

Moving from single-purpose Solid Waste and District Planning Commissions to multi-purpose Regional Service Commissions

A look at today and January 1, 2013

Today

Solid Waste Commissions (SWC)

- Governed by the *Clean Environment Act* and the Regional Solid Waste Commissions Regulation.
- 12 Boards of Directors with representation from each Municipality and Rural Community, up to 4 Local Service District (LSD) members appointed by the Minister.
- 12 General Managers and additional staff to manage waste related services (number of staff varies between regions).
- Services provided: solid waste management, management of waste facilities (landfills or transfer stations), recycling, composting, and other associated services (varies between commissions).
- Funded by area users through user fees. Each SWC sets its own user fee rate. The cost of these services is incorporated into local budgets and funded through local property taxes.
- There is a 30 day review of budgets and audited financial statements by Municipalities, Rural Communities and the Minister for LSDs. The Board uses a double two-thirds voting procedure for approving budgets and other financial matters.

District Planning Commissions (DPC)

- Governed by the *Community Planning Act*, Regulations and Orders.
- 12 Boards of Directors with representation from each Municipality and Rural Community. Local Service District (LSD) representation varies between commissions and is appointed by the Minister.
- 12 District Planning Directors and additional staff (number of staff varies between regions).
- Provides local land use planning (i.e. zoning decisions, building permits, inspections, variances, etc.) to LSDs and Municipalities and Rural Communities that do not provide their own planning services.
- All communities in each of the planning districts pay a prescribed contribution to meet the expenses of the commission. The cost of these services is incorporated into local budgets and funded through local property taxes. DPCs can also charge a fee for transactional services (i.e. building permits).
- A commission is required to submit an estimate of its expenses for the upcoming year to the municipalities, rural communities within the district, and to the Minister. There is a 30 day period to file objections and the Minister makes the final decision regarding any objections.

January 1, 2013

Regional Service Commissions (RSC)

- Governed by the *Regional Service Delivery Act* and Regulations.
- 12 Boards of Directors composed of municipal and rural community mayors and between 4 to 10 representatives from unincorporated areas. Board members report back to communities. Note: Boards may create committees relating to services and general operations, i.e. solid waste committee, land use planning committee and finance committee.
- One Executive Director for each of the regions to manage all services provided by the RSC as well as additional staff to deliver the services.
- Common services provided:
 - Solid waste management, recycling, composting, etc. (varies between regions)
 - Local land use planning (i.e. zoning decisions, building permits, inspections, variances, etc.) to LSDs and municipal areas that do not provide their own planning services.
 - Regional planning to all communities within the region.
 - Collaboration and/or planning (not the delivery) for:
 - emergency measures;
 - regional policing; and
 - sport, recreation and cultural facilities.
- There will also be an opportunity for RSCs to collaborate on the delivery of other services, such as bulk purchasing.
- RSCs will bill each member community for services provided. The cost of these services is incorporated into local budgets and funded through local property taxes. RSCs can also charge user fees for transactional services (i.e. building permits). Each service will be accounted for separately.
- The Budget Process includes a 45 day review period for municipalities and rural communities and the Minister in the case of LSDs. The Board uses a double two-thirds voting procedure for approving budgets and other financial matters.
- RSC Annual Reports, regional plans, rural and municipal plans are made available to the public. There will be public meetings to review budgets and audited financial statements.

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For more information visit: www.gnb.ca/localgovernment