned that municipalities should have high level plans with the liberal government in infrastructures. The funding should be in partnership between all three parties at 1/3, such as the Federal, Provincial and Municipal government. The funding should be divided equally between the Public Transit projects, Green Projects and the Social Infrastructure Projects which will include the housing and Park & Recreation Infrastructures. He also added that with the Syria Crises, the federal government is planning on accepting 25,000 refugees. This will be a big process. It will be important to have great communications with the government and Immigration Canada in regards to accepting the refugees.

The Chair thanked Mr. Thompson for his presentation and opened the floor to questions. A discussion is initiated between members of the Congress and Mr. Thompson.

It is recommended that the municipalities focus on the Liberal campaign commitment to infrastructure renewal. Atlantic municipalities are among Canada's oldest and have much critical infrastructure in need of renewal or replacement. While celebrating the potential for new partnerships in infrastructure, mayors are also looking for renewed vigor in the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) as a source of impetus to projects and start-ups that bolster the economy in their communities. It is recommended that the AMC send a letter to the Prime Minister and the Minister of ACOA to express their concerns and ask them to give tools to municipalities to be able to work with.

## **5. IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEES**

Chair McDonald invited Mr. Sean Morency, Mary Jane Mackinnon and Georges Itowafa to address the Congress.

Mr. Sean Morency, CIC Employer Liaison Officer addressed the Conference. He mentioned that since January 2015, there is a new program. The Federal Immigration Programs are much faster in the process. He gives a brief explanation on Immigration in Nova Scotia. He explained the pathways to Immigration, the Provincial Context, the approach and the delivering Key results. He also added that there are six (6) offices in Canada to help employers on the procedures for immigration. He also added that the immigrants need to have the education credentials that are recognized in Canada.

A discussion has been initiated between the members of the Congress and the presenters.

Mary Jane MacKinnon, NS Department of Immigration addressed the Conference. She shared information on how the process works. She also explained on how you can get in Canada. One of the challenges is the recognition of the education credentials.

A discussion has been initiated between the members of the Congress and the presenters.

It is recommended that we focus on the retention schedule, work to have immigrants stay here longer, work with Provinces for feedback. It is beneficial to the employees to work with the Immigrants to make sure they meet the deadlines. She also mentioned that there is funding available for immigrants.

Mr. Georges Itowafa, NB Population Growth, addressed the Congress. He explained the nominee program. Each province is limited on how many people can be in the program. He also explained that we need to focus on four (4) activities such as build awareness in NB, promote NB internationally, help employees recruit skilled workers and help speed up the immigrant progress.

Mr. Itowafa also mentioned that there are two (2) streams the Province needs to focus such as the Skilled Worker Program and the Business Immigration Programs. We need to try and find immigrants that will stay and invest in the province. A business program would be excellent.

A discussion has been initiated between the members of the Congress the presenters.

The Chair thanked Mr. Morency, Ms. MacKinnon and Mr. Itowafa for their presentation.

## **6. FISH FARMING**

Warden Reg Ritchie addressed the assembly. He gives a brief explanation on fish farming. He explained the challenges and the main concerns with environmental impacts.

The Chair opened the floor to questions. A discussion is initiated between members of the Congress and Warden Ritchie.

The Chair thanked Warden Ritchie for his presentation.

## **7. LUNCHEON SPONSORED BY BELL ALIANT**

The Chair took the opportunity to thank Bell Aliant for the great lunch.

Mayor Jacques LeBlanc introduced and gave a brief biography on Honourable Roger Melanson, NB Minister of Finance, Transportation and Infrastructure. Hon. Roger Melanson addressed the meeting. He mentioned that the municipalities and

the federal government need to work together. He added that municipalities need to invest strategically and have goals such as increase jobs, growing the economy (Fiscal situation) and improving the quality of life for families. He explained the strategic infrastructure innovative program such as partner with municipalities and making a 3-year plan. It is important to improve roads and infrastructure underground. An asset management methodology will help increase the life span of the infrastructures. A long-term plan is very important to be able to plan ahead. Investing in education and creating jobs is very important. The government has a role to play in partnership to invest. Their goal is to be the Province who has invested the most in a Province. They are currently working on a 10-year plan for the Province of New Brunswick. The Province needs to work with Immigrants. The Province has an aging population, as we make policies or decisions, we need to plan. We need a critical mass of people.

The Chair opened the floor to questions. A discussion was initiated between members of the Congress and Hon. Roger Melanson.

The Chair thanked Hon. Roger Melanson for his presentation.

## **8. EVENT COORDINATION IN THE ATLANTIC REGION**

Mayor Jacques LeBlanc introduced and gave a brief biography on Mr. Grant MacDonald, President GM Events Ltd. and Mr. Bill Whalen, Co-Chair, Events Moncton.

Mr. Whalen addressed the meeting. He explained how important it is to host National events. His main goal is for everyone to work together as a team so we can host major events. His wish is to have endorsement from every municipality.

Mr. MacDonald then addressed the meeting. He explained why events matter for Atlantic Canada. He also mentioned that we need to work more effectively as a team. All provinces have a role to play with senior staff and Provincial Government. A survey was conducted on who has a strategy for event attraction, funding and hosting. The survey indicated that 50% currently have a strategy and 33% have a strategy in development. There is economic impact when hosting such events. It is very important to do an evaluation after an event in order to have feedback. One of the challenges is that we do not have a “Pan-Atlantic” approach. A coordinated “Pan-Atlantic” approach to event attraction, execution and leveraging is to ensure shared success and promotion of Atlantic Canada. He also added that there is an opportunity and everyone should play a role to ensure

success. He gave a brief explanation on economic impacts. It is very important to set standards for events. Hosting events will engage the community. It is proposed that the future summit host sites will be in Charlottetown, PE in 2016 and St. John's NL in 2017. They are asking for support and participation in the Annual Summit.

The Chair opened the floor to questions. A discussion was initiated between members of the Congress and the presenters. Mr. MacDonald is asking for support and a proposal.

## **9. 211 PHONE SUPPORT SYSTEM**

Executive Director Mike Myette explained that the comprehensive data base of service providers exceeds 7,500. He told the meeting that accessing a service in the past may have required a frustrating series of 6 or more calls but now can be accomplished in one call. He explained the benefits with his program.

The Chair opened the floor to questions. A discussion is initiated between members of the Congress and Mr. Myette.

## **10. TOURISM IN ATLANTIC CANADA**

Warden Diana Brothers addressed the assembly. She explained the statistics, mandates, gaps and options. She mentioned that organizing road trips in Atlantic Provinces would help increase tourism. She would like to know if someone is interested in participating in a pilot project. A special package could be put together to encourage tourism. It is also important to give tips and tricks on budgets when traveling. The municipalities must be more involved in trying to bring tourism in our area.

The Chair opened the floor to questions. A discussion is initiated between members of the Congress and Warden Brothers.

## **11. RECEPTION AND DINNER**

The Guest Speaker, Mr. Gaetan Thomas, CEO of NB Power was the guest speaker during the dinner.

## **12. MAYORS' ROUNDTABLE: STATE OF ATLANTIC MUNICIPALITIES**

Chairman Bruce MacDougall thanked Mayor Jacques LeBlanc for his hospitality and great Banquet last night. He invited the Congress to participate in a roundtable of updates from each of the represented municipalities.

Chairman Bruce MacDougall, Federation of PEI, requested that we work with ACOA and we should have an engagement with the New Premier and Ministers. It is very important to invest with municipalities.

Mayor Bob Taylor, Town of Colchester, NS, is very satisfied with the great networking. He also mentioned that they are looking at expanding the airport.

Mayor Ann Seamans, Riverview, NB, is very pleased with the Congress and hospitality. She added that it was great meetings. She also mentioned that the Town of Riverview has a mandate for community engagement. They made a global survey and they are very pleased with the results, 99% of the citizens were very happy with their Town. They are investing in the Town's infrastructure such as a new building for Publics Works and Recreation.

Shawn Crossman representing Moncton thanked the Congress and the Town of Shediac for the hospitality and great meetings. He informed the Congress that they are working on the Downtown Centre. He also added that the RCMP is looking for a new contract. He also mentioned that the municipal grants are being cut so they made cuts to their budget so they can meet there needs. He stated that it is great to work together as a community base. He thanked everyone for the warm welcome.

Mayor Bill Martin, Charlottetown, PEI, mentioned that it is his first year as Mayor. He shared challenges and great opportunities. In respect to infrastructure, he hopes that they will get great opportunities. In Summerside, they are building a 5-star resort hotel and conference centre in the amount of 25 million dollars. It's a game changer for Summerside. He is looking forward to continue participating in these meetings.

Mayor Lorelei Nicoll mentioned that her Council is in favor of the refugees. They are not sure what measures they will take. She added that there is no change in residential taxes, but there will be a change on taxes for commercial buildings. It was also mentioned that they won the Environmental Solar Award. There has been a significant growth in their community.



Mayor Rowen Caseley, Town of Kensington, PEI, mentioned that this is his first Congress. He is thankful for the invitation he received. He also would like to thank the Town of Shediac for the great host. He also mentioned that they are experiencing challenges and great opportunities in his Town. They are focusing on three (3) initiatives such as a new executive in the Chambers of Commerce, they are working closely their MLA in order to improve local improvements and they are working with the Department of tourism and stakeholders to have a strategic plan in place.

Mayor Don Downe, Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, NS, mentioned this Congress had great sessions and it was the most positive conference he attended. He also mentioned that he has a great relationship with Mayor David Walker of Bridgewater. They work well together. He also added that 5 municipalities in his area are interested in working to welcome refugees. They will be hosting the World Sled Championship in January 2016. The community is great at this time, 94% is residential and 6% is business. They are doing workshops on economy to try to create new jobs. The cooperation and collaboration in whole is great.

Eric Megarity, City of Fredericton, NB, mentioned that the Congress was very interesting. He thanked Mayor Jacques LeBlanc and the Town of Shediac for being a great host for this Congress. He added that the 211 NS is offering a great program. In addition, he mentioned that Fredericton had 45 million in investments. He also mentioned that in the last three (3) years, the Town of Fredericton did not get any municipal grants. They did some changes on Regent Street. They added a roundabout and this decreased the traffic and saved some money. They are trying to have the government to change the *Municipalities Act*. He is proud to say that the City of Fredericton is hosting the 2016 Canadian Public Sector Lean Summit in April.

Mayor Jeff Cantwell, Town of Wolfville, NS, thanked Mayor Jacques LeBlanc and the town employees for the great Congress. He also mentioned that they have a great partnership with the Town of Windsor. In November, they will be hosting the Food Film Fest and the Rogers Hometown Hockey Tour. Also, they will be co-hosting the men's and women's Canadian Masters Curling Championship in April 2016. He added that Wolfville was a finalist in "One of the best towns in which to live in Canada".

Councillor Vince Burton, Town of Paradise, NL thanked the Town of Shediac for the great dinner last night at the Multipurpose Centre. He added that the Town of Paradise has a new AA Baseball team and had a Dragon Boat races last summer.



Raymond Murphy spoke on behalf of David Hanson. Mr. Murphy says there are four (4) associations in this province. It is important that the Province revises the *Municipalities Act*. He also added that last spring the government did a Strategic Plan. UMNBS had a court case over it. It is important to work on immigration (growth and retention). He also mentioned that policing cost is going up. Our main focus is dealing with municipalities and government.

Warden Ronnie Baillie, municipality of Pictou Co., NS, informed that the municipality of Pictou has partnered with the Town of New Glasgow to create an Industrial Park. He also mentioned the Crisis Centre has a big deficit.

Mayor Keith Hunter, County of Cumberland, NS mentioned that they are in favor of municipal amalgamation. They are now amalgamated with Springhill. He added that the Town's tax rates went down. They are asking the government to have all five (5) municipalities work with one (1) government.

Mayor Clifford Lee, City of Charlottetown, PEI, mentioned that they are in discussion with the Province for a new *Municipalities Act*.

Mayor Barry McMillan Town of New Glasgow, took the opportunity to thank Mayor Jacques LeBlanc and the Town of Shediac for the great hospitality. He added that they had a great fiscal year and they are having great projects in the private sector. They have concerns that 25% of their budget goes to the police. The tax rate is at 1.82% and they have a cap in residential assessments. They need more development and growth. He also mentioned that we all need to adapt and make some changes in order to move forward.

Mayor Paul Beazley, Town of Windsor, NS, took the opportunity to thank Mayor Jacques LeBlanc for the great host with this Congress. He mentioned that things are moving great in his Town. There are a few towns that want to amalgamate with the Town of Windsor. A few towns have passed a motion to indicate this.

Warden Diana Brothers, Municipality of the County of Kings, NS, apologised that she was not able to attend the banquet last night. She also mentioned that they want to meet with the government in order to talk about new policies. She also mentioned that the County of Kings has experienced contamination issues. She added that it would be wonderful if the Federal Government would invest in building Canada Funds to help municipalities. It would help the municipalities to keep their infrastructures up-to-date and this is very important for municipalities.

Mayor Bill Mills, Town of Truro, NS, took the opportunity to thank Mayor Jacques LeBlanc for being a great host of the Atlantic Mayors Congress. He mentioned that Mike Dolter is the new CEO. They are in the middle of rebranding. He added that young developers are purchasing older stocks. They are looking into hosting the 2017 World Athlete Swimming. They have a new library. The farmers market is a great investment. In closure, he added that this Congress was one of the best conferences he attended.

Warden Reg Ritchie, County of Annapolis Co. NS, took the opportunity to thank everyone that organised the Congress. It has been a great Congress. He informed that Bridgetown is now a community and is doing very well. He also mentioned that they have a legacy agreement in 2016 which 9 municipalities have joined. Hopefully, the government will be on-board. He also mentioned that Annapolis Valley is very poor. They are doing a pilot project with a group of farmers. They are doing grass pellets. They are hoping that this project will be successful.

Mayor David Walker, Town of Bridgewater, NS, took the opportunity to thank Mayor LeBlanc for the great host. He informed that the municipalities should meet with ACOA. It also mentioned that there should be funding available with no rules, municipalities would need to specify which department the funding will be used. He also mentioned that they are completely ripping out the Downtown. The policing contract is taking 20% of their budget. He recommends that a mediator should look into the policing contract. He hopes to see you all in 2016.

Mayor Karen Oldford, Town of Labrador City, NL, mentioned that the Congress was great. She thanked Mayor Jacques LeBlanc and the Town of Shediac for being a great host for this Congress. Mayor Oldford mentioned that Labrador West is facing challenges in their community. Some mines are closed. They are looking at amalgamating. It is important to remain positive. They are looking at concentrating on tourism. They will be hosting the Cain's Quest Snowmobile Endurance race in 2016.

Mayor Claude Elliot, Town of Gander, NL, informed that they are facing some challenges. They are growing faster than their infrastructures. They have the largest elementary school. They are building a new school, one school will be for the kindergarten to grade 3 and the second school will be for grade 4 to 6. He also added that the new school is being built next to a sewerage building. The Seniors Market is huge. He finished by saying that overall, they are well positioned. The last census went from 11,000 to 13,700 which mean they are growing fast. They

had a convention in Gander with politicians. Six hundred (600) people attended the convention.

Mayor Jacques LeBlanc, Town of Shediac, NB, took the opportunity to thank everyone for the kind works and kindness. He also mentioned that Shediac is growing. The municipality is investing in Downtown with the funding from the Gas Tax. He also added that they are investing in infrastructure in which they have a Capital Asset, 5-Year Plan. Tourism is important for the Town of Shediac. He added that the government is making significant improvements on Route 15. He also added that the Town of Shediac wants to be viable 12 months a year. The Town of Shediac is engaging citizens with a CRA Survey in order to get feedback from the citizens. The Town will be investing in a new Public works building, walking trails and biking trails. He also added that it is important to plan events for southeast and the Atlantic. We need to build a synergy plan together. Shediac was fortunate to have a Chambers of Commerce the last three (3) years and the Shediac Downtown is vibrant. The town also created an incentive program for residential and commercial development.

Chair Bruce MacDougall, Federation of Prince Edward Island, mentioned that they will have their annual meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup>. They will be working with the new the new minister. They are working on amalgamation. They are also working on the new *Municipalities Act* and hoping it is completed next spring. He finished by thanking everyone who participated in the Congress. It was a great turnout.

Chair Bruce MacDougall, Federation of Prince Edward Island, asked everyone to see who would be interesting in participating in a Summit next spring.

A discussion is initiated between members. It is recommended to have the Summit in Charlottetown in 2016. Several members indicated support.

### **13. CREDITOR ARRANGEMENT ACT**

Mayor Karen Oldford addressed the assembly. She gives a brief explanation why we should change the *Creditor Arrangement Act*. It is recommended that the members of Congress make a motion on this behalf.

A discussion is initiated between members.

#### **Pension Protection under CCAA and Corporate Bankruptcy**

Moved by: Karen Oldford

Seconded by: Claude Elliot

**Whereas** provincial legislation requires companies to make special payments over a period of years into the pension trust fund held separate from the company, thus protecting the funds from bankruptcy;

**Whereas** the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA), a federal law allowing insolvent corporations that owe their creditors in excess of \$5M to restructure their business and financial affairs;

**Whereas** a company granted CCAA protection is not required to continue contributions of special payments to the trust fund;

**Whereas** this funding shortfall will result in plan members receiving a reduction in pension benefits;

**Whereas** there is no guarantee plan members will receive creditor standing in the event of bankruptcy proceedings;

**Whereas** despite an affiliation to a parent multi-national corporation, the parent multi-national bears no financial responsibility in such matters;

**And Whereas** CCAA and bankruptcy laws in Canada are a federal responsibility;

**Be It Resolved** the Atlantic Mayors Congress work ask the Atlantic provinces and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to lobby the Federal Government to enact reforms to the Pension, CCAA, Bankruptcy and any other enabling legislation; whereby pension plan members receive the greatest level of creditor protection up to and including continuation of pension payments by a parent multi-national corporation where such an entity exists.

MOTION CARRIED

The Chair thanked Mayor Oldford for her presentation.

#### 14. HOMARUS INC.

Mayor Jacques LeBlanc introduced and gave a brief biography on Diego Ritchie and Martin Mallet of Homarus Inc.

Diego Ritchie and Martin Mallet, Homarus Inc. address the meeting. Mr. Mallet explained briefly what is Homarus Inc. He also mentioned that they are a sub-company of the Fisherman Union. He explained the lobster seeding project, which is a major project for Homarus Inc. They are trying to educate students and adults on how to save and protect the pisces.

Mr. Ritchie explained the Education Centre in Pointe-du-Chêne. He explained the cycle of the lobster. It starts with lobster eggs and at the end you can see, touch and adopt a lobster. He also added that the EcoCentre is an aquarium style Centre. Schools and daycares are going the Centre for on-site sessions. They are also going at different schools to educate the kids. They have a showcase at the Lobster Festival and a boot at the Sunday Market. He also explained the adoption program.

The Chair thanked Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Mallet for their presentation.

## **15. MEETING IN BRIDGEWATER LUNENBURG**

The next meeting of the AMC will be hosted by Bridgewater and Lunenburg District in Nova Scotia May 18-20, 2016.

## **16. HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT – HALIFAX TEMPLATE**

Mayor Nicoll presented Mr. Bob Bjerke, Chief Planner and Kasia Totat, Housing Lead Companies. Mr. Bjerke addressed the meeting.

Bob Bjerke, head of planning for Halifax along with Kasia Tota presented the recently completed housing assessment survey for Halifax. The survey identified many households without the annual income to access affordable shelter. This gap in income and housing costs is experienced in many municipalities. Mayors are anxiously awaiting new programs to address this when the new federal housing minister begins the funding program promised during the campaign. It is very important to set goals on how to end the issue of homeless people.

A discussion is initiated between members and Mr. Bob Bjerke.

## **17. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting has been adjourned at Noon.

Connie Bourgeois  
Assistant Town Clerk  
Town of Shediac