



TOWN OF GANDER

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Provincial Election Costing Town of Gander Tax Payers**

*(Gander, NL – May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019)*

The Town of Gander has been advised by the Provincial Office of Tendering and Contracts that they will not be approving cost-shared tenders, for at least the duration of the provincial election.

Although there was no warning or official correspondence from the Province, the significant amount of provincially owned tenders issued just prior to the start of caretaker mode, indicates that provincial officials were aware, but did not share, that this was imminent.

This has postponed the issuing of numerous tenders, valued in millions of dollars of critical infrastructure for the Town of Gander, which will delay the commencement of 2019 capital projects work.

The funding for these projects has already been approved and the tendering of these contracts is considered routine. Council has expressed that they should not be in any way delayed or otherwise effected by a political campaign.

“As a Council, we must question our Provincial Government leaders’ “caretaker” directive for the duration of the current provincial election. The public tendering process will be effectively paralyzed for over a month at a very critical time; a decision that will likely result in delays, cancellations and higher costs for much needed municipal infrastructure projects. “Caretaker” status is intended to allow for the continuation of normal government operations during an election campaign, while precluding new commitments and encumbrances upon the new government elected. We call on Premier Ball to depoliticize basic government services and processes and allow the tendering of previously announced cost-shared municipal projects to move forward in a business as usual manner.”

*– Mayor Percy Farwell*

Municipal infrastructure work in Newfoundland and Labrador is challenged with a relatively short construction season. Delays in the tendering process often result in financial implication to tax payers of both municipal and provincial levels.

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