

Re: Progress Report Gander Municipal Plan Review

The following outlines our progress with the Municipal Plan Review and Recreational Infrastructure Needs Assessment for the Town of Gander.

To date, we have made three visits to Gander and have held one meeting with Council and four meetings with the Steering Committee; two Open House sessions for the public; a focus group session with recreation program providers; and interviewed numerous community stakeholders such as local developers, business people, school principals, teachers and students, to name a few.

Prior to our meetings held the week of April 1, 2008, we submitted our draft Background Report to the Steering Committee. We met with the Steering Committee prior to an Open House session for the public, and again after the Open House. We also submitted drafts of the required maps.

With respect to the Recreational Infrastructure Needs Assessment, we sent a survey questionnaire to all the recreation providers on a list supplied to us by the Town of Gander Recreation Department. The survey questionnaire was followed up by at least two phone calls to each individual. Representatives were also invited to a focus group meeting held in January. Contact has been made with numerous stakeholders in the Town either through a telephone interview or a personal interview.

We are completing the draft report of the Recreational Needs Assessment and will submit it to the Steering Committee by the end of April.

In addition, The Town of Gander is in the process of undertaking a traffic engineering study. The details are not yet confirmed, however, it is anticipated the traffic study will be completed this summer. To this end, the Steering Committee has requested that we defer completing the municipal review until the results of the traffic study are available so that they too may be included in the municipal plan as required. For this reason, the timeframe for the completion of the Town of Gander Municipal Plan Review may be extended.

We are starting Phase 3 – Policy Development, as outlined in our proposal and work schedule which entails preparing the draft documents of the municipal plan and regulations.

Our immediate next steps are as follows:

- To revise the Background Report
- To revise the mapping
- To complete the draft of the recreation component
- To commence updates to the municipal plan and regulations
- To meet with the Steering Committee [May/June]
- To hold another public Open House session [May/June]

At the end of Phase 3 – the documents will be submitted to the Urban and Rural Planning Division of the Department of Municipal Affairs for review. After the Department's review, required revisions will be made to the documents and we will meet with the Steering Committee one more time to review the documents prior to Council's adoption of the Municipal Plan and Regulations.

This will be followed by the Statutory Public Hearing.

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