



# Review of Municipal Legislation

## What We Heard

# WHY REVIEW MUNICIPAL LEGISLATION

Municipal legislation is decades old and needs updating

- Need to enable local decision-making
- Need to streamline processes
- Need to respond to current public expectations

# WHAT IS BEING REVIEWED?

Legislation governing how our cities, towns, and local service districts function and operate:

- **Municipalities Act, 1999**
- **City of Corner Brook Act**
- **City of Mount Pearl Act**
- **City of St. John's Act**
  - ...also, **City of St. John's Municipal Taxation Act**

# PROGRESS TO DATE

Fall 2017

Legislative review scope defined and working group convened

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Winter 2017-18 –  
Summer 2018

**Phase I public engagement – open submissions**

**Phase II public engagement – deliberative discussions**

**Premier's Forum on Local Government**

Cross-jurisdictional research

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Fall 2018 – Spring  
2019

Evaluation/ analysis of consultation results and research

Development of alternatives and recommendations

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Next Steps

Seek approval for recommendations and begin to draft legislation

# WHAT WE HEARD

## Phase I – Open call for written submissions

- 74 written submissions + other correspondence, MNL resolutions, PMA member survey

## Phase II – Deliberative Discussions

- 145 participants at 11 regional sessions, online questionnaire, MNL Symposium, PMA Convention

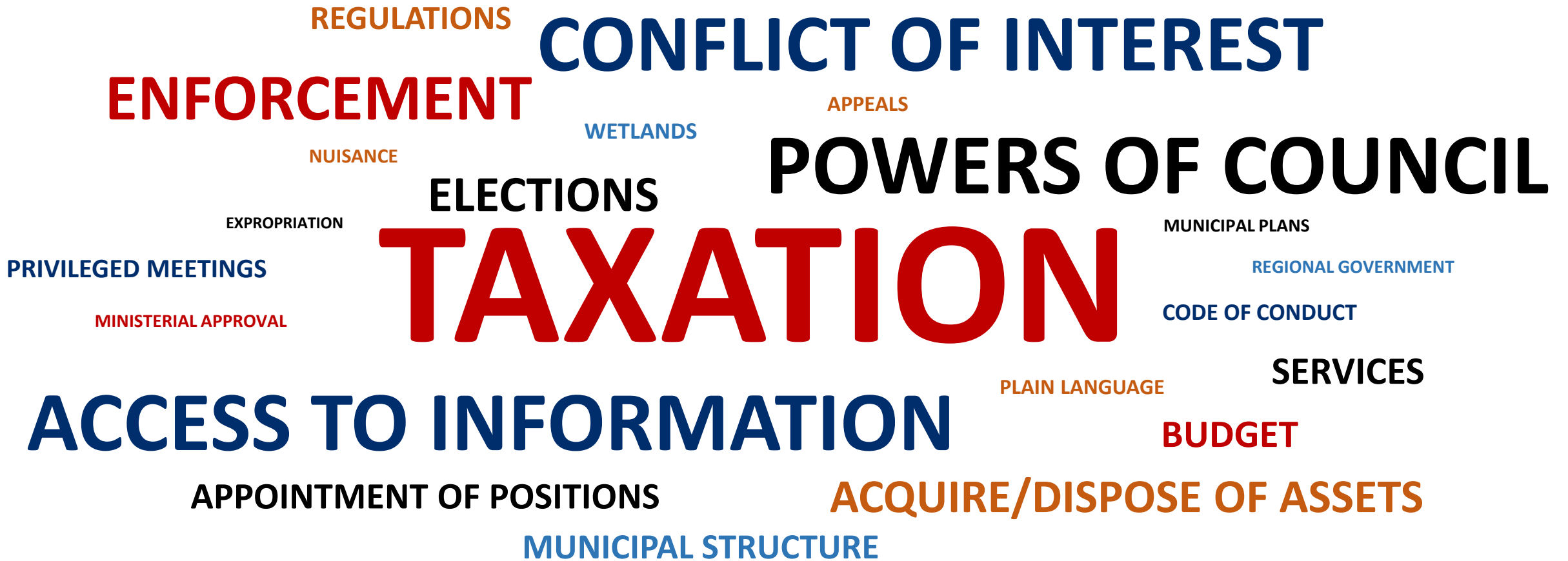
## Premier's Forum on Local Government

- 52 delegates (about 75% councillors, 25% administrators)

**~ 2,200 individual comments, suggestions, recommendations**

# PHASE I – Open Submissions

# Phase I – What We Heard



# Phase I – What We Heard

Broad themes across topics:

- Municipalities should have more authority and autonomy
- Municipalities have too much autonomy / need more oversight
- Better mechanisms for ensuring compliance needed
- More transparency desired
- Professional conduct needs to be addressed / addressed better
- Legislation needs more clarity



# Phase I – What We Heard

## Common ideas on specific topics:

- Municipalities need more/ more flexible revenue streams
- Conflict of interest rules/procedures are not working
- A code of conduct would be beneficial
- Core training needs to be mandatory
- Better bylaw enforcement tools are needed/ resources for enforcement are needed

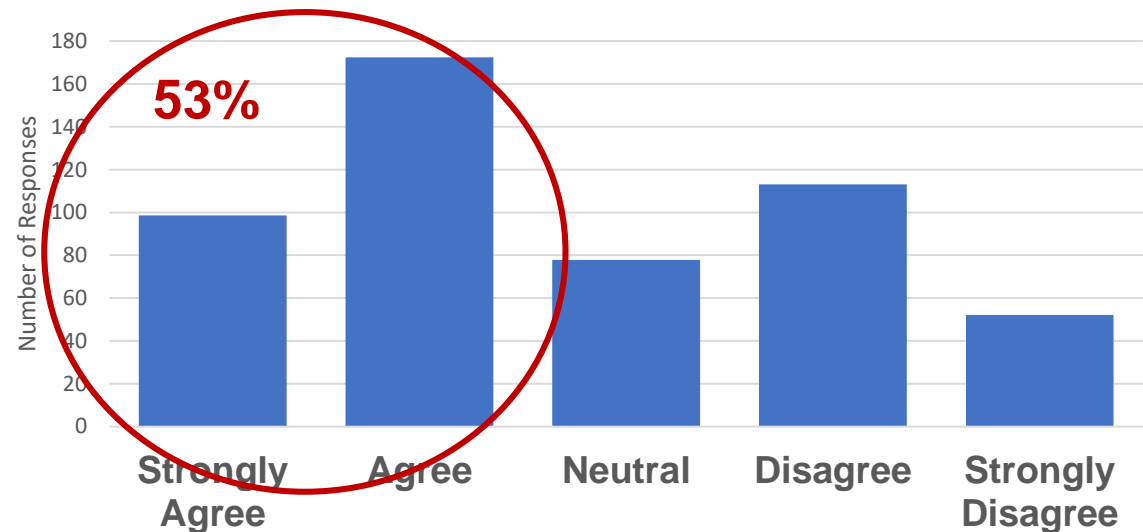
## **PHASE II – Deliberative Discussions**

# Phase II – What We Heard

Which of the following is more valuable?

<b>Municipalities have the ability to make their own decisions on local issues.</b>	<b>47.2%</b>
<b>Municipalities have specific instructions on how to manage local issues.</b>	<b>52.8%</b>

“My community has the capacity to accept more flexibility and autonomy”



# Phase II – What We Heard

More autonomy and flexibility is needed, but

- Concern about capacity/resources to enforce bylaws/regulations
- Concern that small and large communities cannot use same legislation

# Phase II – What We Heard

Broad support for:

- Defined municipal purposes
- Code of conduct provisions
- Mandatory core services
- Mandatory property tax and elimination of poll tax
- Progressive or flexible discipline/ penalties
- Increased role for MAE re: training, guidance, oversight

# Phase II – What We Heard

How do we fix conflict of interest provisions?

- Many conflicting ideas heard
- No clear consensus on best path forward

# PREMIER'S FORUM

# Premier's Forum– What We Heard

Workshop: Develop a conflict of interest framework

Priorities identified:

- Fairness
- Flexibility
- Strong, clear definition
- Clear penalties
- Forgiveness for unintentional conflict



# Premier's Forum– What We Heard

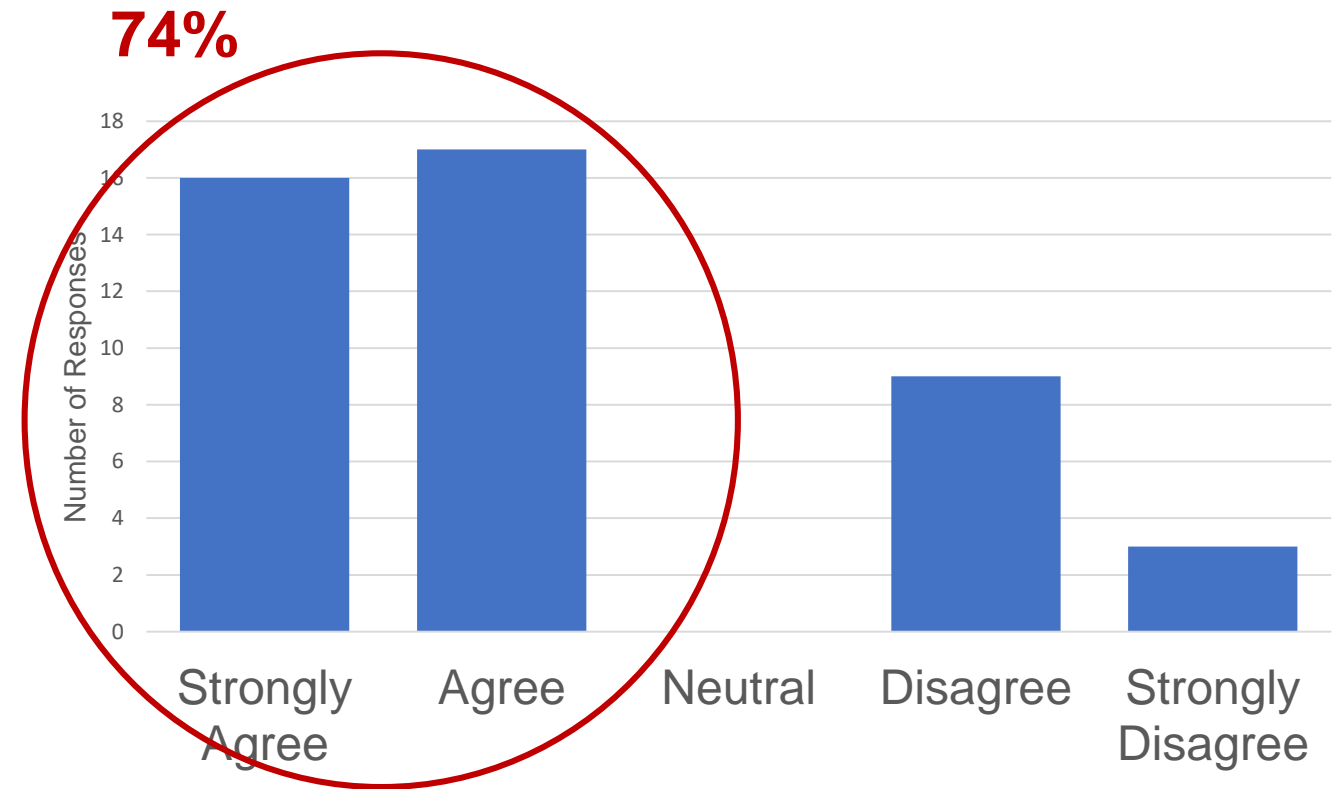
Workshop: Solve a problem with an enabling framework

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Challenges</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More flexibility</li><li>• Easier process – less time consuming</li><li>• Immediate decision-making</li><li>• Increased autonomy</li><li>• Regional enforcement between towns</li><li>• Incorporate use of technology</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enforcement, particularly resources</li><li>• What works for one situation may not work for another</li><li>• More legal analysis / requires more interpretation</li><li>• May lead to frequent changes to by-laws (i.e. after each election)</li><li>• With power comes accountability</li></ul>

# Premier's Forum– What We Heard

After workshop...

My community has the professional and operational capacity to use enabling legislation



**QUESTIONS**

# Contact Us



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