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## Circular

To: All Municipalities

Re: Launch of Public Consultations on Regional Government

Date: August 22, 2017

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The Provincial Government has committed to exploring a potential model for a new regional government structure and stated its intention in *The Way Forward: Realizing Our Potential*, to implement regional government and/or sharing of service pilot(s), as appropriate, by 2019. To support this commitment, the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment is conducting public consultations on regional government.

Public consultations have been planned in response to concerns from residents and municipal leaders about the long term viability of the current local government system. The province's aging population has put a strain on communities, affecting their ability to attract candidates to local government office and to deliver efficient local services. Government has heard clearly that it is time to seriously explore regional government and greater regionalization as a possible solution.

Many municipal councillors and administrators took part in early consultations on regional government at the 2017 Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador Symposium and the 2017 Professional Municipal Administrators Annual General Meeting. We thank you for your feedback. It has been incorporated into public consultations materials and will be part of future government-decision-making.

The public consultations will include 22 in-person consultation sessions across the province beginning September 6, 2017. You may also provide feedback online, by mail, or host your own session in your municipality. Any decision-making on regional government could impact municipalities and residents. We invite you to attend these sessions and encourage residents of your municipality to take part.

Please visit [www.EngageNL.ca](http://www.EngageNL.ca) to register for a consultation session, learn more about the upcoming consultations and access the consultation discussion document as well as a supporting guide to hosting your own conversation on regional government.

Attached to this circular you also will find a poster with a list of all consultation sessions, as well as a PDF with location specific consultation session posters. We encourage you to post and share these posters so residents are aware of the upcoming sessions.

We look forward to hearing from you on this important subject. If you have any questions regarding this process, please email [regionalgovernment@gov.nl.ca](mailto:regionalgovernment@gov.nl.ca) or contact Emily Thompson, Manager of Community Cooperation at 729-5473.

Sincerely,



**EDDIE JOYCE, MHA**  
District of Humber-Bay of Islands  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment