



Cape Breton Regulatory Modernization Pilot - update

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Agenda

- Background
- Project Updates
 - Bylaw Modernization
 - Special Events Task Force
 - Regional Land Use Planning
 - Measurement
 - Business Satisfaction and Red Tape Reduction Survey
- Questions to consider
- Takeaways

Background

- The Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness together with the Cape Breton Regional Municipality, the Town of Port Hawkesbury and Inverness, Richmond and Victoria Counties have partnered to make it easier for Island businesses to start, operate and expand
- Began by engaging local business owners across the Island
- Worked with the Cape Breton Partnership & local chambers of commerce
- Developed a work plan – grounded in the needs of business, endorsed by municipal councils

Bylaw Modernization

- Cape Breton businesses identified difficulty finding municipal by-laws online as an issue and uncertainty about whether they were updated
- With financial support from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing and with the help of the Cape Breton Partnership, a high-level review of all by-laws was completed
- Customized action plans were provided which municipal councils could implement to modernize their regulatory regime
- Businesses across Cape Breton can now quickly and easily access the most up-to-date municipal By-laws online

Special Events Task Force

- Community raised complexity of starting or operating a festival or cultural event across Cape Breton as a potential area for improvement
- Office worked with all municipalities to pilot a Special Events Task Force – based on a model in place in HRM since amalgamation
- Task Force brings together regulators from various government departments to consult with special event organizers - provides event organizers with a single point of contact for policies, permits, and other regulations
- Celtic Colours and the Cabot Trail Relay have endorsed the approach

Regional Land Use Planning

- Local developers identified dealing with different land use requirements across the island was challenging
- With support from the Office, participating municipalities, along with the Town and County of Antigonish, were awarded \$375,000 to create and harmonize municipal planning strategies and land-use bylaws by the Department of Municipal Affairs
- Funding will position municipalities to align approaches and better serve businesses and residents alike
- The work has been awarded to Upland Planning + Design and is underway

Assessing and measuring municipal regulatory proposals

- Measuring and assessing regulation is key to regulatory accountability and management
- Adopting right-sized approach to better understand impact of regulations on business is the next phase of the Cape Breton Regulatory Modernization Project
- Together we have developed a practical and simple checklist staff will attach to a regulatory proposal (e.g., a bylaw) so council can consider questions key to regulatory excellence

Checklist

- The purpose of applying the business lens when making regulation is to ensure the full impact of the municipality's decisions are known, quantified, and shared publicly
- The questions are important to ask any time the municipality makes regulation
 - ▶ Regulation includes everything from bylaws to policies, resolutions, processes, and forms
- Guiding principle for regulating:
 - ▶ The same outcome cannot be achieved by non-regulatory or self-regulatory approaches
 - ▶ The benefits outweigh the costs by a clear margin
 - ▶ Regulation and regulatory enforcement are designed from the perspective of the regulated, and they are proportionate, accountable, consistent, accessible, targeted, and predictable

Sample Questions

- **Objective**
 - There is a clear connection between the requirements and the purpose (or intent) of the proposed regulation (y/n)
- **Stakeholders**
 - Stakeholders have been engaged (y/n)
- **Support for compliance**
 - Regulations are understandable and written in plain language (y/n)
 - Changes will be communicated with guidance on how to comply (y/n)
- **Service**
 - A contact point is identified (y/n)
- **Impact**
 - How many businesses will be impacted? Cost (both direct and indirect)?

Business Satisfaction and Red Tape Reduction Survey

- HRM survey modified and extended to Cape Breton
- Asks business owners about their experiences with the municipality
 - Permits
 - Customer service
 - Timeliness
- Can inform the next stage of the Regulatory Modernization Pilot
- Administered by the Cape Breton Partnership
- Survey just closed. Results will be analyzed and could be used to inform future work together.

Questions to consider in your role as regulator

- What is the problem we are trying to solve?
- Who / what groups will be affected by our approach? What are their perspectives?
- Do we have to 'regulate' (pass a by-law) or are there other ways to address the issue?
- Will there be unintended consequences?
- What are the costs and benefits of each approach?
- Are the rules currently in place, serving our community, including our business community?

Take Aways

1. Municipal councils have an important role as regulator.
2. Regulation plays as important a role in your local environment as taxation.
3. An efficient and effective regulatory environment supports economic growth, while ineffective and inefficient regulation can impede growth.
4. There are some key questions effective regulators ask; including “must we regulate?” and “what are the costs and benefits of what we are proposing?”
- 5. Our Office is here to help.**

Let's stay in touch!

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