February 15, 2019

Dear [Redacted],

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015* [Our File #: PRE/4/2019]

On January 11, 2019, the Premier’s Office received your request for access to the following records/information:

> “Copies or all correspondence (letters, e-mails, hand-written notes, text messages, iMessages, BBM message, etc.), briefing/information/decisions notes (draft, final or otherwise), reports (draft, final or otherwise), or any other relevant documents created/sent/received by the individuals listed below. This request is specific to the issue of regional waste management, specifically to seasonal properties, unincorporated areas and local service districts in the Eastern Region of Newfoundland. Any/all correspondence or documents (same as request specifics above), between the group Cabin Owners Against Trash Tax and the individuals listed below should also be included.

> Dwight Ball; Greg Mercer; Elvis Loveless; Michelle Cannizzaro; Jason Card; Peter Miles; Joy Buckle; and, John Samms”

On February 1, 2019, we advised you that, with approval from the Information and Privacy Commissioner the time limit for responding to your request has been extended for an additional 5 days and we would respond to your request no later than February 15, 2019.

Please be advised that a decision has been made by the Chief of Staff of the Premier’s Office to provide access to the information requested, with the exception of personal information, which has been removed in accordance with Section 40(1) of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (the Act), which states:

> 40.(1) The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose personal information to an applicant where the disclosure would be an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy.

For your information, we have organized the materials responsive to this request in two categories, based on our search parameters. The first file, entitled PRE 4 2019 responsive records, were records retrieved from our email account search. The remaining records were
retrieved from our Records Management System, HPRM, and are provided based on record number and associated files (i.e. ICOR2018-0221 and related files). Please refer to the table of contents attached. We have attempted to remove all duplicate files from the package.

You may appeal this decision by asking the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review this response, as set out in section 42 of the Act (a copy of this section of the Act has been enclosed for your reference). A request to the Commissioner must be made in writing within 15 business days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner. Your appeal should identify your concerns with the response and why you are submitting the appeal. Contact information for the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2 Canada Drive
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John’s, NL. A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

You may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court Trial Division within 15 business days after you receive this response, pursuant to section 52 of the Act (a copy of this section of the Act has been enclosed for your reference).

This response will be published as outlined on the Completed Access to Information Requests website. (http://atipp-search.gov.nl.ca/) If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me by telephone at (709)729-3570 or by e-mail at joybuckle@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

M. Worthman

for
Joy Buckle
ATIPP Coordinator
Enclosure
Access or correction complaint

42.(1) A person who makes a request under this Act for access to a record or for correction of personal information may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting a decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request.

(2) A complaint under subsection (1) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days

   (a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or

   (b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16(2).

(3) A third party informed under section 19 of a decision of the head of a public body to grant access to a record or part of a record in response to a request may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting that decision.

(4) A complaint under subsection (3) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days after the third party is informed of the decision of the head of the public body.

(5) The commissioner may allow a longer time period for the filing of a complaint under this section.

(6) A person or third party who has appealed directly to the Trial Division under subsection 52(1) or 53(1) shall not file a complaint with the commissioner.

(7) The commissioner shall refuse to investigate a complaint where an appeal has been commenced in the Trial Division.

(8) A complaint shall not be filed under this section with respect to

   (a) a request that is disregarded under section 21;

   (b) a decision respecting an extension of time under section 23;

   (c) a variation of a procedure under section 24; or

   (d) an estimate of costs or a decision not to waive a cost under section 26.

(9) The commissioner shall provide a copy of the complaint to the head of the public body concerned.
Direct appeal to Trial Division by an applicant

52.(1) Where an applicant has made a request to a public body for access to a record or correction of personal information and has not filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42, the applicant may appeal the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request directly to the Trial Division.

(2) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (1) not later than 15 business days

(a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or

(b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16(2).

(3) Where an applicant has filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42 and the commissioner has refused to investigate the complaint, the applicant may commence an appeal in the Trial Division of the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request for access to a record or for correction of personal information.

(4) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (3) not later than 15 business days after the applicant is notified of the commissioner’s refusal under subsection 45(2).
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2. ICOR2018-0221
3. ICOR2018-0241
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8. ICOR2018-0970
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10. ICOR2018-1147
11. ICOR2018-1329
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14. ICOR2018-3817
15. ICOR2018-3823
16. ICOR2018-3821
17. ICOR2018-3932
18. ICOR2018-4378
19. ICOR2018-4877
20. ICOR2019-0044
21. ICOR2019-0086
As indicated, Minister Joyce plans to call Open Line tomorrow morning on this issue, though we have not confirmed. He has also lined up a meeting with the Chair of the Eastern Regional Service Board over the next couple of days. Here are KMs attached.

Thanks,

E.
KEY MESSAGES

Municipal Affairs and Environment
Cabin Owners Garbage Collection
January 29, 2018

Summary:

- A Facebook group has been created called Cabin Owners Against Trash Tax (COATT). Members complain about having to pay fees for garbage collection to the Regional Service Boards because they don't use collection year-round.
- Regional Service Boards are independent entities that are responsible for providing waste management services and establishing service delivery policies to properties within the region, including seasonal properties.
- The Regional Service Boards Act 2012 allows for RSBs to charge fees to offset the expenses of delivering waste management services. The actual fee charged is decided by the Board.
- In April 2017, government amended legislation so residents can now file complaints of this nature against Regional Service Boards with the Citizen's Representative.

Anticipated Questions:

- What are you doing to address concerns of cabin owners who feel these fees are unfair?
- Will you force the Regional Service Boards reduce the cost of the garbage collection fee for cabin owners?

Key Messages:

1. We support proper waste management practices, and protecting our environment and the health and safety of residents are of the utmost importance to us.

2. We have heard concerns from cabin owners about the Regional Service Boards' garbage collection fees and will be meeting with the Eastern Regional Service Board.

3. We have ensured that residents, municipalities, and businesses have a method available to them to address concerns they may have with Regional Service Boards. They can contact the Citizen's Representative to file a complaint on matters such as these.

Prepared by: Lynn Robinson, Media Relations Manager/Erin Shea
Approved by: Jamie Chippett, Deputy Minister (pending)
Factsheet – Waste Management Fees for Cabin Differ by Region

- Regional Service Boards are independent entities that are responsible for providing waste management services and establishing service delivery policies to properties within the region, including seasonal properties.

- Through the Regional Service Boards Act, 2012, the boards have the authority to set fees to offset the expenses of delivering waste management services. The administration of the fees is specific to each board.

- The Burin Peninsula Regional Service Board charges 50 per cent lower fees for seasonal cabin owners; and the Northern Peninsula Regional Service Board charges 32 per cent lower waste collection fees for seasonal cabin owners.

- As for the remaining four regions:
  - Coast of Bays and Discovery (i.e. Bonavista) RSBs have yet to fully implement their regional waste management systems, although the RSBs are formally established;
  - The Baie Verte Peninsula-Green Bay RSB is in the process of being formally established
  - Western RSB’s current waste management services are largely provided at the community level, pending completion of the region’s transfer station infrastructure to transport waste to Central.

- On November 1, 2017, we issued two Requests for Proposals for evaluating the current Provincial Waste Management Strategy to ensure that the strategy is being implemented in a modern, efficient and cost-effective manner. The strategy was released in 2002 and broad implementation commenced in 2008.
Please see the KMs on the cabin owner fees. We have not yet identified a time for the interview, but have kept in touch with VOClM on it. We will let you know how it goes.

Thanks,
E.
KEY MESSAGES

Municipal Affairs and Environment
Cabin Owners Garbage Collection
February 15, 2018

Summary:

- A Facebook group has been created call Cabin Owners Against Trash Tax (COATT). Members complain about having to pay fees for garbage collection to the Regional Service Boards because they don’t use collection year-round.
- In response to complaints of “drop-off” points with no covered receptacles in rural areas operated by the Eastern Regional Service Board, the department wrote the board and indicated that this is a violation of the Environmental Protection Act.

Anticipated Questions:

- What are you doing to address concerns of cabin owners who feel these fees are unfair?
- Will you force the Regional Service Boards reduce the cost of the garbage collection fee for cabin owners?

Key Messages:

1. We support proper waste management practices, and protecting our environment and the health and safety of residents are of the utmost importance to us.

2. We have met with the board to discuss the public’s concerns regarding their waste collection fees and practices in unincorporated areas. We have indicated that residents should not be charged such waste collection fees if the board is not willing to provide the appropriate services in return.

3. We have ensured residents, municipalities, and businesses have a method available to address their concerns with Regional Service Boards. They can contact the Citizen’s Representative to file a complaint on matters such as these.

Prepared by: Lynn Robinson, Media Relations Manager/Erin Shea
Approved by: Jamie Chippett, Deputy Minister
Further to this, as an FYI, Minister called in to Crosstalk but the line was busy; we left messages for Cecil and attempted to call for some time after the arranged timeframe but did not get through.

Thanks,
E.

From: Robinson, Lynn
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 9:12 AM
To: Foote, Carla <CarlaFoote@gov.nl.ca>; Barfoot, Scott <ScottBarfoot@gov.nl.ca>; Joyce, Luke <LukeJoyce@gov.nl.ca>; Cannizzaro, Michelle <MichelleCannizzaro@gov.nl.ca>; Card, Jason <JasonCard@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: RE: Media Request

Good morning,

Minister will be calling in around 12:10 p.m. to Crosstalk today to speak on garbage collection fees. We will ask Ryan to record.

Thanks.
Lynn

Lynn Robinson
Media Relations Manager
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
709-729-5449
lynnrobinson@gov.nl.ca

From: Robinson, Lynn
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 9:23 AM
To: Foote, Carla <CarlaFoote@gov.nl.ca>; Barfoot, Scott <ScottBarfoot@gov.nl.ca>; Luke Joyce <LukeJoyce@gov.nl.ca>; Cannizzaro, Michelle <MichelleCannizzaro@gov.nl.ca>; Jason Card <JasonCard@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Media Request
Importance: High

Good morning,

CBC Crosstalk are having representatives from COATT (Cabin Owners Against Trash Tax) on the show tomorrow to chat about garbage collection fees. They are inviting the Minister to call in and offer comment too. We are checking his availability.

Thanks.
Lynn

Lynn Robinson
Media Relations Manager
Hi, I'm planning to do a Crosstalk call in show on the cabin garbage collection fee on Wednesday.

I have a couple of people from COATT coming in, and I'm giving you a heads up in case someone from the department is interested in calling in.

I'll be sending the ERSB a similar email.

I can call you tomorrow if you like.

- cec

--
Cecil Haire
CBC
St. John's, NL

576-5271 (desk)

cecil.haire@cbc.ca
@cecilhaire
The attached letter sent to Ed Grant and the ERSB directors is for your information.

It can be noted that the Avalon cabin owners are 99% impressed with what the letter contains as there is a full recognition by Mr. Antle (and Premier Ball we are told) of the issues and concerns that we have with the ERSB's forceful implementation of a so called cabin garbage collection service. Having been dealing with this for the last number of years it is the first time that someone with a degree of influence has fully and formally support COATT's issues and concerns which has been highlighted to government on many occasions.

Based on our past and limited interaction with ERSB it is very obvious that the board has NO intention of dealing with or addressing our concerns. Given that Mr. Antle is currently an election candidate for the Windsor Lake district it would be much more accommodating and meaningful if we had a formal similar response from either Premier Ball or Minister Parsons which we would post on COATT to confirm Mr. Antle's position. Such confirmation would be supported 100% by COATT and we would ensure that the message is well shared with everyone that we have a contact with. Such official confirmation would eliminate any negative reaction that members believe is not a guaranteed government position unless the individual is an official government representative with a level of authority.

As was previously indicated ERSB is still aggressively pursuing court action against Avalon citizens / cabin owners with two more cases being dealt with this week and each week this fall. It is absolutely amazing that the current government agrees with what is happening to it's citizens on the Avalon while the rest of the province is being accommodated in a very respectful manner. Based on Minister Parsons recent letter that our issues are being reviewed WHY is the ERSB given the freedom to continue to drag many of us to court if this is truly underway. Sad to say cabin owners believe that ERSB is answerable to no one even when government might attempt to intervene.

A response from Premier Ball and/or Premier Ball would be much appreciated.

Regards,

[Name] (on behalf of COATT)

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Paul Antle
Date: Thu, Sep 6, 2018 at 11:20 AM
Subject: Re: Arrest Warrants : Avalon cabin owners and the issues we have with ERSB and government
To:
Cc:

Hi [Name], please see the attached correspondence that I sent off to the ERSB today.
All the best.

Paul

From: [Redacted]  
Date: Wednesday, September 5, 2018 at 10:29 AM  
To: Paul Antle [Redacted]  
Cc: [Redacted]  
Subject: Re: Arrest Warrants: Avalon cabin owners and the issues we have with ERSB and government

Paul, thank you very much for your support. We really appreciate this and after your meeting with the Premier an up date would certainly be appreciated. And by the way another Avalon cabin owner is being dragged to court this morning, and many more throughout September and right through the fall. A lot of us will attend the court hearings and provide support, and protest rallies around Atlantic Place will soon be undertaken which no doubt will make the news.

You also indicated that you are interested in the meeting on Friday. If you are available a meeting next Wednesday around 2:00 is suggested.

Regards,

[Redacted]

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On Wed, Sep 5, 2018 at 9:30 AM Paul Antle [Redacted] wrote:

[Redacted] thanks for sending me your note. The situation is outrageous.

I am meeting with the Premier later today to discuss the matter. I know he is as upset about this as I am. I will get back to you after that meeting.

All the best.

Paul
From: [Redacted]
Date: Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 4:51 PM
To: "Parsons, Andrew" <andrewparsons@gov.nl.ca>, "Chippett, Jamie" <jamiechippett@gov.nl.ca>, "Ball, Dwight" <dwightball@gov.nl.ca>, Paul Antle [Redacted], Tom Osborne <osborne@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Arrest Warrants : Avalon cabin owners and the issues we have with ERSB and government

In small claims court this morning (Sept. 4/18) an Avalon cabin owner was expected to show up and deal with the non payment of a very ridiculous fee issued by the ERSB for a so called cabin garbage collection service that was not requested, not wanted, and not used. The ERSB as plaintiff was represented however the defendant failed to show. The judge then ordered an arrest warrant.

An arrest warrant we generally believe applies to criminals. This we have to say is absolutely crazy and brings this whole cabin garbage collection service fiasco to a boiling point. The honest and hard working citizens / cabin owners on the Avalon are being subjected to absolute abuse by ERSB where it hides behind government legislation and to date is 100% supported by government no matter what ERSB does. Where in the hell do we live?

Minister Parsons recent letter dated August 29 indicated that the list of concerns that we shared at a recent meeting is currently being reviewed and a response will be available in the near future. Well if this is being reviewed why is the ERSB allowed to flex it's muscle and send a harsh message to all Avalon cabin owners / citizens / voters indicating that if you do not toe the line it will have honest, hard working and law abiding citizens dragged into court and punished accordingly. This is really the straw that breaks the camel's back as we had expected that the Minister would have requested ERSB to hold any such action while the issues are being reviewed. This basically tells us that the many issues and concerns that have been connected with ERSB is not taken very seriously and is viewed as very minor in nature.

We are absolutely amazed that this government fully supports what is being done to it's citizens.

[Redacted] on behalf of COATT
September 6th, 2018

Mr. Ed Grant
Chair of the Board of Directors
Eastern Regional Services Board
255 Majors Path, Suite 3
St. John's, NL
A1A 0L5

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am writing on behalf of the cabin owners of the Avalon Peninsula. I am requesting that you conduct an internal review of the Eastern Regional Services Board’s policies and practices to address the inequities and unfairness that has been brought to your attention time and again by the cabin owners. I also urge you to include representatives of the cabin owners in this review process. In essence, I’m asking you to do the right thing.

I have no doubt, working together, we can come to an equitable and agreeable solution.

While conducting this review, I further ask that you cease and desist from suing and taking to court cabin owners who are resisting paying for services they feel they neither need, want, or receive.

I have spoken to Premier Ball on this. He feels as I do. He wants this fixed now rather than moving to the next logical step – a legislative review. We have to ensure that the cabin owners of the Avalon Peninsula are treated equitably, fairly, and with the respect they deserve.

I trust that we can find a resolution here that is satisfactory to the stakeholders in this matter, and more particularly, to the cabin owners.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

Paul Antle

cc: Board of Directors, Eastern Regional Services Board
From: Roberts, Edna  
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2018 5:28 PM  
To: Cannizzaro, Michelle <MichelleCannizzaro@gov.nl.ca>  
Subject: Letter from Premier Dwight Ball  
Importance: High

Good Afternoon,

Please see the attached letter I am forwarding on behalf of Premier Ball.

Thank you,

Edna

EDNA ROBERTS | Secretary to the Honourable Dwight Ball

Office of the Premier
Executive Council
Government of Newfoundland & Labrador
8th Floor East Block, Confederation Complex
P.O. Box 8790, St. John's NL, A1B 4N5

(T) 709-729-3570 | eroberts@gov.nl.ca
(F) 709-729-5875

Newfoundland
Labrador
September 14, 2018

[Redacted]

(On behalf of COATT)
Cabin Owners against Trash Tax
Via email: [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted],

I am aware that you have received a letter from Paul Antle on September 6, 2018, with respect to your on-going issues with the Eastern Services Regional Board. Paul and I did indeed have a conversation about this. I have spoken to officials within the department and you have my assurances that my government is committed to finding a resolution to the grievances outlined by your organization.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dwight Ball
Premier
Yep... Sounds good...

Randy

From: Loveless, Elvis
Sent: Thursday, November 8, 2018 11:52 AM
To: Simms, Randy <RandySimms@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: RE: COATT

Hey,

Premier asked me to get an update on the cabin owners garbage issue.

Can we chat after lunch. Maybe in caucus room.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.
If that is the earliest possible time for the meeting then yes it is noted and I will pass it along to COATT's membership.

In the meantime I received notification yesterday that the Premier was sincerely determined to have our issues and concerns (including ERSB's court actions) dealt with "very shortly" and in that regard we were of the view that the meeting with Minister Letto would occur sooner rather than later. The longer this goes on fully enhances what ERSB is harassingly doing to cabin owners on the Avalon compared to how other boards off the Avalon are respectfully treating their cabin owners/citizens/voters.

It would be very interesting to know if, prior to this proposed meeting, the Minister is meeting with ERSB or others prior to this meeting with Avalon cabin owners.

Please pass this along to Minister Letto for his information.

Thank you, on behalf of COATT

On Tue, Nov 20, 2018 at 9:34 AM Glynn, Valerie <V Glynn@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

Hi

As per our conversation this morning, Minister Letto's schedule is pretty full for this week and next week, he is not in the office, he will be in Labrador West.

I now have this meeting scheduled for Monday, December 3 @ 9:00 a.m.

Can you please let me know if this time/date is convenient.

Thanks, Valerie
To: Letto, Graham <GrahamLetto@gov.nl.ca>; Glynn, Valerie <VGLynn@gov.nl.ca>; Chippett, Jamie <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca>

Subject: Meeting with Minister Letto

Based on my recent email is it possible that we will soon having a meeting with Minister Letto?

Please respond at your earliest.

Thank you,

“*This email and any attached files are intended for the sole use of the primary and copied addressee(s) and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. Any distribution, use or copying by any means of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender.”*
So true, what does it take for us tax payers to get some just and fair treatment.

Well said!!

To Premier Ball:

Just following up on your comments "INDIVIDUALS WERE GIVEN TOO MUCH POWER ON THE MUSKRAT FALLS PROJECT".

Well mr. Ball, I would have to agree with you.

And, if you look in the mirror, you would see that ERSB has been given too much power when it comes to this unfair garbage tax and intimidation imposed upon Avalon cabin owners.

We have been fighting this since we had a meeting with government officials and ERSB back in January 28th, 2018, and numerous email to your government over the last year from all concerned cabin owners, and meetings with Mr. Ketto as recent as last month.

We had commitments from you and members of your government, that this issue would have been dealt with by now.

But, nothing has happened. This is very frustrating, and has put a lot of stress on cabin owners because of all the intimidation from ERSB and court cases.
and the way ERSB is able to intimidate us in court, and use the weak legislation that is in place, is nothing short of shamefully. This has caused undue stress on my family and further financial burden.

Charging me $180.00 a year for a service they can only supply approx 6 or 7 months a year. We are on a non serviced road, that has no access from approx December to the middle of May. Also, as I have told you and so many of your officials, in Western bay line, people normally go to their cabins on weekends. Yet, garbage collection is not done in the area until Thursdays. ERSB expects us to leave garbage out in the summertime for 4 days before it is collected. This will attract all kinds of wildlife, rodents, and insects. Yes, on ERSB website, they say everyone has a part to do to protect the environment. I assume that everyone should also include them. So, as you speak out against Muskrat falls issues, please take the time to correct the unjust tax that is imposed upon Avalon cabin owners, that your government has promised would have been resolved by now.

Thank you

On Dec 17, 2018 8:45 AM, [Redacted] wrote:
The attached letter is for everyone's attention and/or action.

Regards,
Good Day,

I have wrote some of you before and for some this is the first time, I wanted to share my thoughts on the so-called garbage tax. I am sure all of you are aware how unhappy cabin owners are with this tax and it was very clear in the question of the day with VOCM that 70% are not in favor of it. 

For me I own a cabin with no electricity or running water and we spend 40 days out of 365 there as opposed to someone spending 365 days and we pay the same amount of tax. For the Sobeys bag full of trash that we generate in a weekend I bring it home to St John's where I am already paying a tax to dispose of it. I don't want this service and nor do I need it and nor do I use it. That money could be used to send my daughter to camp I work very hard for my few dollars and to just give it away it is very disheartening.

Since this system was put in place here are just a few of issues I have seen:

- There seems to be more garbage in cabin areas now as the bins are full and overflowing then wildlife and birds are spreading it around. Majority of cabin owners are gone on Sunday and the service is not suppose to be until Thursday. Sorry I respect my land and the environment to allow that to happen. So tells me it ain't being picked up in a timely manner or at all in some cases.
- Come winter months cabin owners are not to use the drop off location as there are signs indicating the service is not available due to weather conditions. (but yet we are to pay for this service)
- Now I am hearing from my fellow cabin owners ERSB is also charging a Fire TAX!!! when in communities where they are located that the volunteer fire depart looks after the area??
- Cabin owners on the West Coast don't pay but yet it is provincial legislation. so shouldn't that be all the province??
- Some pay by use with no set rate so they get charged a discounted rate.
- I can't understand how ERSB can charge someone that owns a piece of land with a movable trailer on it.
- Some cabin owners are feeling bullied and mistreated by ERSB and it is just so unfair.
- I honestly don't know if this is a money grab but it sure feels like it......
- I know that some of you I am sure visits the Facebook page COATT and are very familiar with alot of concerns and issues. The committee from COATT has done an exceptional job in relaying these concerns and issues. I am sure you are more than provided case after case by cabin owners with concerns and how frustrated they are.
I really hope the current government looks into this sooner rather than later as I believe that it is a real concern for cabin owners and tax paying citizens.

Thank you
Hello Mr. Ball

Please take the time to view the attached regarding the situation with the garbage tax placed on cabin owners. As you can see more then just cabin owners are being affected by this!!! The issue is NOT people whom have summer cottages or places to get away for the weekend, the issue is people who are living full time year round not in their “Summer Homes” in their permanent homes that are located in these areas.

Please can you do something about this “’Money Grab’” from Newfoundlanders Mr. Ball??
$180/year for a travel trailer that is parked on land??
Yes, got another bill today for this year. Same as the people whom are living year round in there cabins or should I say HOMES in most cases!! Trailer was shut down in Early October and will not be used again until May Long weekend!! So for 4 months of the year and mostly only on weekends we have to pay equal to others that live year round?? Doesn't make Sense!!
Easiest thing for them to do I guess rather then investigate and find out the permanent residents!! ""TAX EVERYONE""!! Was told """"had to board up the windows""""! Lol. I don't understand it!!! Yes I do, we are living in Newfoundland!!
Hi Valerie,

Attached are emails from [redacted] to Minister Joyce regarding trash tax that cabin owners have to pay.

Please have the Premier copied on the Minister's response and email a copy to premier@gov.nl.ca account.

Thank you,
Joanne

--------< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number: ICOR2018/0221
Title: Email from [redacted] to MAE re: Facebook group COATT (Cabin Owners against trash tax)

--------< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number: ICOR2018/0221-04
Title: Additional correspondence from [redacted] to Minister Joyce - Mayor Danny Breen's response re: COATT

--------< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number: ICOR2018/0221-03
Title: Additional correspondence from [redacted] to Minister Joyce re: COATT "Cabin Owners Against Trash Tax"

--------< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number: ICOR2018/0221-02
Title: Additional correspondence from [redacted] to Minister Joyce re: COATT
Record Number: ICOR2018/0221-01
Title: Additional correspondence from [REDACTED] to Minister Joyce re: [COATT (Cabin Owners against Trash Tax)] Thank you [REDACTED] for being our voice.
Would like direct ur attention to subject. We want changes made in all fairness.
From: [Redacted]
Date: January 21, 2018 at 12:53:37 GMT-3:30
To: "COATT (Cabin Owners against Trash Tax)" <253812185139408@groups.facebook.com>
Subject: Re: [COATT (Cabin Owners against Trash Tax)] Thank you David Ray Crawford for being our voice.
Reply-To: Reply to Comment <g+4097ntil000000bvwyk60031twtawgox0000008x7the3o246@groups.facebook.com>

They started billing us for this non-existent service 4 years ago! The first 3 pieces of mail we received from EWM was in the previous owner's name, so it was returned! When we got our first bill around 18 months ago we were in arrears owing over $300!! I called EWM outlining many concerns, and was told the garbage truck would not even be going to the cabins to pick up garbage as it was the cabin owners responsibility to bring their garbage to the main road and put it in a secure garbage box (which we also had to provide) Initially we refused to pay and in November of 2016 were taken to small claims court, where a unsympathetic judge ordered us to pay the outstanding bill. He compared our situation to that of a person having a vacation property in France, where you would have to pay for services all year long even if you only used your property once or twice a year! We do not always have access to our cabin and in the winter no running water, so as far as I am concerned it is not habitable for part of the year! So we ended up paying the bill plus court costs! but being SO UNDERSTANDING Eastern Waste Management did forgive us the interest that had accrued! Some of the cabin owners in our area have not yet received a bill but the missus representing EWM said their time will come and they will have to pay interest!! So we received another bill for $180 in Dec of 2016 which we reluctantly paid and now have another bill to be paid by the end of this month if we are to avoid interest! So in total we have paid around $800 for NOTHING!!! It sickens me but multiple letters from EWM outlining the actions that would be taken if the bill was not paid was too stressful! I hope this law can be changed, it is unjust!
Good on you Bro. Word is out there and that is the most important. Now you need picketing and inventive ways of keeping it out there. Have you consulted the advise of a lawyer yet? Send them a WITHOUT PREDICATE letter and signed by everyone and on top of that make it public. Keep on fighting as it is about time that somewhere in this country of ours the little guy gets to win something. Hugs

Tax grab.

Good job!!! Every time I turn your back the government has there hands in our pockets. I would love to stand strong with you on this being the age I am I'm can't afford to be set to a collections agency. Crappy thing about it I bet they know that most people are like this. This is just as is seems to all. TAX GRAB!!!. Grrrrrr.

Yes I have to talked with a lot of seniors who paid bill because they just didn't need the hassle in their lives, shame on government.

Neither did I and seems everything getting worse.

Thank you for being our voice.

Thank you for being our voice.
Back from cabin and I did not have to walk in. I drove the 1/2 hr to cover 3 km rough ole rail bed to get there. Garbage truck had not been into my place in weeks. Patty Daley open line tomorrow morning. I'll be calling early in hopes of being first one by 9.30am. U bet I got a few things to say in reference to NTV interview, or lack of. Government would be smart to suggest Mr Grant keep low profile cause he sure don't help their case putting cabin owners in same category with residents in Briggs or down in Florida DOOH Florida. Mr Grant I not on sunshine list like u i vacation here at cabin in the woods on unserviced road/access with no frills, thank you.
I believe in a fee for service however forcing people to pay this garbage collection is only a tax grab for the government. I saw Mr. Grant on the news and the comparison between our cabin areas to towns in NL and Florida. Those town have services that people use included in their taxes, managed by elected politicians who we can remove if they're not doing their job. Our cabin roads are not town roads, in most cases managed, maintained and snow cleared by a group of volunteers and paid by a user pay system. So the cabin owners pay to get the roads cleared, if they use it, so the so-called garbage truck can go in and come out empty. And if you don't pay the garbage collection fee for a service you don't use or need they send you to the credit bureau. I'd like to see how that would work in the private sector. I also heard the argument that people leave their garbage in the woods and that was why this was started. Cabin owners don't leave garbage in the woods, the take pride in their cabin area. It's the people who drive through the area and throw beer bottles and pop cans out their window and it's us cabin owners that pick up their garbage. In summary if you are going to provide this service, it should be a user pay system - if I use it, I will pay for it. Don't force this on seasonal users who have to pay for full year of service or older people who are just making enough to get by but are fortunate enough to have a cabin to bring their to grand kids for the day. WAKE UP AND DO THIS RIGHT OR DON'T DO IT AT ALL. Sent from my iPad
For your info Mr MHA Eddie Joyce
On Jan 18, 2018 1:56 PM, "Danny Breen" <DBreen@stjohns.ca> wrote:

Hi

Thanks for your email.

10 Councillors, including me, sit on the board of ERSB which was appointed by the Province to oversee Waste Management In Eastern Newfoundland. The Board is required by Government to implement the waste management strategy which includes garbage collection in all areas, including seasonal properties. This requirement is placed on the Board by the Province so that is why the Board implements collection.

The fee is determined by the total cost of collection so partial changes aren’t practical, particularly with respect to areas that have both seasonal and year round residences.

The summary for me is that this is covered under provincial legislation and we are required to comply with the legislation. In order to change this collection practice the Province would have to amend its legislation.

My advice is that you contact your MHA and the Minister of Municipal Affairs to ask for a change to the Waste Management plan.

I trust this helps clarify the situation however should you wish to discuss further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Danny Breen
Mayor
City of St. John’s, NL
709-576-8477

On Jan 18, 2018, at 12:30 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Mr. Breen. I am a tax pay of st. John’s, and have a seasonal cabin on Western Bay line.
It's my understanding that you are on the board of directors of MMSB.
We as cabin owners have been unfairly taxed as part of waste management garbage collection, and I would like for you to discuss this at one of your upcoming meetings on my behalf and all the seasonal cabin owners.
All the cabins in my area are only used approx 6 months a year (May to October).
We also have to maintain the road on our own without any government involvement.
This road is NOT accessible from November until May (sometimes you can’t get there in may in a vehicle, depending on the winter).
We have no electricity, running water, of highway maintenance on the road, as they have in the surrounding communities.
Yet, we are been charged the full amount for garbage collection as the people who get full service in those communities. Also, garbage collection in that area is on Fridays. Almost nobody goes to their cabins until Friday and usually back home on Sunday, except for long weekends.
This will create another problem, where most garbage will be there for at least five days in the summer time before it is collected.
This will attract all kinds of animals like coyotes, foxes and all kinds of rodents, not to mention the smell. This is NOT a good idea, as a lot of cabin owners have children.
In an era when we are trying to protect our environment, this is going in the wrong direction.
We never had a problem with garbage in this area and according to comments on Facebook, I hear the same issues from other cabin owners across the province.
I live ............................................................................. . I see 10 times the amount of garbage in the ditches than what you would find in by our cabins.
To me this is a big money grab, and if nothing else the service fee should be cut in half, and garbage can't be left out in the summer time for five days before it is collected.
As from most cabin owner comments, for two days at the cabin, we don't even have a half bag of garbage.
Waiting from your reply.

Sent from my iPad
Someone needs to put an end to this foolishness. Go to Facebook group COATT and see what voters/tax payers have to say about this answer to garbage collection at cabins.
Potential copyright material

If you wish to obtain a copy please contact the ATIPP Office at (709) 729-7072 or atipoffice@gov.nl.ca.
Good Afternoon...

Please find attached copy of response letter to [redacted].

Val

-----Original Message-----
From: Premier of NL
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 10:41 AM
To: Glynn, Valerie <Glynn@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: ICOR2018/0221 [redacted]

Hi Valerie,

Attached are emails from [redacted] to Minister Joyce regarding trash tax that cabin owners have to pay.

Please have the Premier copied on the Minister’s response and email a copy to premier@gov.nl.ca account.

Thank you,
Joanne

-----< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number: ICOR2018/0221
Title: Email from [redacted] to MAE re: Facebook group COATT ( Cabin Owners against trash tax)

-----< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number: ICOR2018/0221-04
Title: Additional correspondence from [redacted] to Minister Joyce- Mayor Danny Breen’s response re: COATT

-----< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number: ICOR2018/0221-03
Title: Additional correspondence from [redacted] to Minister Joyce re: COATT "Cabin Owners Against Trash Tax"
Record Number: ICOR2018/0221-02
Title: Additional correspondence from [Redacted] to Minister Joyce re: COATT

Record Number: ICOR2018/0221-01
Title: Additional correspondence from [Redacted] to Minister Joyce re: [COATT (Cabin Owners against Trash Tax)] Thank you [Redacted] for being our voice.
Further to our recent correspondence and discussions regarding cabin owners’ concerns with Eastern Regional Service Board’s (ERSB’s) waste management services, policies, and fees, I am writing to clarify the Provincial Government’s position on these issues. I understand that this has been a significant issue for many cabin owners in Eastern region, and I appreciate your ongoing efforts to advocate on their behalf.

First of all, I’d like to thank you for attending the recent meeting, and for presenting cabin owners’ concerns to local MHAs, Ministers, and the ERSB Chair and staff. I believe this was an important first step, and I look forward to continuing the conversation and clarifying responsibilities and potential solutions. In addition to the ongoing discussion around fees, officials from Municipal Affairs and Environment are working with ERSB to identify ways to address any potential environmental or safety concerns regarding winter residential waste drop-off locations.

I appreciate your view that cabin areas were not specifically addressed by the Provincial Waste Management Strategy. However, I would note that the Strategy envisioned a regional approach for the delivery of modern waste management services, in which regional authorities with representation from local governments would coordinate these services within designated regions. To this end, the regional service boards were established to enable the provision of these services on a cost-recovery basis to the various municipalities, local service districts, and unincorporated areas across the province. Any area outside of a town or a local service district, including cabin areas, would generally be considered an unincorporated area.

The Regional Service Boards Act, 2012 provides the regional service boards with the authority to set fees to offset the expenses of delivering waste management services. How these fees are set is determined by the Board. I will continue to ensure the concerns of cabin owners are raised as I continue dialogue with the Board.
Again, thank you for all your efforts to advance these important issues. I look forward to continuing to work with ERSB as well as cabin owners throughout the region to advance waste management services in Eastern region.

Sincerely,

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

cc: Hon. Dwight Ball, Premier
Work in harmony with cabin owners. They drive back and forth to their cabins and transport garbage to land fill for free. This is a win win for ERSB and government. No expense to hire garbage collection companies. Less wear and tear on our roads not to mention the reduction in the carbon imprint. It's a no brainer to let cabin owners care for their areas and keep environment clean.

Sent from my iPad
Are u kidding me with this

Sent from my iPad

> On Mar 8, 2018, at 11:51, Leonard, Jackie <JackieLeonard@gov.nl.ca> wrote:
>
> Good Morning:
>
> Please see the attached response from the Minister’s office.
>
> Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail
>
> Jackie Leonard
> Clerk Typist III
> Municipal Infrastructure and Waste Management Division
> Municipal Infrastructure and Support Branch
> Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
> P.O. Box 8700
> 4th Floor, West Block, Confederation Building
> St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6
> Telephone: 709-729-3068
>
> “This email and any attached files are intended for the sole use of the primary and copied addressee(s) and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. Any distribution, use or copying by any means of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender.”

> <Acknowledgement Letter - Cabin Owners Concerns with ERSB - [Redacted] PDF>
This is what ERSB calls curb side garbage collection.
Potential copyright material

If you wish to obtain a copy please contact the ATIPP Office at (709) 729-7072 or atippoffice@gov.nl.ca.
Signs appearing all over Avalon and probably soon across the Island
Potential copyright material

If you wish to obtain a copy please contact the ATIPP Office at (709) 729-7072 or atippoffice@gov.nl.ca.
I am again requesting the subject information on hard copy paper for our upcoming settlement conference June 15th, that is by your request and a waste of the systems valuable time and assets. Mr Kelly stated at our March 21rst sit down/chit chat that all your vehicles are equipped with GPS and the information is available. I wish to high light again that ERSB curb side service (which doesn't exist for the majority of cabin owners) was never requested, wanted, needed and can not be provided. Majority of cabins are on unserviced roads/accesses. The upkeep in provided by donations from people in the area, and most are not plowed in the winter, who once enjoyed getting away from the day to day hustle and bustle. ERSB has done nothing more than cause a environmental house hold waste disaster in cabin country.

Requested documents required ASAP. Thanks
Don’t recall seeing your first request nevertheless please give specific detail. Which dates and where?

Sent from my iPad

> On Jun 3, 2018, at 10:13 AM [Name Redacted] wrote:
>
> I am again requesting the subject information on hard copy paper for our upcoming settlement conference June 15th, that is by your request and a waste of the systems valuable time and assets. Mr Kelly stated at our March 21rst sit down/chit chat that all your vehicles are equipped with GPS and the information is available. I wish to high light again that ERSB curb side service (which doesn’t exist for the majority of cabin owners) was never requested, wanted, needed and can not be provided. Majority of cabins are on unserviced roads/accesses. The upkeep in provided by donations from people in the area, and most are not plowed in the winter, who once enjoyed getting away from the day to day hustle and bustle. ERSB has done nothing more than cause a environmental house hold waste disaster in cabin country.
>
> Requested documents required ASAP. Thanks
>
> Sent from my iPad
ICOR2018/0221-14
Hi Valerie,

Attached, for your Minister and Deputy Minister’s information, is an email from Ken Kelly to [redacted] regarding 2nd Request for Garbage pickup GPS readings.

Thank you,
Kaitlyn

-----< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number: ICOR2018/0221-14
Title: Email from Ken Kelly to [redacted] regarding 2nd Request for Garbage pickup GPS readings.
With regards to this being your second request for this information - please provide evidence of your first request. Attached please find pictorial representation of the global positioning system data that is derived from the AVL - Automatic Vehicle location devices installed on the majority of the waste collection fleet. There are vehicles that have malfunctioning units and units that are not AVL equipped. However, this will provide you with a reasonable representation of the GPS data for the Placentia Junction area from 2016 to 2018.

This information will come in 3 emails due to the size of the files and only you will be copied on the remainder of the emails.

Ken T. Kelly, CPA
Chief Administrative Officer
Eastern Regional Service Board
Tel: 709-579-7960
Email: kkelley@ersbnl.ca
255 Majors Path
St. John's, NL

**Everyone has a role in keeping our province clean and beautiful. At the Eastern Regional Service Board we’re committed to delivering consistent, sustainable waste management services to thousands of people in eastern Newfoundland. Visit our website https://fairwaste.ca/ for details.**

 Original Message

From: Ken Kelly <kkelley@ersbnl.ca>
Sent: Sunday, June 3, 2018 10:14 AM
To: Eastern Regional Service Board <info@ersbnl.ca>; Premier@ersbnl.ca; Ken Kelly <kkelley@ersbnl.ca>
Cc: kevinparsons@gov.nl.ca; premier@gov.nl.ca; Andrew Parsons <andrewparsons@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: 2nd Request for Garbage pickup GPS readings.
I am again requesting the subject information on hard copy paper for our upcoming settlement conference June 15th, that is by your request and a waste of the systems valuable time and assets. Mr Kelly stated at our March 21st sit down/chit chat that all your vehicles are equipped with GPS and the information is available. I wish to high light again that ERSB curb side service (which doesn't exist for the majority of cabin owners) was never requested, wanted, needed and can not be provided. Majority of cabins are on unserviced roads/accesses. The upkeep in provided by donations from people in the area, and most are not plowed in the winter, who once enjoyed getting away from the day to day hustle and bustle. ERSB has done nothing more than cause a environmental house hold waste disaster in cabin country.

Requested documents required ASAP. Thanks

Sent from my iPad
Note: Route completed by pick up CXA 840 which had a AVL issue for 3 weeks. Screen shot shows the compactor which accompanied the pick up truck.
Note: Route completed by pick up CXA 840 which had a AVL issue for 3 weeks. Screen shot shows the compactor which accompanied the pick up truck.
Note: Route completed by pick up CXA 840 which had a AVL issue for 3 weeks. Screen shot shows the compactor which accompanied the pick up truck.
This response is is typical of someone who has not investigated the issues or even cares about the hard working tax payers of this province. To ignore the fact that Services are not and can not be delivered in many cases is fraudulent in my eyes. To state that the board was elected is not fact. When were cabin owners ever approached to vote in board members that would support this fee/tax.

The Liberal government promotes clean environment on one hand and then turns around and allows ERSB to have cabin owners illegally dump their garbage on unmaintained dirt roads for days before pickup only to be shredded by the wild life and blown around. Absolutely ridiculous.

This fight is far from over and if in carries into 2019 fall election then this subject could help sway the Liberals to a loss.

Facebook Group COATT I fully intend to use the existing 2230 plus, and growing, members to pursue a acceptable solution to this unjust, unfair, not needed or wanted and definitely unneeded fee/tax.

Facebook Group COATT

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 19, 2018, at 21:00 [date] wrote:

The attached letter from Minister Parsons as indicated in my previous email.

-------- Forwarded message --------
From: [email]
Date: Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 8:56 PM
Subject: Minister Parsons response to my May 13/18 letter
To: "Drover, Devin" <DevinDrover@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: [email]

The attached response was just received. The majority of Avalon cabin owners are not and will not be very pleased with what Minister Andrew's has stated as Premier Ball and the Liberal government's support for what is going on.
We will fight tooth and nail to ensure that this government is not re-elected particularly the MHAs around the Avalon, and will use the COATT site to "advertise" accordingly.

A response from Mr. Crosbie will be appreciated as soon as possible.

Thank you,

<Minister Andrews response to May 13 letter.PDF>
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 4:37 PM
To: Parsons, Andrew; Parsley, Betty; Parsons, Pam; Joyce, Eddie; Premier of NL; Rogers, Gerry; Brazil, David J.; contact@chescrosbie.ca
Subject: Cabin Owners Against Trash Tax

Re: Minister Andrew Parsons reply to [Redacted] dated June 13, 2018 (COATT)

I am very disappointed in Minister Parsons reply regarding the "so called" garbage collection in cabin areas. Seasonal cabin owners should not be forced to pay $180.00 per year to subsidize garbage collection for livyers. We only use our cabin seasonally for a night occasionally on the weekend and bring our small shopping bag of garbage home with us. Why should we have to pay when we already pay taxes in our own community? We do not create extra garbage when we go to the cabin, it is the same as we would create if we stayed at home. The government keep telling us COATT members to contact the ERSB members and that they have the power to change it. ERSB say they are legislated by government and cannot change the rules as it is legislated by government. One is passing the buck to the other and neither has any intention of doing anything about it. We are senior citizens living on a fixed income and cannot afford to pay taxes in our community and also at the cabin. Government does not maintain the road in our cabin area and do not provide any services there. Most of the time garbage is not even collected. Election time you will all be going around trying to get people to vote for you, you are supposed to be working for the people but all you are doing is taking every cent we have in taxes. We always have kept our cabin area clean but now I've never seen so much garbage around. It is just a money grab. There is garbage all along the sides of the road and garbage bags being torn apart by wildlife. The garbage truck cannot even drive by my cabin because the road don't go that far, yet I am expected to pay $180 and drop off my garbage at another site. WE ARE NOT BEING TREATED FAIRLY AND WE WANT TO BE TREATED THE SAME AS THE PEOPLE ON THE WEST COAST. EITHER WE ARE TREATED FAIRLY OR ABOLISH THE ERSB ALTOGETHER AS THEY ARE THE MOST IGNORANT BUNCH AND SHOULD NOT BE IN THE POSITIONS THEY ARE IN. THEY ARE GETTING PAID A FORTUNE TO BE IGNORANT. CABIN OWNERS WERE NOT CONSULTED ON GARBAGE COLLECTION AND WE HAVE NO REPRESENTATION ON THE BOARD.
Other areas of the province have a USER PAY system so we are discriminated against on this side of the island. ERSB use force, intimidation and harrassment. Government should be ashamed of themselves for condoning this activity.

Yesterday I received a Statement of Claim from ERSB concerning so called garbage tax at my cabin in [redacted]. We were never consulted on this issue and we do not need or want it. We always bring our garbage home with us. This was forced upon us by ERSB who say they are legislated by government. Other regions of the province have a USER PAY system, so why should we have to pay to subsidize liyers. I cannot believe that government is condoning the way we are treated by ERSB. Also there are bears on this side of the island now and it is a danger. If we leave garbage there Sunday when we go home it is not picked up until Wednesday (if it gets picked up at all) and animals and rodents get into it and tear it apart and it is scattered everywhere. We are discriminated against on this side of the island. I have never seen such a mess of garbage around as since ERSB started this boondoggle. It should be abolished altogether. What were the government members thinking when they did this legislation and why does it give the various boards the right to charge whatever they want? Premier Ball and Eddie Joyce would not do this in their districts so why are we treated differently? I pay taxes in my community and [redacted] Where do you think we are getting the money to pay for a so called garbage collection at a cabin in the woods? When muskrat falls comes on line we won't be able to afford our light bills. We are seniors living on a fixed income and taxed to death. Next year you will be looking to get elected again. I have no faith in our politicians because they don't care how their constituents live, they are only interested in filling their own pockets. I don't have electricity or running water at my cabin and the roads are not maintained by government. How can my cabin be considered habitable when I don't have power or running water, I would not be able to live in it - it's only a small cabin with no luxuries and we only use it for a night occasionally the same as if you had a tent. Government needs to change this legislation and take the power away from the ERSB and have a USER PAY system.
Absolutely correct, when will the abuse by ERSB, sanctioned by government, cease? If need be I will be forced to sue ERSB and government for this dictatorship treatment of tax payers in a so called democracy.

Sent from my Bell Samsung device over Canada's largest network.

-------- Original message --------
From: [redacted]
Date: 2018-11-07 15:39 (GMT-03:30)
To: premier@gov.nl.ca, "Parsons, Andrew" <AndrewParsons@gov.nl.ca>, Pam Parsons <pamparsons@gov.nl.ca>, "Crocker, Steve" <SteveCrocker@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Re: ERSB cabin garbage collection service/tax

Re-send .... As per my email below, that I sent on Oct. 23rd, 2018, I am following up again for a response on my previous concerns.
I have a court date for [redacted] with ERSB, and I want clarification on the government legislation associated with garbage collection for seasonal cabin owners.
I attended a court hearing last month, where a friend of mine was told by Mr. Kelly of ERSB that they can charge us $180.00 a year for garbage service, even if they don't supply the service.
I can only access my cabin 5 or 6 months a year.
So, my question is "How is ERSB allowed to charge seasonal cabin owners for a service that they can't supply"?
If this is true, when will government get this unfair legislation changed.
If it is not true, why can't government tell ERSB that they are not allowed to charge seasonal cabin owners for a service that they can't supply.

I also logged onto ERSB site last week to do the online survey that they are asking people for feedback on services they supply to rural and non incorporated areas.

I have to say that this is completely geared towards community households and NOT seasonal cabin owners:
One question that was asks "should community households subsidize seasonal cabin owners".

They should have asked a question "should seasonal cabin owners subsidize community households.
Avalon seasonal cabin owners pay $180.00 dollars, for garbage collection the same as people who live in rural communities. Yet, most of the seasonal cabin owners only have access to their cabins less than 6 months a year. But, people who live in the communities get garbage service 12 months a year.
So, without a doubt, seasonal cabin owners are absolutely subsidizing community households.

THIS SURVEY IS COMPLETELY BIASED AND DESIGNED FOR COMMUNITY HOUSEHOLDS, AND HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SEASONAL CABIN OWNERS.
If they wanted to do a survey and get a true feedback on the overall services they want to offer, then they should hire an independant company to do it.

Waiting for a reply before my court date

On Oct 23, 2018 1:45 PM,

I attended a small claims court session yesterday that another fellow Avalon cabin owner had a court appearance with ERSB, and I have one scheduled for the

I know everyone is aware of COATT's issues with ERSB, and how we are treated different from other parts of the province, and that our group is waiting from responses from government.

So, I will not get into too much details about this whole process. However, what I heard at the court hearing yesterday from Ken Kelly of ERSB, is very disturbing.

Now, they are telling us that they can charge us the $180.00 for the so called garbage service/tax, even if they don't supply the service.

I can understand them charging someone in a community if they go south for a few months a year, because they(ERSB) still offers the service.

But, the person who had a court date yesterday can prove that they haven’t provided the service where his cabin is for over half this year.

Also, as I have discussed with some of your government people, my cabin is in and they CAN’T supply garbage service to that area for at least 5 months a year.

I want to know if the law that government has in legislation, allows ERSB to charge us for full service if they can’t supply this service for almost half the year.

If this is true, surely government can get this legislation changed to at least make ERSB accountable and STOP ripping us hard working, honest citizens, who take care of their cabin properties.

This is almost like saying that the telephone company is charging me or you $180.00 a year for cable/fiber service, but they can only supply the service 6 months a year.

This sure does NOT seem like a democratic country we are living in.

As other people have stated to you and your government when Paul Antle was running in the by-election a few weeks ago, he told us that your government will make sure that the Avalon cabin owners will be treated fairly as the rest of the province, and that your government would go as far as change the legislation to make ERSB comply.

I know that government has a lot of issues to deal with in this province, but the Avalon cabin owners, who are many, feel that we are completely ignored. This has got to be resolved sooner rather than later, as more cabin owners are forced to go to court to fight this injustice, and at the same time incur very high interest charges from ERSB.
Thank you

all information redacted in accordance with S40(1)

Sent from Mail for Windows 10
Hi Valerie,

Attached is an email from [redacted] to Premier Ball and Minister Joyce regarding COATT (Cabin owners against trash tax).

Please have Minister Joyce copy the Premier on his response and email a copy to premier@gov.nl.ca account.

Thank you,
Joanne

---< HPE Records Manager record Information >---

Record Number: ICOR2018/0241
Title: Email from [redacted] to Minister Joyce regarding COATT (Cabin owners against trash tax)
I have no idea how you can have soooooo many people up in arms about this and it is still being rammed down peoples throat. I always wanted a little shack in the woods. Nothing like I'm sure either of you have. Living by a strict budget, I skimped and saved my hard earned dollars for years to get enough to purchase just that, a little shack in the woods and my government has the face to turn around and say that this shack, that you can't even reach in the winter is a luxury. That's what this guy with Easter Waste Management calls it. And now you have to pay 180.00 for a yearly service that can't even be honored.

He used to example owning a summer home in the community of Brigus. Well Brigus is just that, a community. There streets are plowed by the very taxes the community pays which includes garbage pickup because the garbage trucks can actually get to the home, summer homes &cabin. If I had a summer home/summer home and/or cabin in this area I would have no trouble paying year round for this service.

Getting back to my shack in the woods. I'm being charged $180.00 for year round garbage pickup. My shack can't be accessed during the winter months. Therefore, you cannot provide a service your charging me for.

For some reason there is just no compromise here. Is it so wrong to only charge for those months you can really provide the service your me for? I open my cabin May 24th and close it down after Labor Day weekend. Charge me for those months for crying out loud. All the cabin owners are asking is be fair and work with us. Leading by the heavy hand is doing nothing for your popularity with this group. I can honestly say that this is the same thought by the cabin owners in my area and as of right now we have this LEVY tax grab and now this Trash Tax, TAX Grab. I can honestly say the Liberal Government will not get my vote again this time round. This is the shortest straw and to be honest what am I voting for? To give the the Liberals another 4 years to figure out other ways to reach in to take more of my hard earned money. Oh wait that's coming with Muskrat Falls.

Mr Joyce or Mr Premier, I would really like to hear your personal thoughts on this. Please tell me how does the government justify charging me for something you can't provide.

Disgusted
Buckle, Joy

From: Glynn, Valerie
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 11:40 AM
To: Premier of NL
Subject: MAE Response to ICOR2018/0241

Please find attached copy of response letter to [REDACTED]

Val

-----Original Message-----
From: Premier of NL
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 10:45 AM
To: Glynn, Valerie <VGlynn@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: HPE Records Manager Incoming Correspondence: ICOR2018/0241: ICOR2018/0241

Hi Valerie,

Attached is an email from [REDACTED] to Premier Ball and Minister Joyce regarding COATT (Cabin owners against trash tax).

Please have Minister Joyce copy the Premier on his response and email a copy to premier@gov.nl.ca account.

Thank you,
Joanne

-----< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number: ICOR2018/0241
Title : Email from [REDACTED] to Minister Joyce regarding COATT (Cabin owners against trash tax)
Dear [Redacted]

I am writing in response to your recent correspondence in which you outlined concerns regarding the garbage collection and fees charged to cabin owners by the Eastern Regional Service Board (ERSB). I appreciate that this has been a significant issue for many cabin owners in Eastern region.

I recently called a meeting that included several concerned cabin owners, local MHAs, and the Chair of ERSB to discuss these concerns. I greatly appreciated the opportunity for the roundtable discussion.

It is important to note that the Regional Service Boards Act, 2012 provides the regional service boards with the authority to set fees to offset the expenses of delivering waste management services. How these fees are set is determined by the Board. As such, I encourage you to engage with Board members regarding any concerns you may have with respect to fees or collection policies.

In addition to the ongoing discussion around fees, officials from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment are working with ERSB to identify ways to address any potential environmental and safety concerns regarding winter residential waste drop-off locations.

Thank you for sharing your perspective on this issue.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

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

cc: Honourable Premier Dwight Ball
Hi Valerie,

Attached is an email from [redacted] regarding trash tax for cabin owners.

Please have the Premier copied on the Minister’s response and email a copy to premier@gov.nl.ca account.

Thank you,
Joanne

-----< HPE Records Manager record information >-----

Record Number: ICOR2018/0280
Title: Email from [redacted] regarding trash tax for cabin owners
I am writing to express my frustration with the Eastern Regional Service Board implementation of a tax on cabin areas for garbage collection. I received a bill in August for $90.00 for 2017 to be paid by the end of August and last week I received a bill for $180.00 for 2018 plus the $90.00 for 2017 to be paid by the end of January. A lot of people in my cabin area haven’t even received one bill yet. Why are only a few people expected to pay for everyone. We only go to our cabin a scattered weekend for a night and we bring our little bit of garbage home with us. We pay taxes in our community where we live. Now we are penalized for having a cabin in the woods. If we leave our garbage out when we leave on Sunday and it is not collected until Wednesday animals will have it torn up and scattered everywhere. We always keep our cabin area clean and tidy. We shouldn’t have to pay garbage fees just because a few people choose to live there year round. Furthermore, we are senior citizens living on a fixed income and shouldn’t be expected to pay taxes in our community as well as our cabin. We don’t have a big elaborate cabin and we don’t have running water or electricity. We only go there for a night occasionally and bring what we need with us. Also, the road going to the cabin area is not maintained by government. It is time for our government to advise the eastern regional service board to stop harassing people about taxes for a service that we don’t require. We were doing fine all these years and kept our place clean and tidy.
From: [Redacted]
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Fw: Cabin Owners Against Trash Tax

--- Original Message ---

From: [Redacted]
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Fw: Cabin Owners Against Trash Tax

STOP CHARGING CABIN OWNERS FOR GARBAGE COLLECTION. IT IS NOT WANTED OR NEEDED. IT IS A FORCED TAX ON PEOPLE WHO CAN'T AFFORD IT. WE PAY TAXES IN OUR OWN COMMUNITY, WHY DO WE HAVE TO PAY TWICE?

--- Original Message ---

From: [Redacted]
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Cabin Owners Against Trash Tax

I am writing to express my disappointment in government's lack of action in the issue of garbage collection in cabin areas. We take great pride in our property, as do other cabin owners, and we have no need for and do not want garbage collection in our cabin area. It is a money grab. We have no electricity and no running water and only go to our cabin for a night occasionally. We keep our area clean and bring our garbage home with us as we pay taxes in our community. Why should we have to pay twice for garbage collection? If we left garbage it would attract animals and rodents, as if we go home Sunday and garbage is not picked up until Wednesday the garbage would be torn up and scattered everywhere. Then who has to clean up the mess left there? The west coast have a user pay system. I know people living there year round like the garbage collection, however seasonal cabin owners should not be required to pay for it. We don't use the service and our road is not maintained by government. We are senior citizens living on a fixed income and should not be forced to pay a tax that is not needed.
Buckle, Joy

From: Glynn, Valerie
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 9:55 AM
To: Premier of NL
Cc: Parsley, Betty
Subject: MAE response to ICOR2018/0280

Good Morning...

Please find attached copy of response letter to [redacted]

Val

-----Original Message-----
From: Premier of NL
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 10:53 AM
To: Glynn, Valerie <VGlynn@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: HPE Records Manager Incoming Correspondence : ICOR2018/0280 : ICOR2018/0280

Hi Valerie,

Attached is an email from [redacted] regarding trash tax for cabin owners.

Please have the Premier copied on the Minister’s response and email a copy to premier@gov.nl.ca account.

Thank you,
Joanne

-----< HPE Records Manager record information >-----
Record Number: ICOR2018/0280
Title : Email from [redacted] regarding trash tax for cabin owners
I am writing in response to your recent correspondence to myself, Premier Ball, and MHA Parsley in which you outlined concerns regarding garbage collection and fees charged to cabin owners by the Eastern Regional Service Board (ERSB). As the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment, please accept this response on behalf of the Provincial Government.

I appreciate that this has been a significant issue for many cabin owners in Eastern region. That is why I called a meeting earlier this year that included several concerned cabin owners, local MHAs, and the Chair of ERSB to discuss these concerns. I greatly appreciated the opportunity for the roundtable discussion, and I look forward to continued dialogue to clarify responsibilities and identify potential solutions.

It is important to note that the Regional Service Boards Act, 2012 provides each of the regional service boards with the authority to set fees to offset the expenses of delivering waste management services. How these fees are set is determined by the boards, as are collection policies and the application of exemptions and/or vacancy allowances.

I acknowledge that the Western Regional Service Board has taken a different approach to waste management for seasonal properties, and that other regional service boards, such as those on the Burin Peninsula and the Northern Peninsula, have implemented differential fees for such properties. These are operational policy decisions that are most appropriately made at the regional level by the local government representatives who serve on each board. To this end, I understand that ERSB has committed to engage with all stakeholders on these issues, and are holding meetings with cabin owners to reach workable solutions. I would encourage you to engage with ERSB board members and staff through that process.

In addition to the ongoing discussion around fees, officials from Municipal Affairs and Environment are working with ERSB to identify ways to address any potential environmental and safety concerns regarding winter residential waste drop-off locations, including the concerns you’ve raised about nuisance wildlife and litter.
Thank you for sharing your perspective on this issue, and I look forward to continuing to work with ERSSB as well as cabin owners and communities throughout the region to improve waste management services for the residents of Eastern region.

Sincerely,

Eddie Joyce, MHA
District of Humber-Bay of Islands
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment

cc: Honourable Premier Dwight Ball
    Ms. Betty Parsley, MHA
It's amazing how all boards are supposed to be operating under the same government legislation, yet cabin owners are treated differently on the eastern side of the island than on other parts of the island. It is discrimination and government needs to get their act together and take a stand on this issue. We need a user pay system the same as the west coast. Instead, ERSB are intimidating and forcing people to pay for a service we do not require. ERSB are threatening to take people to court or the credit bureau and are very ignorant to deal with. We are senior citizens and do not want or need this cash grab. We do not need to be treated this way. We are taxed to death and now we are expected to pay garbage tax at a cabin when we already pay taxes in our own community and we only go to our cabin for a scattered night and bring our small bag of garbage home with us. We keep our own area clean and should not have to supplement lawyers.
Buckle, Joy

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 11:13 AM
To: Joyce, Eddie
Cc: Premier of NL
Subject: Fwd: Joyce's letter
Attachments: Minister Joyce January 2018.pdf

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [Redacted]
Date: January 22, 2018 at 15:05:09 GMT-3:30
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Joyce's letter

For your information. For what it's worth Joyce usually responds.

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
Hon. Eddie Joyce, Minister
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment

Re. Waste Management Review

Emailed to Ms. Valerie Glynn, Administrative Assistant

January 22, 2017

Dear Minister Joyce,

Over the past couple of years we have exchanged numerous correspondence about the many concerns that cabin owners have expressed about their discontent on how the current waste management strategy is having such a negative impact on the delivery of this service around cabin sites. The vast majority are not at all satisfied with how this is delivered / administered and the comments on the Facebook page entitled Cabin Owners Against Trash Tax (COATT) are absolutely frightening. We as taxpayers and 99% law abiding citizens are viewed as criminals when questioning the various bills that are received for the $180.00 service which in a large number of cases is not used very much or mostly not at all. Failure to pay on time (to Eastern Waste Management) results in immediate interest charges, court charges, the down grading of one's credit rating, and having one's account passed over to collection agencies. It is absolutely amazing how and why our government has given the waste management boards this type of abrupt authority. Sad to say this is quite intimidating for most people and will not be forgotten very quickly when your government seeks re-election within the next 2 years.

In order for this to work we all need to be more cooperative and for government to be more open for everyone's consultation. The ministerial letter to you dated December 14, 2015 from Premier Dwight Ball when you were appointed to cabinet highlighted such items as openness, transparency, and accountability. To ensure that policy decisions in government are informed by research, evidence, and evaluation so that citizens can understand how and why decisions are made. The Premier says that his government's decisions are also informed by engagement with stakeholders to ensure everyone's voices are heard.

In an article published in The Western Star by Diane Crocker dated November 1, 2017 entitled “Joyce says a study of Newfoundland and Labrador's waste management strategy is needed,” you noted that after 15 years and $150 million spent, Newfoundland and Labrador is going to evaluate the implementation of it's waste management strategy. It is indicated that a lot of concerns have been raised by the various waste management boards; however, the same applies to us cabin owners and in that regard we are requesting that our concerns should be heard and considered as well. This is not an unreasonable request and we are hopeful that you will ensure that it is accommodated.

Thank you for your time and attention, and a response would be appreciated at your earliest.

Regards,
Now 1610 members. Could be headed for demonstration at confederation building and one ERSB headquarters Majors Path.
FYI. I believe author means Brigus Junction

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]  
Date: January 31, 2018 at 10:30:41 GMT-3:30  
To: "COATT (Cabin Owners against Trash Tax)" <253812185139408@groups.facebook.com>  
Subject: Re: [COATT ( Cabin Owners against Trash Tax )] I know u all on pins and needles wanting to know...  
Reply-To: Reply to Comment <g+409awl30000000bywky60033mc6tvfcu000000bywky63oc46@groups.facebook.com>

...commented on your post in COATT (Cabin Owners against Trash Tax).

and you were going alone!

Comment History

Briggs junction this morning a day or two after garbage pick up, what a joke, cleaner environment, lets c how long this stays there

Both Ministers Joyce and Croaker appeared to be very critical of how the waste management strategy is being administered. It has to be understood that if the legislation put together by the previous PC government doesn't give much flexibility then what ERSB is saying is something that the current government has to address and that is why Minister Joyce is requesting a legal opinion for review at the next meeting. However the fact that other Boards are being somewhat flexible in administering the waste strategy in other regions makes what ERSB's are saying as very questionable.

Same goes on here In salmonier too yes it is a joke but its a money grabbing joke worst of it !!!!
For information purposes the attendees are our meeting were: Minister Eddie Joyce, Minister Steve Croaker, MHAs Pam Parsons and Betty Parsley, an assistant (????) from Tom Osborne's office, Heather Tizzard - ADM Municipal Infrastructure and Support, Randy Simms - assistant from Minister Joyce's office, Ed Grant - chair of ERSD, Ken Kelly - Chief Administrative Officer ERSD, Bradley Power - Board Clerk/Outreach Coordinator ERSB, David Crawford COATT, Joe Howell COATT, and Brett Wareham COATT.

Do u mind if I tweet this out to vocm?

I know u all on pins and needles wanting to know how meeting went. I want to thank Brett M Wareham and Joe Howell who voiced their opinions/thoughts. We gained support from liberal MHAs Ed Joyce, Steve Crocker, Pam Parsons and Betty Parsley who were for a 50% reduction for seasonal cabin owners. ERSB (Ed Grant) not budging and not negotiable on subject. More meetings will be arranged after the government investigates into matter further. More info to follow on this tomorrow. Brett, Joe please add any points u wish to make the group aware of.
Potential copyright material

If you wish to obtain a copy please contact the ATIPP Office at (709) 729-7072 or atipoffice@gov.nl.ca.
Brigus Junction today At 14.30  
all information redacted in accordance with S40(1)
ERSB looking after the environment and cabin areas. We never had garbage problems until government allowed them into our clean domains.

Sent from my iPad
Buckle, Joy

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [Redacted]
Date: February 11, 2018 at 16:27:02 GMT-3:30
To: "COATT (Cabin Owners against Trash Tax)" <253812185139408@groups.facebook.com>
Subject: [COATT (Cabin Owners against Trash Tax)] So this is the mess I drove by today in Mill rd...
Reply-To: Reply to Comment
<e+4075zb18000000bywky60035gxhr8ej3000zg435tla73on46@groups.facebook.com>

add a photo in COATT (Cabin Owners against Trash Tax).

So this is the mess I drove by today in Mill rd Brigus Junction. F...ing decusing.
all information redacted in accordance with S40(1)

The message was sent to [blackened]. If you don't want to receive these emails from Facebook in the future, please unsubscribe.

Facebook, Inc., Attention: Community Support, 1 Hacker Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Hi Valerie,

Attached, for your Minister and Deputy Minister's information, is an email from [redacted] regarding signs that have been placed all over the Avalon regarding cabin taxes.

Thank you,
Joanne

-----< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number: ICOR2018/0323-05
Title: Additional Correspondence RE: Fwd: COATT facebook page
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]
Date: March 5, 2018 at 10:57:17 GMT-3:30
To: hereandnow.nl@cbc.ca, nightline@vocm.com
Subject: Fwd: COATT

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]
Date: March 5, 2018 at 10:55:25 GMT-3:30
To: online@vocm.com
Subject: COATT

The vet 2000 members and still climbing. COATT signs are being erected all over the Avalon, Majors Path, Irving n TCH, Mahers, ocean pond, Brigus Junction, 9 Mile road, Gould pond Whitbourne, Placentia junction, and many more. At least 20 more to be put up the week.
12" high x 24" wide 4mm coro signs quantity x6

JOIN COATT facebook group
CABIN OWNERS AGAINST TRASH TAX
Potential copyright material

If you wish to obtain a copy please contact the ATIPP Office at (709) 729-7072 or atippoffice@gov.nl.ca.
So sad that they expect us to stoop so low. Throw our garbage here what a mess that will be. They haven't got the clue. So if we did that without the sign we be charged a hefty fine. This is terrible what are they thinking.

Notice say residential when placed in cabin area ???

P.S. this posted on Facebook group COATT now at 1596 members and growing. Some interesting reading on that site. Sent from my iPad
ICOR2018-0485
Hi Valerie,

Attached is an email from [redacted] regarding cabin owners waste management issues and provincial waste management strategy.

Please have the Premier copied on the Minister's response and email a copy to premier@gov.nl.ca account.

Thank you,
Joanne

-----< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number:   ICOR2018/0485
Title:   Email from [redacted] regarding cabin owners waste management issues and provincial waste management strategy
The attached documents are for you information and we would request your support in dealing with the many issues surrounding the waste management strategy as administered and managed by the Eastern Regional Service Board.

Thank you for your time and attention.

PS. The same information will be forwarded to PC and NDP MHAs.
February 2, 2018

To: All MHAs, Directors of ER SB, News Media

Re. The Province’s Waste Management Strategy and Eastern Regional Service Board vs Avalon Peninsula Cabin Owners’ views / issues on administration and management.

On behalf of the Avalon Peninsula cabin owners I am writing to express our disagreement with how Eastern Regional Service Board (ER SB) is arbitrarily collecting garbage fees in areas outside of rural municipalities, local service districts, and unincorporated communities. The issues that we are raising can probably be viewed by some as trivial in nature but which financially impacts on cabin owners around the province as very few have requested this service or avails of it. We want to emphasize the point that this is not about ignoring environmental issues as we are 100% committed to supporting such initiatives but not under what we believe are false pretenses.

While many letters have been written regarding this matter the subsequent responses does not at all deal with the issues raised but rather generally outlines the fact that ER SB has been given the authority by the previous PC government to do whatever it wants in carrying out its mandate irrespective of what people might think and if there is opposition then it is made very clear that ER SB has the legislative authority to enforce its activities. In that regard enforcement letters have subsequently been sent and are continuing to be sent to cabin owners billing them for $180.00, and failure to pay will result in ongoing interest charges, court action, accounts turned over to collection agencies with the result that people’s credit rating can / could be down graded. We as cabin owners / tax payers / honest citizens are not at all impressed with how this initiative is being administered and enforced, and what appeared to be fully supported by the PC government of the day. Fortunately the government at that time has been shown the door given the way it operated in its latter years and we are therefore hopeful that the new Liberal government will be much more transparent and give reasonable consideration for the concerns that we have with this matter.

The Provincial Waste Management Strategy was developed in the early 2000s and its goals were to divert 50% of the materials going to disposal by 2010, to reduce the number of waste disposal sites by 80%, to eliminate open burning at disposal sites by 2005 and phase out the use of incinerators by 2008, to phase out the use of unlined landfill sites by 2010, and to implement full province-wide modern waste management by 2010. The focus of the strategy was geared toward municipalities, local service districts, and unincorporated communities. Cabin areas in that regard were not a part of this strategy and in our view should not be included as 99% of the cabin owners live full time outside of the cabin areas where they pay taxes for garbage collection and subsequently support waste management activities. As indicated by ER SB Section 24 of the Regional Service Board Act, 2012, grants ER SB the authority to charge user fees and Section 4 of the Eastern Regional Service Board Regulations, 2013, allows ER SB to recover these fees by civil action in a court and does not require the concurrence of a municipality, local service district or unincorporated area in order for the fee to be applied. No reference is specifically made to cabin areas and their inclusion in this strategy.

The greater majority of cabin owners only use their properties on a weekend / seasonal basis and as they pay associated taxes at their primary residences it is where they bring their small amounts of garbage for disposal. While only a few cabins appear to avail of the ER SB service, all cabin owners are charged $180.00 for the collection of garbage. Based on this example we are confident that it illustrates what is happening in those cabin areas where ER SB feels it is
able to enforce it's game plan. Given the fact that few requested or supports this service and that the actual compliance rate is extremely low then this appears to be exactly as it looks - a money grab by Eastern Regional Service Board with those affected having absolutely no say in the whole process. Cabin owners are “cash cows” and we fully believe that the plan is to milk us for additional money to help pay for ERSBs’ overall expenses.

As indicated earlier the greater majority of cabin owners do not use their cabins as their primary residence. They are weekend getaways where people spend a couple of days per week on a semi-regular basis and in a lot of cases the cabins are shut down in the fall and winter months. The small amount of garbage that is generated is carted back to the primary residence where taxes are assessed for such service and it is then collected as regular garbage. Outside of that there is also the option for anyone who spends a little more time at their cabins to bring the garbage directly to a central dump site such as Robin Hood Bay. 99% of cabin owners are environmental conscious and this has never been a problem and it worked quite well. An independent assessment would certainly confirm that the greater majority of cabin owners are very responsible in keeping their properties clean and tidy, and the need for this collection service does not exist. Also the fact that many cabin owners are maintaining the access roads at their own expense is not at all recognized by ERSB which uses these roads for the garbage collection service. ERSB does whatever it wants and is not answerable to anyone.

There is also the affordable factor for many cabin owners as not all owners have the financial ability to absorb extra expenses such as the $180 service charge while they have already paid for this service where they live full time. It seems that it was the belief of the PC government of the day that all Newfoundlanders and Labradarians prospered quite well in 2000 onward when the province was enjoying an oil rich economy. It was and is a tremendous lack of understanding that the majority are financially just getting by. Not everyone was making the “big” bucks as most are making modest or low end salaries which translates into living day to day – pay cheque to pay cheque. When you include retirees into the mix it further compounds the affordability factor given that many are just getting by as well. This is also illustrated further when one looks at a lot of the older cabins which were built by the owners and are nothing fancy, very modest, and built from scratch with whatever was available. No doubt this approach has changed somewhat in recent years and a fair portion of the newer “cabins” are homes away from homes. The fact remains however that the majority are fairly modest which truly reflects on the financial ability of cabin owners and their ability to absorb such extra costs.

There is an online site entitle Cabin Owners Against (the) Trash Tax (COATT) where cabin owners are expressing frustration with how and why ERSO with government's blessing is administering and enforcing the provincial waste management strategy with regard to the implementing of the cabin garbage collection service. The comments are not great and the site has over 1600 participants / viewers and is growing every day. It is recommended that the site should be viewed to get an appreciation of what is going on.

Also attached is a summary of issues raised on the site that further outlines what cabin owners are subject to with regard to ERSO's implementation / administration / management of the garbage service around the Avalon area.
SUMMARY

Re. ISSUES - CABIN OWNERS GARBAGE COLLECTION AND FEES

Background: The Provincial Waste Management Strategy was developed in the early 2002 by the then PC government and its goals were to divert 50% of the materials going to disposal by 2010, to reduce the number of waste disposal sites by 80%, to eliminate open burning at disposal sites by 2005 and phase out the use of incinerators by 2008, to phase out the use of unlined landfill sites by 2010, and to implement full province-wide modern waste management by 2010. The focus of the strategy was geared toward municipalities, local service districts, and unincorporated communities. There was no indication publicly that cabin areas were to be part of the strategy as 99% of the cabin owners live full time within the various municipalities, etc where they pay taxes for various services including garbage collection and subsequently support the province's waste management strategy.

In the summer of 2014 a number of cabin areas were advised that effective January 2015 a waste collection service would be provided on a weekly basis and a recycling service on a bi-weekly basis, and a fee of $180 would apply. This came 'out of the blue' and without any prior notice that such a service was even being considered or requested. It was made very clear that cabin owners would have absolutely no say in what was going to happen and that the fee had to be paid otherwise action regarding collection would be taken against the owners. Since 2015 the Eastern Regional Service Board has expanded and continued an invasion of cabin areas. Whether the areas were accessible in the winter time or not from ERSB's perspective made no difference as to how these areas were “directly” serviced and the fees that had to be paid remained the same.

Recently Minister Joyce convened a meeting to discuss what cabin owners describe as this cabin garbage debacle. In attendance were representatives from ERSB, cabin owners, Municipal Affairs staff, and various MHAs. Another meeting is scheduled to further discuss the administration of waste management on the Avalon and we are hopeful that a reasonable amount of progress will be made at that time.

In the meantime the following issues are for your information to give you an appreciation of what cabin owners are experiencing as a result of how the previous PC government created the mess we are in today and our frustration with how ERSB is arbitrarily implementing and administrating the so called cabin garbage collection service.

1. NO CONSULTATION: While it is our understanding that the various waste management boards discussed government's waste management strategy with municipalities and got feedback on how it was to be administrated, there was absolutely no discussion with cabin owners. They were just told that effective January 2015 a waste collection service would be undertaken and a fee of $180.00 would be charge for each property. We had absolutely no say in what was to happen and that is the way it is still done today.

2. FEW CABIN PARTICIPANTS: The service started in 2015 with few directly participating and while most owners are now paying the $180.00 fee as a result of ERSB intimidation policy very few are actually availing of the service as they only spend weekends and holidays at their properties. Owners who do not live full time at cabin sites believe that they are already contributing to the provincial waste management strategy by paying taxes in communities, towns, and cities where they reside full time. It can be noted that Eastern Regional Service
Board (ERSB) indicated that “if unincorporated property owners i.e. cabin owners, do not pay for the garbage collection service, it means other property owners within municipal boundaries are required to pay extra.” As 99% of cabin owners live full time within municipal boundaries then ERSB is expecting that we must pay extra, which according to what is said is extremely unreasonable and unfair.

3. **INTIMIDATION STRATEGY:** Cabin owners had a problem in paying the $180.00 fee and most refused to pay resulting in Eastern Waste Management immediately charging interest on unpaid accounts, turning accounts over to collection agencies, taking people to court for non payment, and having one’s credit rating down graded. It is because of this intimidation strategy approved and supported by both the PC and Liberal governments that owners are reluctantly paying the $180.00 collection fee. We are talking about 99% honest and law abiding citizens who feel totally threatened and absolutely insulted by this process, and that feeling will not go away. Recently as an example on TV (Eastlink) there was a notice from the Eastern Regional Service Board to Eastern Region property owners saying that Canada Post had returned mailed out invoices without a post office number. The Board made it very clear that owners had to provide their P O box number otherwise interest would be applied to their account.

4. **CABIN OWNERS WASTE MANAGEMENT:** Prior to 2015 99% of cabin owners ensured that their cabin properties were properly looked after and kept clean and respectable, and that is the way it still is today. This however was never recognized by the previous PC government and the various waste management boards, and is another major insult to cabin owners. And it also has to be noted that cabin owners are not at all impressed with ERSB’s establishment of bulk garbage drop off sites where residential garbage has to be placed from January 1st to March 1st. These sites have the potential to attract rodents and have the garbage scattered everywhere making a terrible mess of the surrounding country. The irony is that in ERSB’s news release dated July 21, 2015 where it promotes the $180 garbage collection fee it is stated that “we need to keep our province healthy and beautiful. It’s up to us to take good care of the environment and ensure that generations to come are able to enjoy it as much as we do.”

5. **CASH COWS:** It is fully believed that the various waste management boards have only included cabin properties in the waste management strategy so as to collect extra money to help pay for the overall provincial waste management strategy. We are basically taxed twice: where we live full time and where we live on a part time seasonal basis with little or no garbage to be collected.

6. **GARBAGE COLLECTION NOT PROVIDED AS ADVERTISED:** In a news release from Eastern Regional Service Board dated July 21, 2016 it was indicated that for an annual fee of $180 all property owners will have access to weekly waste collection, biweekly recyclable collection, bulk pick up and household hazardous waste disposal. Cabin owners at many locations have indicated that a fair amount of garbage is not picked up on a regular basis and in the winter there are only bulk residential drop off sites covering the period January 1st to March 1st. The service fee of $180 is for 12 months of service as indicated in the news release however as that is not the case then how is the service and fee justified?

7. **SERVICE FEES DIFFERENT BETWEEN BOARDS:** It is our understanding that different service fees are available depending on where you live in the province and it is viewed as a biased approach if parts of the province is being treated differently than the other. From what we understand the waste management strategy has been approved for the whole province and
legislated accordingly so why would government allow cabin owners in the Eastern Region to be billed at a higher rate and different rules than elsewhere? We are all Newfoundlanders / Labradorians tax payers and are not at all impressed with how the Eastern Regional Service Board with government's blessing is so very aggressive in promoting the provincial waste management strategy along with an increase in fees compared to other regions.

Example #1: The Burin Peninsula Regional Service Board has decided to not service Davis Cove based on the fact that Davis Cove does not have a maintained road. The residents of Davis Cove will be responsible for transporting their garbage to the intersection of Davis Cove - Monkstown access road to the area designated for a drop-off bin. This drop-off container will be provided by the community of Davis Cove and then Davis Cove will have to request the Board's service. On the Avalon such options are not permitted by the ERSB and despite the fact that a fair number of cabins are located on un-maintained roads the various cabin owners still receive invoices for the $180 service charge.

Example #2: The Burin Peninsula Regional Service Board has also decided that for the areas between Monkstown and Grand Bank, the fee structure will allow for residents paying full collection rates in a serviced area to only pay half the annual collection rate for a cabin in another serviced area (municipality or LSD). On the Avalon the ERSB will charge cabin owners the full service fee of $180 even though the owner resides and pays taxes at his primary residence.

Example #3: Avalon cabin owners are charge $180 for the service fee. On the Burin Peninsula it is 50% less and on the Northern Peninsula it is 32% less.

8. FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: It has been announced that these services will begin January 1, 2017 at a annual fee of $50.00. While cabin owners feel that these are great services there are many concerns as to how effective and realistic they will be with regard to how long will it take fire departments to respond to cabin fires and how will such cabin locations both near and far be identified? Also given the remoteness of cabins it would be appreciated knowing how fire fighting would be addressed as there are no fire hydrants available so tanker trucks will be required to effectively fight fire issues. Has a plan been developed by ERSB to ensure that this will work or as many are saying is it just another money grab?

9. LEGAL ACTION: It has been recommended by many cabin owners that legal action should be considered regarding how government's waste management strategy is being administered and addressed. This involves inconsistencies between boards, inconsistencies as to how garbage is collected from one cabin area to the other, how it is managed on a season by season basis, how it is having a negative impact on the environment, etc.

As a final comment it would be very interesting for Eastern Regional Service Board to provide statistical information on how acceptable their administration of the waste management strategy is to cabin owners in the Eastern Region. The information would include the following for 2015, 2016, and 2017:

1. How many cabin owners are billed at $180 for the garbage collection service?
2. How many cabin owners are charged interest on their accounts?
3. How many cabin owners accounts have been turned over to collection agencies?
4. How many cabin owners have been taken to court for non payment?
Good Afternoon...

Please find attached copy of response letter to [REDACTED]

Thanks, Valerie

-----Original Message-----
From: Premier of NL
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 4:31 PM
To: Glynn, Valerie <VGlynn@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: HPE Records Manager Incoming Correspondence : ICOR2018/0485 : ICOR2018/0485 [REDACTED]

Hi Valerie,

Attached is an email from [REDACTED] to Premier Ball and Minister Joyce regarding cabin owners waste management issues and provincial waste management strategy.

Please have the Premier copied on the Minister's response and email a copy to premier@gov.nl.ca account.

Thank you,
Joanne

-------< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number: ICOR2018/0485
Title: Email from [REDACTED] regarding cabin owners waste management issues and provincial waste management strategy
E-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing in response to your recent correspondence in which you outlined cabin owners' concerns regarding Eastern Regional Service Board (ERSB) and the Provincial Waste Management Strategy. I appreciate that this has been a significant issue for many cabin owners in Eastern region.

First of all, I'd like to thank you for participating in the recent meeting and for helping voice cabin owners' concerns to local MHAs, Ministers, and the ERSB Chair and staff. I greatly appreciated the opportunity for the roundtable discussion, and I look forward to continuing the conversation and clarifying responsibilities and potential solutions. In addition to the ongoing discussion around fees, officials from Municipal Affairs and Environment are working with ERSB to identify ways to address any potential environmental or safety concerns regarding winter residential waste drop-off locations.

I appreciate your view that cabin areas were not specifically addressed by the Provincial Waste Management Strategy. However, I would note that the Strategy envisioned a regional approach for the delivery of modern waste management services, in which regional authorities with representation from local governments would coordinate these services within designated regions. To this end, the regional service boards were established to enable the provision of these services on a cost-recovery basis to the various municipalities, local service districts, and unincorporated areas across the province. Any area outside of a town or a local service district, including cabin areas, would generally be considered an unincorporated area.

As I have consistently stated, the Regional Service Boards Act, 2012 provides the regional service boards with the authority to set fees to offset the expenses of delivering waste management services. How these fees are set is determined by the Board. I will continue to ensure the concerns of cabin owners are raised as I continue dialogue with the Board.

Finally, with respect to fire protection and emergency services, I can confirm that ERSB has been granted the authority to deliver these services on a limited basis for Salmonier Line.
and the surrounding area. The Department is willing to work with ERSB and any other communities or areas that may be interested in availing of these services, and the concerns that you’ve raised regarding response times, firefighting infrastructure in rural areas, and identifying cabin locations will be an important part of that decision-making process.

Again, thank you for taking the time to share your perspective and ideas on these issues. I look forward to continuing to work with ERSB as well as cabin owners throughout the region to improve the waste management services for the residents of Eastern region.

Sincerely,

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

cc: Honourable Premier Dwight Ball
    Hon. Steve Crocker, Minister of Transportation and Works
    Hon. Tom Osborne, Minister of Finance
    Ms. Pam Parsons, MHA
    Ms. Betty Parsley, MHA
    Mr. Ed Grant, Chair, Eastern Regional Service Board
    Mr. Danny Breen, Board Member, Eastern Regional Service Board
Buckle, Joy

From: Premier of NL
Sent: Thursday, March 8, 2018 1:45 PM
To: Glynn, Valerie
Subject: HPE Records Manager Incoming Correspondence: ICOR2018/0970: ICOR2018/0970
Attachments: E - and attached letter from [Redacted] To Premier Ball and Minister Joyce Re Provincial Waste Management Strategy and cabin garbage collection MSG

Hi Valerie,

Attached, for the attention of your Minister and Deputy Minister, is a letter from [Redacted] To Premier Ball and Minister Joyce regarding the Provincial Waste Management Strategy and cabin garbage collection.

Please have Premier Ball copied on the Minister's response and email a copy to premier@gov.nl.ca account.

Thank you,
Joanne

------< HPE Records Manager record Information >------

Record Number: ICOR2018/0970
Title: E-mail and attached letter from [Redacted] To Premier Ball and Minister Joyce Re: Provincial Waste Management Strategy and cabin garbage collection.
It is requested that the attached letter be forwarded to Premier Ball. It involves how the Eastern Regional Service Board is implementing and administering a cabin garbage collection service in eastern Newfoundland which is totally discriminatory compared to how the Western Waste Management Board deals with cabin owners on the west side of the Island. The current Liberal government should intervene and stop this biased approach as how the Province's Waste Management Strategy is implemented and administered.

Many more letters have also recently been written and are available for review.

Thank you,
March 5, 2018
Hon. Eddie Joyce, Minister
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O. Box 6700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

Re: Cabin Garbage Collection Service

Dear Minister Joyce,

On behalf of cabin owners I am again writing to express our concerns regarding Eastern Regional Service Board's (ERSB) implementation and administration of this so called cabin garbage collection service. Of all the letters submitted to date (to Mr. Grant dated Feb. 14, to Mr. Breen dated Feb. 19, and to yourself dated Feb. 9 and Feb. 25) no response has yet to be received. In the most recent letter sent to you dated Feb. 25 a formal request was made to have a meeting convened with cabin owners who would provide a very frank and honest discussion on the issues and concerns that Mr. Grant and the ERSB wishes to avoid. As Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment we are of the view that you would be interested in discussing issues that if not dealt with will have a negative impact on the Province's Waste Management Strategy. If you are unwilling or unable to accommodate our request we would appreciate being advised as to who else in government you would recommend that we can meet with.

It is a well known fact that the previous PC government instigated this cabin garbage collection service and authorized the various waste management boards to develop a plan to undertake implementation and administration in their respective areas. On the CBC radio Cross Talk Show on Feb. 28 we were advised that the Western Waste Management Board, which includes your's and the Premier's electoral districts, was much more accommodating in dealing with the cabin owners in it's area. It offers a garbage collection service to cabin owners on a "user pay basis." If you use the service you pay and if you don't use the service you don't pay. This is very accommodating for cabin owners who live on the Western side of the Island and is an absolutely 180 degree turn around as opposed to how the ERSB is dictating to and treating cabin owners who live on the Eastern side of the Island. It is extremely discriminatory and something that we would expect government to address. While it is noted that the previous PC government appeared to support ERSB in aggressively "attacking" the cabin owners in the eastern region we strongly request that your Liberal government intervene and correct this terrible cabin garbage collection service that is unwanted, unused, and "hated" by 99% of seasonal cabin owners. We are convinced that if the western cabin owners were treated by the western board the same way that we are treated by ERSB then a government intervention would certainly have happened by now.

In the meantime I recently discovered your response to a letter dated March 24, 2016 that I sent to you and Minister Perry Trimmer outlining a number of issues that cabin owners where having with this cabin garbage service. One item that I inquired about was to explain if there was a consistency in how the various boards operated when implementing and administrating the Province's Waste Management Strategy. Your response dated April 22, 2016 indicated the following: Government is supportive of the regional service boards as they work to implement modern waste management systems throughout the province. Board members are challenged to consider the varying views of all
residents and the requirements of a regional system when establishing policies regarding services and fees. The reality of seven individual boards means that policies and fees may not always be consistent across the province. However, it is anticipated that cabin areas will be included where boards deem it practical to include these properties as part of a regional collection service. I assume that the response was drafted by ERSB staff as a justification for the very biased approach that they are taking with regard to aggressively pursuing its cabin garbage collection service as compared to what and how other boards were operating. The fact that you signed this letter has given us all the understanding that you agree with the discriminating way that cabin owners are treated in the East compared to the West. We are absolutely amazed by this as it is something that should not be tolerated or ignored by a government that represents ALL Newfoundlanders and Labradorians no matter where we live. Based on this I have been strongly advised by cabin owners that this should be raised with Premier Hohn whose Liberal government must explain and defend such a policy. A copy of this letter is being sent to the Premier's office for a response that will be posted on COATT when received.

As you are aware the Cabin Owners Against (the) Trash Tax (COATT) is a very active online site where more and more cabin owners are expressing their disagreement with this cabin garbage collection service and how ERSB is administering it. The site is growing and the frustration expressed is increasing day by day. As an example of the hundreds of comments made on the site let me quote this particular one made by a lady who, like us all, is extremely tormented and frustrated with what is going on: "I have started paying off the fee in 10 monthly instalments. I CAN NOT have them take me to Small Claims for not paying it. If they do, my name will be on the court docket which my employer or some co-workers would more than likely see and there goes my job as there would be an action against me and I can't have an action against me. It's not like its innocent until proven guilty because has anyone ever won it yet that had gone to court. I definitively am against it. I have written my MLA, my MP, Mr. Grant, Mr. Joyce, and I have been on open line too. It's not like I gave my name or my address or anything like that. My Deed to my cabin is not even registered at the Registry of Deeds, and I have no power to do so how the xxxx did they even get my name in the first place. I am only seasonal, and live in a Town where I pay my town taxes. I have just started asking to receive a receipt every month from ERSB for my monthly payment. I don't love the service. I hate it. I always take my little Coleman's bag of garbage home with me when I am at the cabin. I will continue to do it. I never asked for the service. I don't want the service, but I can't take a chance in loosing my job over it. My employer wouldn't understand. Many employees and everyone has their story on something. I just have to stay off the court docket. I need my job to pay the bills and living life.

If questioned on how its cabin garbage collection policy is being accepted ERSB will no doubt brag that many cabin owners are paying the $180.00 fee which in it's view means that these cabin owners love this service. The true fact however is that the ERSB's "intimidation" collection policy is why many are paying given the fact that if you do not pay you will be charged interest on your account and/or you will be taken to court and/or your account will be turned over to collection agencies which will have a negative impact on your credit rating. It is absolutely unbelievable that your government supports this very aggressive policy that is primarily applied to cabin owners in Eastern Newfoundland.

The question is: how can the current government support ERSB in how it has implemented and is administering this cabin garbage collection service given the tremendous frustration and growing anger that cabin owners are having with this approach? We are sincere, honest, hard working, law abiding citizens whose views and opinions appear to be totally ignored by ERSB and by the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment.

Minister Joyce, this is not going away and most of us are of the view that if our concerns are expressed
in a reasonable and polite nature (as has been done to date) then government will indeed recognize that these concerns and issues are legitimate. Based on this it is believed the Liberal government will address this without further delay. Yes the various boards are independent but only because government made them independent; however, they are not fully independent outside of government's legislative jurisdiction. We assume that as Minister you do have a degree of influence and authority with regard to how these boards operate and, if not, then government's overall authority is highly questionable with regard to how it operates and represents ALL of the citizens of this Province.

It is therefore not unreasonable to expect a response in a reasonable length of time.

Regards,

[Redacted]

cc COATT
cc [Redacted]
cc Government representatives at the previous Jan. 30th meeting
cc Premier Dwight Ball
Hi Valerie,

Attached, for the attention of your Minister and Deputy Minister, is a email from [REDACTED] regarding Cabin Garbage Tax.

Please copy the Premier on the Minister's response and email a copy to premier@gov.nl.ca account within 10 business days.

Thank you,

Joanne

--------< HPE Records Manager record Information >--------

Record Number: ICOR2018/1005
Title : Email from [REDACTED] regarding Cabin Garbage Tax
We need help. We need someone to step up to the plate and help us abolish this tax grab. I live in [redacted] and pay for my garbage pick up. I go to my cabin and create a small bag of garbage after a weekend and I bring it home where my garbage gets picked up. Some people have put out their garbage now for 5 weeks in a row and it’s still not picked up. That is unfair and that is the service they are getting for $180. We have a group of over 2,000 cabin owners set and none of us want this service. That’s a lot of votes.

On the west coast they have a user pay system, why can’t we have this? We have reached out to Minister Joyce and he tells us that Eastern Waste Management has the right to charge what they want. Someone has higher authority than them and we need to find out who it is. This had to be legislated in by who??

Hoping you can help us out with this.

Thanks
Hon Dwight Ball,

I am writing this letter in regards to Eastern Waste Management and who gave them the authority to charge us what they like for picking up garbage in Cabin Country. I live in [redacted] and in one week I only have one half bag of garbage to put out. This is my second letter and no response. Why is it on the west coast it is user pay? Who would give those people the authority to charge us a fee of $180 for a service we don’t want or need? Why can’t someone respond to us?

We have contacted Minister Joyce and he’s doing nothing for us.

We have formed a group on Facebook called COATT and now we have over 2000 people. They are all writing their MHA and get nothing back. I don’t understand this. All we know is their will soon be an election and I guess our votes will be needed.

Please respond.

Sent from my iPad
Hon Dwight Ball,
Forwarding my letter to the Department of Municipal Affairs is a total waste of time. We’ve already sent many letters to them with no response. Our problem is paying $180 a yr for a service that we are not receiving. Some people have had their garbage out now for 6 weeks and still not picked up. Can’t believe that no one sees a problem with this. It’s you the Premier that needs to intervene on our behalf. It seems that Minister Joyce has washed his hands of us. Just wondering if the residents of the west had our problem what would happen then? They have a user pay system which is what we want.

Thanks

Sent from my iPad

> On Mar 16, 2018, at 4:35 PM, Premier of NL <Premier@gov.nl.ca> wrote:
> 
> > Dear 
> > 
> > > Your correspondence has been forward to the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment for review. A response is forthcoming.
> > > Kind regards,
> > > Premier's Correspondence Unit
> > > Office of the Premier
> > > Executive Council
> > > Government of Newfoundland & Labrador
> > > 8th Floor East Block, Confederation Complex P.O. Box 8700, St. John's
> > > NL A1B 4J6
> > > 709-729-3570 | premier@gov.nl.ca
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > > -----Original Message-----
> > > From: 
> > > Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 6:05 PM
> > > To: Premier of NL <Premier@gov.nl.ca>
> > > Subject: EWM
> > >
> > > Hon Dwight Ball,
> > > Two emails and still no response about our garbage tax that we don't want. We already pay once for garbage pick up, why should we pay twice?
But at least we got a response from Che's Crosbie, so that is promising.

Sent from my iPad

"This email and any attached files are intended for the sole use of the primary and copied addressee(s) and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. Any distribution, use or copying by any means of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender."
Hi Valerie,

Attached is an email from [REDACTED] to Premier Ball and Minister Joyce regarding cabin garbage service.

Please have the Premier copied on the Minister response and email a copy to premier@gov.nl.ca account.

Thank you,

Joanne

----< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number:   ICOR2018/1147
Title:   Email from [REDACTED] to Premier Ball RE:Open letter to cabin owners regarding so called cabin garbage service
all information redacted in accordance with S40(1)

Buckle, Joy

From: Ball, Dwight
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 1:29 PM
To: Premier of NL
Subject: FW: Open letter to cabin owners regarding so called cabin garbage service
Attachments: Open Letter re. cabin garbage collection # 3.pdf

From: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 9:37 PM
To: Ball, Dwight <DwightBall@gov.nl.ca>; Bennett, Cathy (MHA) <CBennett@gov.nl.ca>; Coady, Siobhan <SiobhanCoady@gov.nl.ca>; Hawkins, Allan <AllanHawkins@gov.nl.ca>; Parsons, Andrew <AndrewParsons@gov.nl.ca>; Petten, Barry <BarryPetten@gov.nl.ca>; Davis, Bernard <BernardDavis@gov.nl.ca>; Parsley, Betty <BettyParsley@gov.nl.ca>; Warr, Brian <BrianWarr@gov.nl.ca>; Haley, Carol Anne <CarolAnneHaley@gov.nl.ca>; Mitchemore, Christopher <CMitchemore@gov.nl.ca>; Holloway, Colin <ColinHolloway@gov.nl.ca>; Kirby, Dale <DaleKirby@gov.nl.ca>; Bennett, Derek <DerekBennett@gov.nl.ca>; Bragg, Derrick <DerrickBragg@gov.nl.ca>; Joyce, Eddie <EJoyce@gov.nl.ca>; Byrne, Gerry <GerryByrne@gov.nl.ca>; Dean, Jerry <JerryDean@gov.nl.ca>; Finn, John <JFinn@gov.nl.ca>; Haggie, John <JHaggie@gov.nl.ca>; Dempster, Lisa <LDempster@gov.nl.ca>; markbrown@gov.nl.ca; King, Neil <NeilKing@gov.nl.ca>; Parsons, Pam <PamParsons@gov.nl.ca>; Trimper, Perry <PerryTrimper@gov.nl.ca>; Edmunds, Randy <RandyEdmunds@gov.nl.ca>; Reid, Scott <ScottReid@gov.nl.ca>; sherrygambinwalset@gov.nl.ca; Crocker, Steve <SteveCrocker@gov.nl.ca>; Osborne, Tom <toscborne@gov.nl.ca>

Subject: Open letter to cabin owners regarding so called cabin garbage service

The attached is for your information.
Open letter to cabin owners regarding waste management garbage collection and associated fees.

We live in a democracy where governments are elected democratically but then generally govern autocratically. Regrettably ALL governments are alike in that regard as we have experienced first hand with the previous PC's and the current Dwight Ball Liberals. Nothing changes irrespective of how one voices one's opinion as after a political party wins an election your views are generally considered stupid and irrelevant until the next election rolls around and then it starts all over again.

The Provincial Waste Management Strategy was developed in the early 2000s. The focus of the strategy was geared toward municipalities, local service districts, and unincorporated communities. Initially cabin areas were never publicly identified as being part of this strategy and rightly so as the greater majority of cabin owners live full time outside of their cabin areas where they pay taxes for garbage collection and subsequently support waste management activities. To date seven waste management boards have been established on the island. No doubt the boards, made up of representatives from the various cities, towns, and community councils, are looking for ways to decrease or maintain the costs of providing garbage collection services in their respective areas and cabin areas are certainly seen as cash cows in that regard.

In 2015 selected cabin owners on the Avalon Peninsula were included in the waste management strategy and this has now been extended to include all cabin areas. This came about without any prior notice that such a service was being considered or requested and a fee of $180.00 per property per year is assessed irrespective if one availed of the service or not. Interest is charged on unpaid accounts, collection agencies are engaged, your credit rating is affected, and people are taken to court for non-payment. The previous PC government obviously knew that this would not be an easy sell so “quiet” legislation was passed in 2012/13 which gave the respective waste management boards the authority to do all of the above.

The whole process is very dictatorial and appeared to be a hallmark of the previous PC administration and regrettably it is embraced by the current Liberal government. It goes without saying that as the greater majority of cabin owners are not in favour of or participate in the service then it becomes an extremely contentious issue and will not go away. The fact that 99% of cabin owners are properly disposing of their garbage by bringing it back to their primary residences, where taxes are paid for garbage collection services, is not at all recognized or considered. It is not that cabin owners don’t believe in or undertake their own action in protecting our environment it is the fact that the Eastern Regional Service Board (ERSB) is not prepared to recognize it and this is supported 100% by the Dwight Ball Liberals. Of course the respective waste management boards can simply use the legislation and the law to charge interest on unpaid accounts and sue accordingly with a big thank you to the Ministers who sponsored and support this process.

Despite being a provincial strategy the various boards are free to do whatever they feel is acceptable for their respective areas. Some boards will be very aggressive in promoting this waste management strategy, as we are seeing with the Eastern Regional Service Board, while other boards may not include cabin areas in their game plan or will develop a policy that is much more accommodating to everyone.

In that regard it is understood that the Western Waste Management Board has implemented a cabin garbage collection strategy that is based on a “user pay concept.” If you use the garbage collection service you pay, if don’t use the service you don’t pay. On the Avalon cabin owners are forced to pay if you use the service or not. This is a very discriminatory policy that is recognized and approved by the current Liberal government. If you live on the western part of the Island (electoral districts of a number of cabinet ministers, particularly those of Minister Joyce and premier Ball) you are treated differently then if you live on the eastern side of the Island. This is a very discriminatory process and a very biased approach despite the fact that we are ALL Newfoundlanders and Labradorians no matter were we live.

The fact remains that in order for this Provincial Waste Management Strategy to work it requires everyone to buy in and support the various initiatives. This requires in depth consultation with
everyone involved which did not occur regarding the cabin garbage collection service as administered by Eastern Regional Service Board. If the ERSB had recognized that cabin owners were properly disposing of their garbage and helping to protect the environment then a more realistic gameplan would have been to support and promote this activity (at minimal cost) as opposed to totally ignoring it, forceably charging a garbage collection fee, and then spending considerable money for contractors to collect the garbage. Given the fact that 99% of cabin owners still personally dispose of their own garbage it is a total waste of money as very little garbage is available for pick up by the various contractors.

For those cabin owners who have not been affected as yet it is something that requires your attention given the fact that government supports the dictatorial way in which this strategy is administered. Pleased be advised that the online Facebook site entitled Cabin Owners Against Trash Tax (COATT) is fully activated where cabin owners daily express their frustration and concerns over why and how this so called cabin garbage collection service is forced upon us. You are encouraged to join this site and express your views as well.

The point to be noted here is that if you own a cabin in Newfoundland be prepared to pay a garbage collection fee irrespective whether you use the service or not and without any consultation or say in this whole process.
Hi Valerie,

Attached, for the attention of your Minister and Deputy Minister, is a letter from [REDACTED] to Premier Ball regarding government's approved discriminatory policy - the implementation of the province's waste management strategy on the Avalon Peninsula.

We are requesting a response on behalf of the Premier. Please copy the Premier on the response and email a copy to premier@gov.nl.ca account within 10 business days.

Thank you,
Joanne

-----< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number:  ICOR2018/1329
Title :  Letter from [REDACTED] to Premier Ball regarding Government's approved discriminatory policy regarding the implementation of the province's waste management strategy on the Avalon Peninsula
March 26, 2018

Premier Dwight Ball
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6


Dear Premier Ball,

The Province's Waste Management Strategy was developed in the early 2000s and its goals were to divert 50% of the materials going into disposal by 2010, to reduce the number of waste disposal sites by 80%, to eliminate open burning at disposal sites by 2005 and phase out the use of incinerators by 2008, to phase out the use of unlined landfill sites by 2010, and to implement full province-wide modern waste management by 2010. The focus of the strategy was geared toward municipalities, local service districts, and unincorporated communities. Cabin areas were not initially identified as being part of this strategy and the greater majority of cabin owners have absolutely no problem with that as 99% of cabin owners live full time outside of their cabin areas where they pay taxes for garbage collection and subsequently support waste management activities by bringing their very small amount of weekend garbage home for proper disposal.

Despite the fact that most cabin owners were /are very environmentally conscious it was never acknowledged or recognized by the Eastern Regional Service Board (ERSB) which forcefully implemented a cabin garbage collection service without due consideration or consultation. ERSB's mandate covers Eastern Newfoundland / Avalon Peninsula and it has become quite the frustrating experience for us to have either ERSB or your current Liberal government to address the many issues and concerns expressed by the greater majority of cabin owners.

It is a well known fact that the previous PC government instigated this cabin garbage collection service and authorized the various waste management boards to develop a plan to undertake implementation and administration in their respective areas as this is legislated as a Provincial (province-wide) Waste Management Strategy. On February 28, 2018 cabin owners participating on the CBC radio Cross Talk Show received a call and were advised that the Western Regional Waste Management Board, which includes your electoral district, was much more accommodating in dealing with the cabin owners in the western regional area. It offers a garbage collection service to cabin owners on a “user pay basis.” If you use the service you pay and if you don't use the service you don't pay whereas cabin owners on the eastern part of the Island are required to pay a collection fee whether you use the service or not. This user pay service is very accommodating for cabin owners who live on the western side of the Island as opposed to how the ERSB is dictating to and treating cabin owners who live on the eastern side of the Island. It is extremely discriminatory and something that your government was expected to address. While it is noted that the previous PC government supported ERSB in the way it very aggressively implemented and administers it's service activities, the cabin owners in the eastern region are now sincerely requesting that your Liberal government should intervene and correct this terrible cabin garbage collection service that is unwanted, unused, and “hated” by 99% of seasonal cabin owners. We are convinced that if the western cabin owners were treated by the western board the same way that we
are treated by the eastern board then a government intervention would certainly have taken place by now.

In the meantime a letter dated April 22, 2016 from Minister Joyce indicated the following: Government is supportive of the regional service boards as they work to implement modern waste management systems throughout the province. Board members are challenged to consider the varying views of all residents and the requirements of a regional system when establishing policies regarding services and fees. The reality of seven individual boards means that policies and fees may not always be consistent across the province. However, it is anticipated that cabin areas will be included where boards deem it practical to include these properties as part of a regional collection service. Cabin owners around the Avalon Peninsula are not at all impressed with what can be considered as government's justification for the very biased approach that ERSB is taking with regard to aggressively pursuing it's cabin garbage collection service as compared to what and how other boards are operating. This has given us all the understanding that your government agrees with the discriminating way that cabin owners are treated in the east compared to the west. We are absolutely amazed by this as it is something that should not be tolerated or ignored by a government that represents ALL Newfoundlanders and Labradoreans no matter where we live.

On Facebook there is a very active online site entitled Cabin Owners Against Trash Tax (COATT) where more and more cabin owners are expressing their disagreement with this cabin garbage collection service and how ERSB is administrating it. The site is growing and the frustration expressed is increasing day by day. As an example of the hundreds of comments made on the site let me quote this particular one made by a lady who, like us all, is extremely tormented and frustrated with what is going on: “I have started paying off the fee in 10 monthly instalments. I CAN NOT have them take me to Small Claims for not paying it. If they do, my name will be on the court docket which my employer or some co-workers would more than likely see and there goes my job as there would be an action against me and I can’t have an action against me. It’s not like its innocent until proven guilty because has anyone ever won it yet that had gone to court. I definitely am against it. I have written my MHA, my MP, Mr. Grant, Mr. Joyce, and I have been on open line too. It’s not like I gave my name or my address or anything like that. My Deed to my cabin is not even registered at the Registry of Deeds, and I have no power to it so how the XXXXX did they even get my name in the first place. I am only seasonal, and live in a Town where I pay my town taxes. I have just started asking to receive a receipt every month from ERSB for my monthly payment. I don’t love the service. I hate it. I always take my little Coleman’s bag of garbage home with me when I am at the cabin. I will continue to do it. I never asked for the service. I don’t want the service, but I can’t take a chance in losing my job over it. No my employer wouldn’t understand. Many employees and everyone has their story on something. I just have to stay off the court docket. I need my job to pay the bills and living life.

If questioned on how it’s cabin garbage collection policy is being accepted ERSB will no doubt brag that many cabin owners are paying the $180.00 fee which in it’s view means that these cabin owners love this service. The true fact however is that the ERSB’s “intimidation” collection policy is why many are paying given the fact that if you do not pay you will be immediately charged interest on your account and/or you will be taken to court and/or your account may be turned over to collection agencies which will have a negative impact on your credit rating. It is absolutely unbelievable that your government supports this very aggressive policy that is primarily only applied to cabin owners in Eastern Newfoundland.

The question is: how can the current Liberal government support ERSB on how it has implemented and is administrating this cabin garbage collection service given the tremendous frustration and growing
anger that cabin owners are having with this approach? We are sincere, honest, hard working, law abiding citizens whose views and opinions appear to be totally ignored.

Mr Premier, this is not going away and most of us are of the view that if our concerns are expressed in a reasonable and sincere way then government will indeed recognize that these concerns and issues are legitimate. Based on this many believe that your Liberal government will address this without further delay; however, to date it has fallen on deaf ears. Yes the various boards are independent but only because government made them independent; however, they are not fully independent outside of government’s legislative jurisdiction. We assume that as Premier you do have a degree of influence and authority with regard to how these boards operate and how your Ministers deal with such issues that have a very negative impact on a select number of the province’s citizens. As far as we are concerned, ALL Newfoundlanders and Labradorians should be treated equally with regard to the implementation of the Province’s Waste Management Strategy.

In your Mandate letter dated November 15, 2017 it is stated that public engagement is to ensure that government policy reflects the needs of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, that your government is focused on service excellence, and at the end of the day Newfoundlanders and Labradorians want to see results. If however your government is not prepared to give our concerns any due consideration and given the fact that cabin owners in Eastern Newfoundland are treated differently compared to the rest of the Province it is requested that your government explain how it supports and defends such a discriminatory policy.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Regards

cc COATT

40(1)
Buckle, Joy

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 8:37 PM
To: Premier of NL
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Letter to Premier Ball dated March 26, 2018
Attachments: Premier Ball.pdf

The attached letter dated March 26, 2018 was sent to Premier Ball via regular mail as well as emailed to the Premier via clerkofexecutivecoun@gov.nl.ca.

To date no response has been received.

Please advise when a response can be expected.

Thank you,
Hi Kaitlyn...

There is currently a draft response prepared for Minister Joyce's review and signature.

Hopefully, will be completed by week's end.

Val

-----Original Message-----
From: Premier of NL
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 10:35 AM
To: Glynn, Valerie <VGlynn@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: FW: HPE Records Manager Incoming Correspondence : ICOR2018/1329 : ICOR2018/1329

Hi Valerie,

Can you provide an update on the response to [redacted]

Thank you,
Kaitlyn

-----Original Message-----
From: Premier of NL
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 12:02 PM
To: Glynn, Valerie <VGlynn@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: HPE Records Manager Incoming Correspondence : ICOR2018/1329 : ICOR2018/1329

Hi Valerie,

Attached, for the attention of your Minister and Deputy Minister, is a letter from [redacted] to Premier Ball regarding government's approved discriminatory policy - the implementation of the province's waste management strategy on the Avalon Peninsula.

We are requesting a response on behalf of the Premier. Please copy the Premier on the response and email a copy to premier@gov.nl.ca account within 10 business days.

Thank you,
Joanne

-----< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number: ICOR2018/1329
all information redacted in accordance with S40(1)

Title: Letter from [REDACTED] to Premier Ball regarding Government's approved discriminatory policy regarding the implementation of the province's waste management strategy on the Avalon Peninsula.
A response has yet to be received regarding the attached letter dated March 25, 2018.

On April 25 I was advised that a response is in the works.

No response as yet.

Please advise when a response is possible.

Regards,
From: Ball, Dwight
Sent: Monday, May 7, 2018 12:03 PM
To: Premier of NL
Subject: FW: Cabin Garbage Collection Service
Attachments: MHA letter (1).pdf; Summary cabin garbage collection issues (2).pdf; Cabin garbage letter (3).pdf; Cabin garbage letter (4).pdf; Danny Breen letter (5).pdf; Minister Joyce meeting request (6).pdf; Minister Joyce March 2018 (7).pdf; Premier Ball (8).pdf; ERSB Directors.pdf

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, May 7, 2018 11:37 AM
To: Hawkins, Allan <AllanHawkins@gov.nl.ca>; Parsons, Andrew <AndrewParsons@gov.nl.ca>; Davis, Bernard <BernardDavis@gov.nl.ca>; Parsley, Betty <BettyParsley@gov.nl.ca>; Warr, Brian <BrianWarr@gov.nl.ca>; Haley, Carol Anne <CarolAnneHaley@gov.nl.ca>; Bennett, Cathy (MHA) <CBennett@gov.nl.ca>; Mitchelmore, Christopher <CMitchelmore@gov.nl.ca>; Holloway, Colin <ColinHolloway@gov.nl.ca>; Bennett, Derek <DerekBennett@gov.nl.ca>; Bragg, Derrick <DerrickBragg@gov.nl.ca>; Byrne, Gerry <GerryByrne@gov.nl.ca>; Letto, Graham <GrahamLetto@gov.nl.ca>; Dean, Jerry <JerryDean@gov.nl.ca>; Finn, John <JohnFinn@gov.nl.ca>; Haggie, John <JohnHaggie@gov.nl.ca>; Dempster, Lisa <LisaDempster@gov.nl.ca>; Browne, Mark <MarkBrowne@gov.nl.ca>; King, Neil <NeilKing@gov.nl.ca>; Parsons, Pam <PamParsons@gov.nl.ca>; Trimmer, Perry <PerryTrimmer@gov.nl.ca>; Ball, Dwight <DwightBall@gov.nl.ca>; Edmunds, Randy <RandyEdmunds@gov.nl.ca>; Reid, Scott <scottreid@gov.nl.ca>; Gambin, Sherry <SherryGambin@gov.nl.ca>; Siobhan Coady <siophancoady@gov.nl.ca>; Crocker, Steve <SteveCrocker@gov.nl.ca>; Osborne, Tom <tosborne@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: Petten, Barry <BarryPetten@gov.nl.ca>; Brazil, David J. <dbrazil@gov.nl.ca>; Lester, Jim <jimLester@gov.nl.ca>; Hutchings, Keith <keithhutchings@gov.nl.ca>; Parsons, Kevin <KevinParsons@gov.nl.ca>; Davis, Paul A (MHA- District of Topsail) <PADavis@gov.nl.ca>; Perry, Tracey <TraceyPerry@gov.nl.ca>; Kirby, Dale <DaleKirby@gov.nl.ca>; Joyce, Eddie <ejoyce@gov.nl.ca>; Lane, Paul <paulLane@gov.nl.ca>

Subject: Cabin Garbage Collection Service

The attached letters are for your information/update and all MHAs (especially those that represent the Avalon Peninsula districts) are requested to provide a response as to your views on how the cabin garbage collection service is implemented and administered as a Provincial Waste Management Strategy.

The main focus is how and why the cabin owners on the Avalon believe that we are being totally discriminated against, bullied, intimidated, and harassed by the Eastern Regional Service Board (ERSB) compared to the rest of the Province.

The attached letters / documents are as follows:
1. February 2, 2018 - Notice to all MHAs, etc. (no response).
2. February 2, 2018 - Summary of issues re. cabin garbage and fees.
4. February 14, 2018 - Letter to Mr. Grant. (no response)
7. March 5, 2018 - Letter to Minister Joyce. (no detailed response)
8. March 25, 2018 - Letter to Premier Ball. (response pending???)
9. May 1, 2018 - Letter to ERSB directors. (response pending???)

Attachment 8: February 25, 2018 - Letter to Premier Ball has been removed as it is a duplicate of pages 2-4.
With an election not that far away we would appreciate knowing the views of the currently elected representatives as per the various letters. All responses will be posted on the COATT website.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention.

(On behalf of COATT (Cabin Owners Against Trash Tax))
February 2, 2018

To: All MHAs, Directors of ERSB, News Media

Re. The Province’s Waste Management Strategy and Eastern Regional Service Board vs Avalon Peninsula Cabin Owners’ views / issues on administration and management.

On behalf of the Avalon Peninsula cabin owners I am writing to express our disagreement with how Eastern Regional Service Board (ERSB) is arbitrarily collecting garbage fees in areas outside of rural municipalities, local service districts, and unincorporated communities. The issues that we are raising can probably be viewed by some as trivial in nature but which financially impacts on cabin owners around the province as very few have requested this service or avails of it. We want to emphasize the point that this is not about ignoring environmental issues as we are 100% committed to supporting such initiatives but not under what we believe are false pretenses.

While many letters have been written regarding this matter the subsequent responses does not at all deal with the issues raised but rather generally outlines the fact that ERSB has been given the authority by the previous PC government to do whatever it wants in carrying out its mandate irrespective of what people might think and if there is opposition then it is made very clear that ERSB has the legislative authority to enforce its activities. In that regard enforcement letters have subsequently been sent and are continuing to be sent to cabin owners billing them for $180.00, and failure to pay will result in ongoing interest charges, court action, accounts turned over to collection agencies with the result that people’s credit rating can / could be down graded. We as cabin owners / tax payers / honest citizens are not at all impressed with how this initiative is being administered and enforced, and what appeared to be fully supported by the PC government of the day. Fortunately the government of that day has been shown the door given the way it operated in its latter years and we are therefore hopeful that the new Liberal government will be much more transparent and give reasonable consideration for the concerns that we have with this matter.

The Provincial Waste Management Strategy was developed in the early 2000s and its goals were to divert 50% of the materials going to disposal by 2010, to reduce the number of waste disposal sites by 80%, to eliminate open burning at disposal sites by 2005 and phase out the use of incinerators by 2008, to phase out the use of unlined landfill sites by 2010, and to implement full province-wide modern waste management by 2010. The focus of the strategy was geared toward municipalities, local service districts, and unincorporated communities. Cabin areas in that regard were not a part of this strategy and in our view should not be included as 99% of the cabin owners live full time outside of the cabin areas where they pay taxes for garbage collection and subsequently support waste management activities. As indicated by ERSB Section 24 of the Regional Service Board Act, 2012, grants ERSB the authority to charge user fees and Section 4 of the Eastern Regional Service Board Regulations, 2013, allows ERSB to recover these fees by civil action in a court and does not require the concurrence of a municipality, local service district or unincorporated area in order for the fee to be applied. No reference is specifically made to cabin areas and their inclusion in this strategy.

The greater majority of cabin owners only use their properties on a weekend / seasonal basis and as they pay associated taxes at their primary residences it is where they bring their small amounts of garbage for disposal. While only a few cabins appear to avail of the ERSB service, all cabin owners are charged $180.00 for the collection of garbage. Based on this example we are confident that it illustrates what is happening in those cabin areas where ERSB feels it is
able to enforce it's game plan. Given the fact that few requested or supports this service and that the actual compliance rate is extremely low then this appears to be exactly as it looks – a money grab by Eastern Regional Service Board with those affected having absolutely no say in the whole process. Cabin owners are “cash cows” and we fully believe that the plan is to milk us for additional money to help pay for ERSBs’ overall expenses.

As indicated earlier the greater majority of cabin owners do not use their cabins as their primary residence. They are weekend getaways where people spend a couple of days per week on a semi-regular basis and in a lot of cases the cabins are shut down in the fall and winter months. The small amount of garbage that is generated is carted back to the primary residence where taxes are assessed for such service and it is then collected as regular garbage. Outside of that there is also the option for anyone who spends a little more time at their cabins to bring the garbage directly to a central dump site such as Robin Hood Bay. 99% of cabin owners are environmental conscious and this has never been a problem and it worked quite well. An independent assessment would certainly confirm that the greater majority of cabin owners are very responsible in keeping their properties clean and tidy, and the need for this collection service does not exist. Also the fact that many cabin owners are maintaining the access roads at their own expense is not at all recognized by ERSB which uses these roads for the garbage collection service. ERSB does whatever it wants and is not answerable to anyone.

There is also the affordable factor for many cabin owners as not all owners have the financial ability to absorb extra expenses such as the $180 service charge while they have already paid for this service where they live full time. It seems that it was the belief of the PC government of the day that all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians prospered quite well in 2000 onward when the province was enjoying an oil rich economy. It was and is a tremendous lack of understanding that the majority are financially just getting by. Not everyone was making the “big” bucks as most are making modest or low end salaries which translates into living day to day – pay cheque to pay cheque. When you include retirees into the mix it further compounds the affordability factor given that many are just getting by as well. This is also illustrated further when one looks at a lot of the older cabins which were built by the owners and are nothing fancy, very modest, and built from scratch with whatever was available. No doubt this approach has changed somewhat in recent years and a fair portion of the newer “cabins” are homes away from homes. The fact remains however that the majority are fairly modest which truly reflects on the financial ability of cabin owners and their ability to absorb such extra costs.

There is an online site entitle Cabin Owners Against (the) Trash Tax (COATT) where cabin owners are expressing frustration with how and why ERSD with government's blessing is administrating and enforcing the provincial waste management strategy with regard to the implementing of the cabin garbage collection service. The comments are not great and the site has over 1600 participants / viewers and is growing every day. It is recommended that the site should be viewed to get an appreciation of what is going on.

Also attached is a summary of issues raised on the site that further outlines what cabin owners are subject to with regard to ERSB’s implementation / administration / management of the garbage service around the Avalon area.
SUMMARY

Re. ISSUES - CABIN OWNERS GARBAGE COLLECTION AND FEES

Background: The Provincial Waste Management Strategy was developed in the early 2002 by the then PC government and its goals were to divert 50% of the materials going to disposal by 2010, to reduce the number of waste disposal sites by 80%, to eliminate open burning at disposal sites by 2005 and phase out the use of incinerators by 2008, to phase out the use of unlined landfill sites by 2010, and to implement full province-wide modern waste management by 2010. The focus of the strategy was geared toward municipalities, local service districts, and unincorporated communities. There was no indication publicly that cabin areas were to be part of the strategy as 99% of the cabin owners live full time within the various municipalities, etc where they pay taxes for various services including garbage collection and subsequently support the province’s waste management strategy.

In the summer of 2014 a number of cabin areas were advised that effective January 2015 a waste collection service would be provided on a weekly basis and a recycling service on a bi-weekly basis, and a fee of $180 would apply. This came ‘out of the blue’ and without any prior notice that such a service was even being considered or requested. It was made very clear that cabin owners would have absolutely no say in what was going to happen and that the fee had to be paid otherwise action regarding collection would be taken against the owners. Since 2015 the Eastern Regional Service Board has expanded and continued an invasion of cabin areas. Whether the areas were accessible in the winter time or not from ERSB’s perspective made no difference as to how these areas were “directly” serviced and the fees that had to be paid remained the same.

Recently Minister Joyce convened a meeting to discuss what cabin owners describe as this cabin garbage debacle. In attendance were representatives from ERSB, cabin owners, Municipal Affairs staff, and various MHAs. Another meeting is scheduled to further discuss the administration of waste management on the Avalon and we are hopeful that a reasonable amount of progress will be made at that time.

In the meantime the following issues are for your information to give you an appreciation of what cabin owners are experiencing as a result of how the previous PC government created the mess we are in today and our frustration with how ERSB is arbitrarily implementing and administrating the so called cabin garbage collection service.

1. NO CONSULTATION: While it is our understanding that the various waste management boards discussed government’s waste management strategy with municipalities and got feedback on how it was to be administrated, there was absolutely no discussion with cabin owners. They were just told that effective January 2015 a waste collection service would be undertaken and a fee of $180.00 would be charge for each property. We had absolutely no say in what was to happen and that is the way it is still done today.

2. FEW CABIN PARTICIPANTS: The service started in 2015 with few directly participating and while most owners are now paying the $180.00 fee as a result of ERSB intimidation policy very few are actually availing of the service as they only spend weekends and holidays at their properties. Owners who do not live full time at cabin sites believe that they are already contributing to the provincial waste management strategy by paying taxes in communities, towns, and cities where they reside full time. It can be noted that Eastern Regional Service
Board (ERSB) indicated that “if unincorporated property owners i.e. cabin owners, do not pay for the garbage collection service, it means other property owners within municipal boundaries are required to pay extra.” As 99% of cabin owners live full time within municipal boundaries then ERSB is expecting that we must pay extra, which according to what is said is extremely unreasonable and unfair.

3. **INTIMIDATION STRATEGY:** Cabin owners had a problem in paying the $180.00 fee and most refused to pay resulting in Eastern Waste Management immediately charging interest on unpaid accounts, turning accounts over to collection agencies, taking people to court for non payment, and having one’s credit rating down graded. It is because of this intimidation strategy approved and supported by both the PC and Liberal governments that owners are reluctantly paying the $180.00 collection fee. We are talking about 99% honest and law abiding citizens who feel totally threatened and absolutely insulted by this process, and that feeling will not go away. Recently as an example on TV (Eastlink) there was a notice from the Eastern Regional Service Board to Eastern Region property owners saying that Canada Post had returned mailed out invoices without a post office number. The Board made it very clear that owners had to provide their P O box number otherwise interest would be applied to their account.

4. **CABIN OWNERS WASTE MANAGEMENT:** Prior to 2015 99% of cabin owners ensured that their cabin properties were properly looked after and kept clean and respectable, and that is the way it still is today. This however was never recognized by the previous PC government and the various waste management boards, and is another major insult to cabin owners. And it also has to be noted that cabin owners are not at all impressed with ERSB’s establishment of bulk garbage drop off sites where residential garbage has to be placed from January 1st to March 1st. These sites have the potential to attract rodents and have the garbage scattered everywhere making a terrible mess of the surrounding country. The irony is that in ERSB’s news release dated July 21, 2015 where it promotes the $180 garbage collection fee it is stated that we need to keep our province healthy and beautiful. It’s up to us to take good care of the environment and ensure that generations to come are able to enjoy it as much as we do.”

5. **CASH COWS:** It is fully believed that the various waste management boards have only included cabin properties in the waste management strategy so as to collect extra money to help pay for the overall provincial waste management strategy. We are basically taxed twice: where we live full time and where we live on a part time seasonal basis with little or no garbage to be collected.

6. **GARBAGE COLLECTION NOT PROVIDED AS ADVERTISED:** In a news release from Eastern Regional Service Board dated July 21, 2016 it was indicated that for an annual fee of $180 all property owners will have access to weekly waste collection, biweekly recyclable collection, bulk pick up and household hazardous waste disposal. Cabin owners at many locations have indicated that a fair amount of garbage is not picked up on a regular basis and in the winter there are only bulk residential drop off sites covering the period January 1st to March 1st. The service fee of $180 is for 12 months of service as indicated in the news release however as that is not the case then how is the service and fee justified?

7. **SERVICE FEES DIFFERENT BETWEEN BOARDS:** It is our understanding that different service fees are available depending on where you live in the province and it is viewed as a biased approach if parts of the province is being treated differently than the other. From what we understand the waste management strategy has been approved for the whole province and
legislated accordingly so why would government allow cabin owners in the Eastern Region to be billed at a higher rate and different rules than elsewhere? We are all Newfoundlanders/Labradorians tax payers and are not at all impressed with how the Eastern Regional Service Board with government’s blessing is so very aggressive in promoting the provincial waste management strategy along with an increase in fees compared to other regions.
Example #1: The Burin Peninsula Regional Service Board has decided to not service Davis Cove based on the fact that Davis Cove does not have a maintained road. The residents of Davis Cove will be responsible for transporting their garbage to the intersection of Davis Cove - Monkstown access road to the area designated for a drop-off bin. This drop-off container will be provided by the community of Davis Cove and then Davis Cove will have to request the Board’s service. On the Avalon such options are not permitted by the ERSB and despite the fact that a fair number of cabins are located on un-maintained roads the various cabin owners still receive invoices for the $180 service charge.
Example #2: The Burin Peninsula Regional Service Board has also decided that for the areas between Monkstown and Grand Bank, the fee structure will allow for residents paying full collection rates in a serviced area to only pay half the annual collection rate for a cabin in another serviced area (municipality or LSD). On the Avalon the ERSB will charge cabin owners the full service fee of $180 even though the owner resides and pays taxes at his primary residence.
Example #3: Avalon cabin owners are charge $180 for the service fee. On the Burin Peninsula it is 50% less and on the Northern Peninsula it is 32% less.

8. **FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**: It has been announced that these services will begin January 1, 2017 at a annual fee of $50.00. While cabin owners feel that these are great services there are many concerns as to how effective and realistic they will be with regard to how long will it take fire departments to respond to cabin fires and how will such cabin locations both near and far be identified? Also given the remoteness of cabins it would be appreciated knowing how fighting would be addressed as there are no fire hydrants available so tanker trucks will be required to effectively fight fire issues.

Has a plan been developed by ERSB to ensure that this will work or as many are saying is it just another money grab?

9. **LEGAL ACTION**: It has been recommended by many cabin owners that legal action should be considered regarding how government’s waste management strategy is being administered and addressed. This involves inconsistencies between boards, inconsistencies as to how garbage is collected from one cabin area to the other, how it is managed on a season by season basis, how it is having a negative impact on the environment, etc.

As a final comment it would be very interesting for Eastern Regional Service Board to provide statistical information on how acceptable their administration of the waste management strategy is to cabin owners in the Eastern Region. The information would include the following for 2015, 2016, and 2017:

1. How many cabin owners are billed at $180 for the garbage collection service?
2. How many cabin owners are charged interest on their accounts?
3. How many cabin owners accounts have been turned over to collection agencies?
4. How many cabin owners have been taken to court for non payment?
Re: Cabin Garbage Collection Service

Emailed to Valarie Giynn

We have been advised that a meeting is being arranged with Mr. Danny Breen of the Eastern Regional Service Board to discuss the concerns and issues raised by cabin owners regarding ERSB’s implementation, administration, and management of the current cabin garbage collection service. We are nevertheless writing you in advance of the meeting to express our continued frustration with how the ERSB is implementing and managing the province’s waste management strategy with regard to the collection of cabin garbage and the associated fees. The recent correspondence and attached documentation emailed to MHAs and the ERSB of Directors highlighted the many issues that cabin owners have experienced and continue to experience as the only reaction from ERSB has been to say again and again that they have full authority to do what they do as legislated by the previous PC government. Whatever issues that are raised either by those i.e. cabin owners, who are upset and angry over how their comments and concerns are ignored or how frustrating it must be for those MHAs who on behalf of their constituents have absolutely no say in what is going on appears to be totally ignored by the ERSB as few responses do not specifically deal with the issues and concerns raised. Again as noted above ERSB simply says it has the legislative authority and government’s blessing to do what it does.

Based on the above it was decided to review the minutes of the ERSB’s meetings held over the past four (4) years (when the cabin garbage service was activated) to see how the Board and its directors pursued the cabin garbage collection strategy and how the cabin owners views and issues were recognized and dealt with. The minutes are posted online and are for public viewing. It has to be said that we are totally amazed and taken back by how our concerns are dealt with and the comments that are made. Right at the very beginning in 2014, when a number of cabin areas were informed that a garbage collection service would be implemented in 2015 and a fee of $180 would be accessed, many cabin owners individually or as a group wrote Eastern Waste Management and expressed their disagreement with what was going to happen and outlined many of the concerns that are still expressed today. One would have thought that at the beginning if the targeted recipients expressed such intense disagreement with receiving and paying for such a service then the administrators would have given it a reasonable degree of consideration and undertaken public consultations. This certainly was not considered and did not happen. The following items relate to what cabin owners describe as the cabin garbage debacle:

Cabin owners initial concerns: As an example a letter from the Line Road Cabin Association dated October 7, 2014 was sent to Eastern Waste Management and is attached to the ERSB minutes dated October 29, 2014. The concerns that were raised are as follows:

- Line Road (beyond Carbonar property boundary) is not a local service district.
- It is a class 4 road that is not open all year round.
- Owners are responsible for snow removal and at times clear the road themselves.
- It seems remiss to insist on municipal waste removal in an often uninhabited area without road access.
- One has to wonder who will be responsible for clearing the road during the winter so that waste removal trucks will have access.
There are 1–2 residents in the area year round and 62 cabins that are used mostly throughout the months May to September.

- There are concerns that the garbage bins may attract animals.
- The area being vacant much of the time might encourage outsiders, people who do not own property in the area, to dispose of their own garbage.
- Cabin owners of Line Road do not currently leave garbage at roadside for disposal.
- Cabin owners take their garbage home for disposal where they are already charged a rate for waste and recycling collection.
- It seems a tremendous waste of employee time and municipal funding to send collection workers to Line Road every week, 52 weeks of the year, to pick up garbage and recycling that does not exist.
- Of the 62 cabins that are on Line Road only 33 are close to the road.

All of the above noted issues are still here today and it appears that Eastern Waste Management outlined no response to the concerns raised by the Line Road Cabin Association. The question is WHY NOT as if the majority of the recipients of this service have and continue to have such issues then ERSB should respond accordingly to each issue and if not then government should intervene and instruct ERSB to do so. This is further enhanced by a letter dated November 13, 2015 to ERSB from our current Premier, Hon. Dwight Ball, which states that a new Liberal government will work in consultation with the stakeholders to ensure the Provincial Waste Management Strategy is in the best interest of the province. From our perspective cabin owners are stakeholders as well and our concerns have been and continue to be ignored. As has been said on a number of occasions the only response is that ERSB is put in place by the provincial government to oversee the implementation of the Province’s Waste Management Strategy and the legislation that is in place authorizes and protects ERSB in doing what it does.

**Government’s unquestionable support of regional service boards:** In the Minutes dated February 24, 2016 the Board discussed the status of service implementation in other cabin areas, such as Ocean Pond, Goulds Pond, Horsechops, etc. It was noted that the time frame for service implementation slowed down last year as there has been a lot of push back from cabin areas. Again no discussion appears to be had with regard to what the push back is and how it can be addressed. It was suggested that the Board meet with the Minister regarding the timeline for completing service implementation. It was noted that Minister Joyce has provided a letter confirming waste management service for cabin areas. Minister Joyce’s support for the implementation of the cabin garbage collection was again emphasized in the Minutes dated May 4, 2016 and in the Minutes dated July 6, 2016 it was noted again that Minister Joyce supports the ERSB mandate as well as two former ministers; Steve Kent and Kevin O’Brien. It is based on the strong support of the past and current Ministers of Municipal Affairs that ERSB has little interest in dealing with issues and concerns of the many cabin owners who are expressing frustration with the cabin garbage service. Not withstanding such ministerial support it was noted that the Board continues to hear from MHAs who indicate that they do not support the work of the Board or understand the Board’s mandate. It is stated that the Board feels that this is irritating as the work of this Board is mandated by the provincial government. From the cabin owners perspective the legislative mandate of the Board fully allows it to be as dictatorial as it wants to be in doing what it does. It is totally unreal that government will continue to allow the Board to operate this way.

**Lack of recognition and respect of cabin owners views:** Again in the July 6, 2016 Minutes we get a very clear picture of how the ERSB views the issues raised by the cabin owners. It is stated that “It is the Board’s mandated duty to provide waste management services and to look after the environment
in the eastern region. In cottage country areas in other provinces the property owners pay for the services provided. Board members are hearing from approximately 10 – 15% of property owners in our region who are complaining – they are the minority. We are hearing from the silent majority who enjoy the service and agree with the service. For example, when service was implemented in Spread Eagle, several property owners there were very vocal and resistant to the service; however, we don't hear from them anymore and they seem pleased with the service.” We are absolutely amazed that such a comment is made and viewed from a professional perspective. The online site COATT is expanding day after day with comments from cabin owners outlining how they do not support this initiative and they are speaking on behalf of many others who feel the same way. To see who is right in this regard we would recommend that government instruct ERSB to undertake a mailed out survey with those that are invoiced for the $180 service fee. Customer appreciation surveys are very acceptable in today's environment and such responses can be used to either properly justify the implement and manage current/future activities or come to the conclusion that this isn't working and should be abolished.

Monday Waste Collection in All Cottage Areas: In recognition that the majority of cabin owners only use their properties on weekends it makes tremendous sense if the garbage collection was to remain in place that garbage be picked up on Mondays as opposed to other days of the week. Garbage left in remote areas for an extended period of time will attract rodents and animals that will attack garbage containers and spread waste around the environment. Besides the environmental impact it may jeopardize the safety of owners, their families and pets. In the Ocean Pond area there has been a tremendous increase in coyotes, and bears are now known to survive on the Avalon. There will no doubt be legal implications pursued if the forceful implementation of this service in remote areas causes problems and accidents down the road. In the Minutes dated July 6, 2016 ERSB it is indicated that garbage cannot be collected from cabin properties on Monday as there is a limited supply of equipment and staff performing the collection. This also illustrates the reality that this cabin garbage collection initiative is not realistic and is primarily based on cost with all environmental issues and human issues not fully considered and being of a secondary nature.

ERSB's biased approach with regard to cabin owners: The ERSB is made up of representatives from various municipalities around the Avalon whose mandate is to ensure that whatever is done is done for everyone's benefit. No doubt this is a very positive approach if one has a say in what goes on before it is implemented. Cabin owners have been and are on the outside looking in with absolutely no say in this whole process. In the November 30, 2016 Minutes it is stated that the “bottom up” approach is currently followed by the Board, meaning new service delivery is based on a community making a request, and that this new policy will follow the current operating practice. It was added however that unincorporated areas (cabin areas as we see it) are the only top down approach that might occur.

Fees and cost of cabin garbage collection: In the Minutes dated November 29, 2017 the cost of garbage collection in the Placentia Bay and Area came in at $105.96 per household annually before HST is applied which previously amounted to $110.88 per household annually before HST is applied. If this number is in the average range that is expended for cabin garbage collection and it is said that 7000 cabins are / will be provided this service it would be interesting to calculate what the overall cost to continue and/or abolish the service would / could be:

- $180.00 per household x 7000 cabin properties .................................................. $1,260,000
- $105.00 cost per household x 7000 cabin properties = $ 735,000 + HST .......... $ 852,150
- Surplus ........................................................................................................ $ 407,850
How accurate are these numbers? If they are accurate then cabin owners are or will be contributing upwards of $407,850 to ERSB's extra overall operational costs which is not what we are led to believe. On the other hand should this cabin garbage initiative be abolished then there would be an overall saving for ERSB of $852,150 and given how 99% of cabin owners have been and are continuing to protect the environment it would be a very positive move by all concerned.

This is further highlighted by the fact that in the Minutes dated July 4, 2016 the ERSB admits to the fact that while all cabin properties generate waste and it may be simple to take a small bag of garbage back to one's permanent residence for disposal, the main issue is getting rid of bulk garbage such as shingles, hot water tanks, appliances, furniture, etc. While ERSB says that those living in incorporated towns are now paying for the costs to dispose of much of the waste that is generated in these cabin areas and brought to these incorporated towns for disposal, it would be interesting to know how accurate that is and if indeed it was correct then ERSB could deal with this by only providing bulk garbage sites in the respective cabin areas at minimal cost to everyone. Cabin owners would take care of small amount of day to day garbage that is generated over very short periods of time and ERSB for a small fee would take care of the bulk garbage. It makes a lot of common sense and it is a win win situation for all concerned: all cabin owners, all regional service boards, and government.

Fire and Emergency Services: In the Minutes dated July 6, 2016 it is noted that Minister Joyce in a letter dated June 9, 2016 granted the authority for the Board to provide fire service as follows:

- The ERSB shall initially implement the service for Holyrood area only, following which a process evaluation shall be undertaken prior to implementation in additional areas;
- The ERSB shall only provide fire protection services to those communities who request the service;
- It is understood that the actual service provider will continue to the applicable community, rather than ERSB, and that all future funding applications will remain with the community.

As indicated previously cabin owners are very pleased with the proposed implementation of this policy but are concerned about how realistic and effective it will be. The Holyrood fire department has been engaged by ERSB to provide the fire protection for a fairly large number of cabins and is that area correctly defined as what is stated in the Minister's letter as "the Holyrood area" which as per ERSB notification covers Salmonier Line and surrounding area, including Middle Gull Pond, South West Pond, The Wilds at Salmonier, Belbin Mill Pond, and Old Prison Camp Road.

Some important questions to be answered is how long will it take to respond to fire issues in the coverage area to both near and far cabins, how will cabins be identified, how will fires be fought, and how are cabins reach during the winter season. Of the $50.00 fee Holyrood will receive $45.00 and ERSB $5.00. Have cabin owners been invoiced and have cabin owners been advised as to the above noted questions and given information on the administration of this service by ERSB.

While it is believed that this service is provided solely as a service to cabin owners the November 30, 2016 Minutes state the fire protection is a result of communities coming to the Board asking for the Board to assist them in implementing the service in areas that they serve. Many cabin owners therefore believe that ERSB's involvement is mainly to do with enforcing the collection of the $50.00 fee.

As a final comment we believe that it is not unreasonable for government to request that the past and current concerns as raised by cabin owners aka taxpayers and sincere and honest individuals be fully reviewed and the various options considered. In the Minutes dated November 29, 2017 there is attached a letter to the Premier from Vaughn Hammond of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. In the letter the following was stated: "while the costs of waste management in the province continue to
rise, there is little information showing the Provincial Waste Management Strategy is even working. And a large reason why things happen is a lack of accountability on the part of the Boards." This appears to be well said and we tend to agree that the various boards should be made more accountable in how they implement, administer and manage the province's Waste management Strategy with the cabin services being front and center from the cabin owner's perspective.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Regards,

cc MHA Pam Parsons
cc MHA Betty Parsley
cc Minister Steve Crocker
cc Minister Tom Osborne
Re: Cabin Garbage Collection Service

I am writing to again express mine and other cabin owners continued frustration with how the ERSB is implementing and managing the province’s waste management strategy with regard to the collection of cabin garbage and the associated fees. The recent correspondence and attached documentation emailed to MHAs and the ERSB of Directors on February 2, 2018 highlighted the many issues that cabin owners have experienced and continue to experience and the only reaction from ERSB has been to say again and again that they have full authority to do what they do as legislated by the previous PC government. Whatever issues that are raised either by those i.e. cabin owners, who are upset and angry over how their comments and concerns are ignored or how frustrating it must be for those MHAs who on behalf of their constituents have absolutely no say in what is going on appears to be totally ignored by the ERSB as few responses do not specifically deal with the issues and concerns raised. Again as noted above ERSB simply says it has the legislative authority and government's blessing to do what it does.

Based on the above it was decided to review the minutes of the ERSB’s meetings held over the past four (4) years (when the cabin garbage service was activated) to see how the Board and it's directors pursued the cabin garbage collection strategy and how the cabin owners views and issues were recognized and dealt with. The minutes are posted online and are for public viewing. It has to be said that we are totally amazed and taken back by how our concerns are dealt with and the comments that are made. Right at the very beginning in 2014, when a number of cabin areas were informed that a garbage collection service would be implemented in 2015 and a fee of $180 would be accessed, many cabin owners individually or as a group wrote Eastern Waste Management and expressed their disagreement with what was going to happen and outlined many of the concerns that are still expressed today. One would have thought that at the beginning if the targeted recipients expressed such intense disagreement with receiving and paying for such a service then the administrators would have given it a reasonable degree of consideration and undertaken public consultations. This certainly was not considered and did not happen. The following items relate to what cabin owners describe as the cabin garbage debacle:

Cabin owners initial concerns: As an example a letter from the Line Road Cabin Association dated October 7, 2014 was sent to Eastern Waste Management and the concerns that were raised are as follows:

- Line Road (beyond Carbonear property boundary) is not a local service district.
- It is a class 4 road that is not open all year round.
- Owners are responsible for snow removal and at times clear the road themselves.
- It seems remiss to insist on municipal waste removal in an often uninhabited area without road access.
- One has to wonder who will be responsible for clearing the road during the winter so that waste removal trucks will have access.
- There are 1 – 2 residents in the area year round and 62 cabins that are used mostly throughout the months May to September.
- There are concerns that the garbage bins may attract animals.
- The area being vacant much of the time might encourage outsiders, people who do not own property in the area, to dispose of their own garbage.
- Cabin owners of Line Road do not currently leave garbage at roadside for disposal.
- Cabin owners take their garbage home for disposal where they are already charged a rate for waste and recycling collection.
- It seems a tremendous waste of employee time and municipal funding to send collection workers to Line Road every week, 52 weeks of the year, to pick up garbage and recycling that does not exist.
- Of the 62 cabins that are on Line Road only 33 are close to the road.

All of the above noted issues are still here today and it appears that Eastern Waste Management provided no response to the concerns raised by the Line Road Cabin Association. The question is WHY NOT as if the majority of the recipients of this service have and continue to have such issues then ERSS should respond accordingly to each issue. This is further enhanced by a letter dated November 13, 2015 to ERSS from our current Premier, Hon. Dwight Ball, which states that a new Liberal government will work in consultation with the stakeholders to ensure the Provincial Waste Management Strategy is in the best interest of the province. From our perspective cabin owners are stakeholders as well and our concerns have been and continue to be ignored. As has been said on a number of occasions the only response is that ERSS is put in place by the provincial government to oversee the implementation of the Province's Waste Management Strategy and the legislation that is in place authorizes and protects ERSS in doing what it does.

Government's unquestionable support of regional service boards: In another instance in February 2016 the Board discussed the status of service implementation in other cabin areas, such as Ocean Pond, Goulds Pond, Horseshops, etc. It was noted that the time frame for service implementation slowed down last year as there has been a lot of push back from cabin areas. Again no discussion appears to be had with regard to what the push back is and how it can be addressed. Based on what ERSS noted as the strong support of the ministers of Municipal Affairs with regard to the province's waste management strategy the ERSS has little interest in dealing with issues and concerns of the many cabin owners who are expressing frustration with the cabin garbage service. Not withstanding such ministerial support it was noted that the Board continues to hear from MHAs who indicate that they do not support the work of the Board or understand the Board's mandate. It is stated that the Board feels that this is irritating as the work of this Board is mandated by the provincial government. From the cabin owners perspective the legislative mandate as stated by the Board fully allows it to be as dictatorial as it wants to be in doing what it does irrespective of how unacceptable it is to the those that have no interest in this so called cabin garbage collection service or does not avail of it.

Lack of recognition and respect of cabin owners views: Again we get a very clear picture of how the ERSS views the issues raised by the of cabin owners. It is stated in the minutes that “It is the Board's mandated duty to provide waste management services and to look after the environment in the eastern region. In cottage country areas in other provinces the property owners pay for the services provided. Board members are hearing from approximately 10 – 15% of property owners in our region who are complaining – they are the minority. We are hearing from the silent majority who enjoy the service and agree with the service. For example, when service was implemented in Spread Eagle, several property owners there were very vocal and resistant to the service; however, we don't hear from them anymore and they seem pleased with the service.” We are absolutely amazed that such a comment is made and viewed from a professional perspective. The online site COATT is expanding day after day with comments from cabin owners outlining how they do not support this initiative and they are speaking on behalf of many others who feel the same way.
Fees and cost of cabin garbage collection: It is noted that the cost of garbage collection in the Placentia Bay and Area recently came in at $105.96 per household annually before HST is applied. If this number is in the average range that is allocated for cabin garbage collection and it is said that 7000 cabins are will be provided this service it would be interesting to calculate what the overall cost to continue and/or abolish the service would be:

- $180.00 per household x 7000 cabin properties .................................................. $1,260,000
- $105.96 cost per household x 7000 cabin properties = $ 735,000 + HST ....... $ 852,150
- Surplus ............................................................................................................. $ 407,850

How accurate are these numbers? If they are accurate then cabin owners are or will be contributing upwards of $407,850 to ERSB’s extra overall operational costs which is not what we are led to believe. On the other hand should this cabin garbage initiative be abolished then there would be an overall saving for ERSB of $852,150 and given how 99% of cabin owners have been and are continuing to protect the environment it would be a very positive move by all concerned. This is further highlighted by the fact that the ERSB admits to the fact that while all cabin properties generate waste and it may be simple to take a small bag of garbage back to one’s permanent residence for disposal, the main issue is getting rid of bulk garbage such as shingles, hot water tanks, appliances, furniture, etc. While ERSB says that those living in incorporated towns are now paying for the costs to dispose of much of the waste that is generated in these cabin areas and brought to these incorporated towns for disposal, it would be interesting to know how accurate that is and if indeed it was correct then ERSB could deal with this by only providing bulk garbage sites in the respective cabin areas at minimal cost to everyone. Cabin owners would take care of their small amount of day to day garbage that is generated over very short periods of time and ERSB for a small fee would take care of the bulk garbage. It makes a lot of common sense and it is a win win situation for all concerned: all cabin owners, all regional service boards, and government.

Fire and Emergency Services: As indicated previously cabin owners are very pleased with the proposed implementation of this policy but are concerned about how realistic and effective it will be. The Holyrood fire department has been engaged by ERSB to provide the fire protection for a fairly large number of cabins and are those cabins correctly defined as what is stated in the Minister Joyce’s letter as “the Holyrood area” which as per ERSB notification covers Salmonier Line and surrounding area, including Middle Gull Pond, South West Pond, The Wilds at Salmonier, Belbin Mill Pond, and Old Prison Camp Road. Before it is implemented there are some very important questions to be answered, such as (1.) how long will it take to respond to fire issues in the coverage area to both near and far cabins, (2.) how will cabins be identified, (3.) how will fires be fought as there are no fire hydrants in these areas and a number of tanker trucks will be required to carry water to a lot of isolated locations, and (4.) how are cabins reached during the winter season. If these questions are not satisfactorily answered how would the citizens of Holyrood in this regard respond if it applied to them as well. Of the $50.00 fee Holyrood will receive $45.00 and ERSB $5.00. Have cabin owners been invoiced and have cabin owners been advised as to the above noted questions and given information on the administration of this service by ERSB? While it is believed that this service is provided solely as a service to cabin owners the Board has stated the fire protection is a result of communities coming to the Board asking for the Board to assist them in implementing the service in areas that they serve. Many cabin owners therefore believe that ERSB’s involvement is mainly to do with enforcing the collection of the $50.00 fee.

Today (February 14) Minister Eddie Joyce publicly questioned the ERSB’s position that it is legislated to do whatever it does and that it has absolutely no options in implementing and administrating the Province’s Waste Management Strategy. It is amazing given the many issues and concerns raised by
cabin owners over the last four years have been totally ignored. The ERSB is made up of representatives from various municipalities around the Avalon whose mandate is to ensure that whatever is done is done for everyone's benefit. No doubt this is a very positive approach if one has a say in what goes on before it is implemented. Cabin owners have been and are on the outside looking in with absolutely no say in this whole process. The Board has stated that the “bottom up” approach is currently followed, meaning new service delivery is based on a community making a request, and that this new policy will follow the current operating practice. It was added however that unincorporated areas (cabin areas as we see it) are the only top down approach that might occur. If the Board members had as much disrespect for the citizens of the municipalities that elected them when carrying out such actions it would create a major uproar and be the end of their political careers.

The following is therefore recommended to be considered by ERSB of Directors:
(1) That ERSB undertake a mailed out survey with those that are invoiced for the $180 service fee to determine if the implementation and management of current and future cabin waste management activities is acceptable and justified or come to the conclusion that it isn't working and should be abolished. Customer appreciation surveys are very acceptable in today’s environment and is certainly not an unreasonable request.
(2) Pending the completion and analysis of such a survey that the existing service be placed on hold along with fee invoicing including what has previously been defined as the ERSB's intimidation collection strategy.

As a final comment it is absolutely amazing that the ERSB’s game plan to implement and administer the motherhood issue of waste management i.e. protecting the environment, was to do it in such a dictatorial way giving no consideration to the views and opinions of those that must voluntarily participate in making it happen and support the financial costs. The fact that 99% of cabin owners are environmental conscious was never recognized and a total insult to all of us. The fact that cabin garbage was not and never an issue makes it very clear that this was basically a money grab and not defensible at all.

Regards,

cc. Mr. Danny Breen
Minister Eddie Joyce
Minister Steve Crocker
Minister Tom Osborne
MHA Pam Parsons
MHA Betty Parsley
COATT online
On behalf of other cabin owners and myself I would like to thank you for your acknowledged receipt of the recent letter dated February 14, 2018 sent to the chair of the Eastern Regional Service Board outlining additional issues that cabin owners have with regard to ERSB’s implementation and administration of a “so called” cabin garbage collection service. Your email stated that you were waiting for a meeting with Minister Joyce to find a solution to this issue and it can be noted that cabin owners are hopeful that such a meeting will sincerely discuss the many issues that cabin owners have with the current cabin garbage collection service and consider all options beyond what we are today. I have to say that in the past the cabin owners’ many issues and concerns were generally tossed aside and ignored by the Board’s management and directors. All that was said to those that questioned this so called cabin garbage service was that ERSB has the legislative authority to do what it does and if not accepted and adhered to and the fee not paid then collection action will be immediately undertaken which many cabin owners viewed as “shut up and pay up” or else. This is certainly the main reason why cabin owners felt so intimidated and paid the $180 fee without requesting and/or availing of this service. This is certainly not seen as legitimate professional management and the ERSB’s reputation is now very questionable.

With regard to the implementation and administration of the Province’s Waste Management Strategy one would have thought that a professional management approach would have been an important part of what has to be done and what will be done. I am focusing on cabin owners and how dictatorial ERSB appears to have felt that, because the legislation gives it the power and authority to implementation cabin garbage collection service, no consultation with cabin owners was undertaken to determine such things as the following:

1. How is cabin garbage currently handled by cabin owners?
2. Is it fully and properly disposed of?
3. Are there any issues that require action?
4. If necessary, how can a service be successfully implemented and managed given the remoteness of cabin areas and year around accessibility?
5. Undertake a review regarding the pros and cons of implementing and providing a seasonal service.

There are no doubt many more issues and questions to be considered and addressed but this has not been something that according to the ERSB’s minutes (covering 2014 to the present) is of any concern to Board management or it’s directors as very few responses to the above noted questions were requested or considered. WHY NOT is the key question and the most obvious answer most people feel is that this is either a mismanagement issue or it is considered an intentional money grab with little or no justification as to why it is happening other then emphasizing the motherhood issue of environmental protection.

In the July 6, 2016 minutes the following is stated by Mr. Grant and I quote: “We have an issue of illegal dumping in these (cabin) areas as property owners have no easy way to dispose of bulk waste. Another argument is that they don’t use the service; however, all properties generate waste and again it may be simple to take a small bag of garbage back to one’s permanent home for disposal but how does one get rid of their bulk items i.e. shingles, hot water tanks, appliances, furniture, etc. Those living in incorporated towns are now paying for the costs to dispose of much of the waste that is generated in these (cabin) areas and bought to their town for disposal.”

First of all it would be very interesting to know how accurate is the statement that ONLY cabin owners
are illegally dumping bulk waste in the woods? This no doubt happens off and on but is it cabin owners or who else, and what is this statement based on?

Secondly the ERSB appears to fully recognize that cabin owners properly dispose of their cabin garbage by bringing it home for disposal so why aggressively implement a cabin garbage collection service if it is not required? This is not extra garbage, one bag generated at the cabin over the weekend is the same as if we stayed home where a garbage tax is paid and the garbage is collected for disposal.

Based on this the ERSB should undertake an assessment of this so called cabin garbage collection service as per the two recommendations in the February 14, 2018 letter as follows:

1. That ERSB undertake a mailed out survey to those that are currently invoiced for the $180 service fee to determine if the implementation and management of current and future waste management activities is acceptable and justified or come to the conclusion that it isn't working and should be modified and/or abolished.

2. Pending the completion and analysis of such a survey that the existing service be placed on hold along with fee invoicing including what has previously been defined as ERSB's “intimidation” collection strategy.

And if these two recommendations are not undertaken then the ERSB should consider implementing a revised game plan as per Mr. Grant's statements as noted above in the meeting minutes dated July 6, 2016. In that regard the following could be considered:

1. The current cabin garbage collection service would be abolished and cabin owners would be encouraged to continue to do what they have always done and that is to bring all of the general household waste and recyclables back to their permanent residences for proper disposal.

2. If indeed there is a requirement to dispose of bulk cabin garbage then the ERSB could either make arrangements with those municipalities (which claim that such waste is dropped off in their areas) to handle such waste and charge an acceptable fee per load or the ERSB could undertake in various cabin areas the installation of environmentally friendly bulk garbage drop off sites i.e. properly fenced, containerized, and disposed of on a regular basis.

3. Consultations would be undertaken with permanent cabin residences to determine who is interested in a garbage collection service and for those interested a specific collection service would be designed/implemented on a household by household or group basis and covered by an affordable/agreed upon fee structure.

4. Cabin owners would be required to help protect the waste management strategy by policing it themselves in their respective areas and reporting those that are not adhering to the Province's waste management strategy and specific environmental rules and regulations.

By considering and implementing a revised plan based on the above it would be seen as a “win win” for everyone: cabin owners, Eastern Regional Service Board, and the current Liberal government. The Province’s Waste Management Strategy would be:

- enhanced and all participants would be seen as jointly contributing to the protection of our environment.
- administered and managed successfully as all participants would be on the same page otherwise as has happened now there will be continued strain and conflict.
- more cost efficient as by recognizing and accepting cabin owners ongoing proper disposal of their household garbage the actual overall cost of ERSB's waste collection budget would be greatly reduced.

As has been stated in the past, 99% of cabin owners are environmental conscious which has not been
recognized by ERSB and is a total insult to us all. We are insulted all that much more when ERSB focused only on cabin owners who primarily only use their properties on weekends and holidays while campers and trailer operators do the same thing but whose generated waste is not considered an issue to be forcefully dealt with. They bring their garbage home for disposal, no questions are asked, and no fees are applied. Again it further highlights and illustrates the frustration that cabin owners feel as to the justification and rationalization of this so called cabin garbage collection service.

Thank you for your time and attention, and we fully appreciate your interest in helping to find a solution to this matter for everyone's satisfaction.

A positive and more acceptable response would be appreciated.

Regards,

[Redacted]

cc [Redacted] COATT
February 25, 2018

Hon. Eddie Joyce, Minister
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

Re. Cabin Garbage Collection Service

Dear Minister Joyce,

Many letters and attached documentations have been sent to government and others with regard to the above noted subject on behalf of cabin owners who have a tremendous number of issues and concerns regarding the implementation and administration of this so-called cabin garbage collection service. To date no response has been received from Mr. Ed Grant, Mr. Danny Breen, or your office. For those who are either expressing very negative comments about ERSB and its cabin garbage service on Facebook COATT or for those that are viewing the site it must clearly indicate not only the absolute frustration that cabin owners are experiencing how this service is administered but it is wholeheartedly stated that this service is not requested / not required and should be abolished.

In the letter dated February 19, 2018 sent to you by Mr. Ed Grant on behalf of the Board's directors he defends everything that the ERSB does with regard to how it operates and confirms its intention to continue with the cabin garbage collection service regardless of the many concerns and objections that are noted in letters and on the COATT website. We are not at all surprised by that as it is how ERSB operates and places pressure on those that it deals with, including yourself, so that it will receive either your official or your unofficial approval to continue with this cabin garbage collection service and whatever appropriate fee it feels is "fair" to everyone. In order to ensure that you clearly get the message we are not surprised that an attachment to Mr. Grant's letter includes the names and signatures of the board's directors. Mr. Grant obviously did not want you to think that he is alone in this regard and his partners on the Board are fully supportive of what is being done. No surprise in that regard. It is amazing that government still remains positive in it's dealing with ERSB as in the ERSB's minutes dated July 6, 2016 it is officially stated that the Board feels irritated when MHAs express their views that they do not support the work of the Board. To make such a statement appears to verify that the Board feels that it is answerable to no one and it will remain that way until or when it is challenged by those people who are our elected representatives.

The question that a lot of people are asking is that would government provide a service when the service is not required and then tax people accordingly? No doubt that would be a political disaster. The same will apply to government's full support and agreement with ERSB's forceful implementation of this so-called cabin garbage service. If government continues to officially or unofficially agree to support the ERSB for a service that is not requested nor required nor used and then charge people for the service then it is viewed by many as a potential political disaster as well. I am emphasizing this as the legitimate opposition to this service is growing and will not go away resulting in a significant backlash down the road. According to the numbers released by ERSB there are in the vicinity of 7000 cabin properties in their eastern region (many many more off the Avalon) for which they will be charging the $180 garbage collection fee. 7000 cabins generally owned by 2 individuals = 14,000 voters and add a number of family and friends will equal to quite a lot more. In districts where the
election results will be and are generally close this could have some sort of impact on the results. This, I will add, is by no means a threat but it can possibility be a reality that could occur based on a lot of comments on the COATT web site. This so called cabin garbage collection issue is certainly being negatively embedded in people’s minds and memories.

Further to the above comments a statement in Mr. Grant’s letter says “While our Board is not prepared to create this situation, (i.e. the overall effect of providing a seasonal subsidy across the region will impact the other users) we anticipate the push back would be significant and we deem that type of policy unfair, we are quite prepared to discuss all options you might have to resolve these issues.” Based on this statement we are also requesting a meeting with you to discuss this waste management service as well. The ERSB that you will be meeting with consists of 20 members or more and in that regard it would be appreciated if you would approve a meeting with at least 12 cabin owners who could provide a very frank and honest discussion on the issues and concerns that Mr. Grant and the Board wishes to avoid.

As indicated in my letter to Mr. Breen dated February 19, 2018 there was no initial consultation with cabin owners prior to the implementation of the cabin garbage service to determine the following:

1. How is cabin garbage currently handled by cabin owners?
2. Is cabin garbage fully and properly disposed of?
3. Are there any specific issues that require action?
4. How can a service be successfully implemented and managed given the remoteness of cabin areas and year around accessibility?
5. Undertake a review regarding the pros / cons of implementing and providing a seasonal service?

At the very beginning it made sense to review and determine what is necessary to ensure that an acceptable and justified service is required. That was not done so how can this cabin garbage service be said to be acceptable and justified? For ERSB to be congratulated for how it operates will not be viewed very well by anyone who has negatively experienced this so called garbage collection service. We are hopeful that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment will appreciate where we are coming from and your support is requested in that regard.

A suggestion in the letter to Mr. Breen was that ERSB should undertake an assessment as per the following:

1. A mailed out survey should be undertaken to those that are currently invoiced for the $180 service fee to determine if the implementation and management of current and future waste management activities are acceptable and justified or come to the conclusion that it isn’t working and should be modified and/or abolished.
2. Pending the completion and analysis of such a survey that the existing fee invoicing be placed on hold along with it's collection policy.

This obviously is not an unreasonable request? Right from the very beginning back in 2014 ERSB did not and would not determine if cabin garbage collection was required or needed. In being responsible for the implementation and administration of the province’s waste management strategy it is very important to undertake consultation sessions, decide what is needed, and develop an acceptable game plan. This was done with regard to municipalities but not with the unincorporated cabin areas. As noted in the ERSB minutes the cabin owners garbage was and is implemented and administered by a top (ERSB) down approach. No consultation – ERSB arbitrarily tells cabin owners what to do and the fact that cabin owners supported proper waste management by doing it themselves was totally ignored. If this had been done right and cabin owners were fully complimented and praised for what they were doing would not have been a negative undertaken and would have cost next to nothing to be achieved.
It would have created a partnership with ERSB and little or few issues would have resulted and the government could give us all a “pat on the back” for being so responsible in support of the province’s waste management strategy. This obviously did not happen and the current letter dated February 19th from ERSB is a “slap in the face” to us all.

Another suggestion was based on a statement by Mr. Grant which said: “We have an issue of illegal dumping in these (cabin) areas as property owners have no easy way to dispose of bulk waste. Another argument is that they don’t use the service; however, all properties generate waste and again it may be simple to take a small bag of garbage back to one’s permanent home for disposal but how does one get rid of their bulk items i.e. shingles, hot water tanks, appliances, furniture, etc.” As the ERSB makes a concerted effort to emphasize the word fairness in it’s recent letter how can it be fair to (1) ignore the sincere efforts that cabin owners have taken in disposing of their own garbage and then (2) to formally ignore what is stated in it’s minutes that it is “very simple to take a small bag of garbage back to one’s permanent home for disposal.” By admitting that this service is not necessarily needed or required certainly cast solid doubt on the ERSB’s argument that it is needed and required. As noted in the past on many occasions most people feel that this is primarily a cash grab and nothing else. The rationalization and justification is just not there.

It is therefore recommended that the following be considered and accepted:

1. The current garbage collection service be abolished and cabin owners be encouraged to continue to do what they have always done and that is to bring all of their general household waste and recyclables back to their permanent residences for proper disposal.

2. If indeed there is a requirement to dispose of bulk garbage then ERSB could either make arrangements with those municipalities (which claim that such waste is dropped off in their areas) to handle such waste and charge an acceptable fee per load or ERSB could undertake in various cabin areas the installation of environmentally friendly bulk garbage drop off sites – properly fenced, containerized, and disposed of on a regular basis.

3. Consultations would be undertaken with permanent cabin residents to determine who is interested in a garbage collection service and for those interested a specific collection service would be designed/implemented on a household by household or group basis and covered by an agreed/affordable fee structure.

4. Cabin owners would be required to help protect the waste management strategy by policing it themselves in their respective areas and reporting those that are not adhering to the specific rules and regulations.

Mr. Minister, by considering and implementing a revised plan based on the above it would result in the Province’s Waste Management Strategy being:

- enhanced and all participants would be seen as successfully contributing to the protection of our environment.
- administered and managed successfully as all participants would be on the same page.
- much more cost efficient as the cost of the ERSB’s waste management budget would be greatly reduced.

It is well known that the greater majority of cabin owners are very environmental conscious which has not and is still not recognized or accepted by ERSB and is a total insult to us all. We are additionally insulted by the fact that ERSB’s focus is primarily on cabin owners who only use their properties on weekends and holidays while campers and trailer operators do the same thing but whose generated garbage is not considered an issue to be forcefully dealt with.
In your news release dated February 22, 2018 you indicated that the Liberal government supports proper waste management practises, and you are continuing to work to protect the environment and the health and safety of residents. Based on this we feel that your support of proper waste management practises should fully recognize how cabin owners have in the past and are still continuing to protect the environment by properly disposing of what little garbage they generate while at their cabins. This was in place prior to ERSB's implementation of a cabin garbage collection service and is fully in place today. To support cabin owners in this regard will not have a negative impact on the province's waste management strategy but will enhance it. The previous PC government in it's final years had little interest in ensuring that the people that they represented were well represented and their views and opinions were of little interest. They paid the price in the last election.

As I indicated at the beginning there has to date been no response from your office in regard to the recently sent letters outlining the many issues and problems that cabin owners are having with this unwanted and unacceptable cabin garbage service. There has as well been no formal response from any MHA's who were also sent accurate and factual information on this matter. Many people have concerns that we are being totally ignored. ERSB's philosophy as stated in it's minutes is, and I quote, "Board members are hearing from approximately 10 – 15% of property owners in our region who are complaining – they are the minority. We are hearing from the silent majority who enjoy the service and agree with the service." By our government's elected representatives being silent gives the ERSB the clear understanding that government totally agrees with this cabin garbage collection service irrespective of the many issues and problems that we have honestly and accurately expressed.

We are hopeful that you and your Liberal government will be much more accommodating in this regard and that you will review and consider the many recommendations and suggestions as indicated in this letter with the main consideration being the abolishment of this so called cabin waste collection service. Pending its abolishment a partnership between ERSB and cabin owners would be requested to ensure that all cabin garbage is continued to be properly handled and disposed of. A "team approach" is essential in protecting our environment and it enables everyone to have the same focus on what is currently being done and what will be required in the future.

This letter will be posted on COATT for everyone's information.

A response at your earliest would be very much appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

cc. COATT
cc [Redacted]
cc. Government representatives at January 30th meeting
March 5, 2018

Hon. Eddie Joyce, Minister
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
Government of Newfoundland and Labradors
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

Re. Cabin Garbage Collection Service

Dear Minister Joyce,

On behalf of cabin owners I am again writing to express our concerns regarding Eastern Regional Service Board’s (ERSB) implementation and administration of this so called cabin garbage collection service. Of all the letters submitted to date (to Mr. Grant dated Feb. 14, to Mr. Breen dated Feb. 19, and to yourself dated Feb. 9 and Feb. 25) no response has yet to be received. In the most recent letter sent to you dated Feb. 25 a formal request was made to have a meeting convened with cabin owners who would provide a very frank and honest discussion on the issues and concerns that Mr. Grant and the ERSB wishes to avoid. As Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment we are of the view that you would be interested in discussing issues that if not dealt with will have a negative impact on the Province’s Waste Management Strategy. If you are unwilling or unable to accommodate our request we would appreciate being advised as to who else in government you would recommend that we can meet with.

It is a well known fact that the previous PC government instigated this cabin garbage collection service and authorized the various waste management boards to develop a plan to undertake implementation and administration in their respective areas. On the CBC radio Cross Talk Show on Feb. 28 we were advised that the Western Waste Management Board, which includes your’s and the Premier’s electoral districts, was much more accommodating in dealing with the cabin owners in it’s area. It offers a garbage collection service to cabin owners on a “user pay basis.” If you use the service you pay and if you don’t use the service you don’t pay. This is very accommodating for cabin owners who live on the Western side of the Island and is an absolutely 180 degree turn around as opposed to how the ERSB is dictating to and treating cabin owners who live on the Eastern side of the Island. It is extremely discriminatory and something that we would expect government to address. While it is noted that the previous PC government appeared to support ERSB in aggressively “attacking” the cabin owners in the eastern region we strongly request that your Liberal government intervene and correct this terrible cabin garbage collection service that is unwanted, unused, and “hated” by 99% of seasonal cabin owners. We are convinced that if the western cabin owners were treated by the western board the same way that we are treated by ERSB then a government intervention would certainly have happened by now.

In the meantime I recently discovered your response to a letter dated March 24, 2016 that I sent to you and Minister Perry Trimper outlining a number of issues that cabin owners where having with this cabin garbage service. One item that I inquired about was to explain if there was a consistency in how the various boards operated when implementing and administrating the Province's Waste Management Strategy. Your response dated April 22, 2016 indicated the following: Government is supportive of the regional service boards as they work to implement modern waste management systems throughout the province. Board members are challenged to consider the varying views of all
residents and the requirements of a regional system when establishing policies regarding services and fees. The reality of seven individual boards means that policies and fees may not always be consistent across the province. However, it is anticipated that cabin areas will be included where boards deem it practical to include these properties as part of a regional collection service. I assume that the response was drafted by ERSB staff as a justification for the very biased approach that they are taking with regard to aggressively pursuing its cabin garbage collection service as compared to what and how other boards were operating. The fact that you signed this letter has given us all the understanding that you agree with the discriminating way that cabin owners are treated in the East compared to the West. We are absolutely amazed by this as it is something that should not be tolerated or ignored by a government that represents ALL Newfoundlanders and Labradors no matter where we live. Based on this I have been strongly advised by cabin owners that this should be raised with Premier Ball whose Liberal government must explain and defend such a policy. A copy of this letter is being sent to the Premier’s office for a response that will be posted on COATT when received.

As you are aware the Cabin Owners Against (the) Trash Tax (COATT) is a very active online site where more and more cabin owners are expressing their disagreement with this cabin garbage collection service and how ERSB is administering it. The site is growing and the frustration expressed is increasing day by day. As an example of the hundreds of comments made on the site let me quote this particular one made by a lady who, like us all, is extremely tormented and frustrated with what is going on: “I have started paying off the fee in 10 monthly instalments. I CAN NOT have them take me to Small Claims for not paying it. If they do, my name will be on the court docket which my employer or some co-workers would more than likely see and there goes my job as there would be an action against me and I can’t have an action against me. It’s not like its innocent until proven guilty because has anyone ever won it yet that had gone to court. I definitely am against it. I have written my MHA, my MP, Mr. Grant, Mr. Joyce, and I have been on open line too. It’s not like I gave my name or my address or anything like that. My Deed to my cabin is not even registered at the Registry of Deeds, and I have no power to it so how the xxxx did they even get my name in the first place. I am only seasonal, and live in a Town where I pay my town taxes. I have just started asking to receive a receipt every month from ERSB for my monthly payment. I don’t love the service. I hate it. I always take my little Coleman’s bag of garbage home with me when I am at the cabin. I will continue to do it. I never asked for the service. I don’t want the service, but I can’t take a chance in loosing my job over it. No my employer wouldn’t understand. Many employees and everyone has their story on something. I just have to stay off the court docket. I need my job to pay the bills and living life.

If questioned on how it’s cabin garbage collection policy is being accepted ERSB will no doubt brag that many cabin owners are paying the $180.00 fee which in it’s view means that these cabin owners love this service. The true fact however is that the ERSB’s “intimidation” collection policy is why many are paying given the fact that if you do not pay you will be charged interest on your account and/or you will be taken to court and/or your account will be turned over to collection agencies which will have a negative impact on your credit rating. It is absolutely unbelievable that your government supports this very aggressive policy that is primarily applied to cabin owners in Eastern Newfoundland.

The question is: how can the current government support ERSB in how it has implemented and is administering this cabin garbage collection service given the tremendous frustration and growing anger that cabin owners are having with this approach? We are sincere, honest, hard working, law abiding citizens whose views and opinions appear to be totally ignored by ERSB and by the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment.

Minister Joyce, this is not going away and most of us are of the view that if our concerns are expressed
In a reasonable and polite nature (as has been done to date) then government will indeed recognize that these concerns and issues are legitimate. Based on this it is believed the Liberal government will address this without further delay. Yes the various boards are independent but only because government made them independent; however, they are not fully independent outside of government's legislative jurisdiction. We assume that as Minister you do have a degree of influence and authority with regard to how these boards operate and, if not, then government's overall authority is highly questionable with regard to how it operates and represents ALL of the citizens of this Province.

It is therefore not unreasonable to expect a response in a reasonable length of time.

Regards,

[Redacted]

cc COATT
cc [Redacted]
cc Government representatives at the previous Jan. 30th meeting
cc Premier Dwight Ball
May 1, 2018

To: Directors, Eastern Regional Service Board

Subject: Cabin Garbage Collection Service

On behalf of Avalon Peninsula cabin owners I am writing to express our concerns with regard to the Eastern Regional Service Board’s (ERSB) implementation and administration of the so called cabin garbage collection service. Over the last 6 to 8 years a tremendous number of letters have been written to ERSB by cabin owners who have expressed and continue to express their disagreement with this so called service which is basically a “money grab” as opposed to a legitimate and meaningful activity. Despite the issues and concerns that have been raised by cabin owners the only response that is generally received from ERSB management is that “the board has the legislative power to construct, acquire, maintain and operate waste disposal sites and solid waste management facilities and systems within the eastern region. And Section 24 of the Regional Service Boards Act, 2012, grants EWM the authority to charge user fees and Section 4 of the Eastern Regional Service Board Regulations, 2013, allows EWM to recover these fees by civil action in a court. The legislation does not require the concurrence of a municipality, local service district or unincorporated area in order for the fee to be applied.” In other words = the concerns and issues raised by cabin owners are not at all important, you are required to pay up and shut up otherwise you will be dealt with accordingly.

Also many letters have recently been written to individuals such as Mr. Ed Grant, Mr. Danny Breen, Minister Eddie Joyce, Premier Dwight Ball, and to all MHAs again outlining the many issues in relation to this so called cabin garbage collection service and no specific detailed responses have been received to date. Some cabin owners are not at all convinced that ERB’s directors have been brought up to speed on what the past letters covered and that is why you are being directly contacted. All letters and all responses are posted on the Cabin Owners Against the Trash Tax website (COATT) so that the COATT membership, relatives and friends are kept up to date.

The attached letters are for your information:

1. February 2, 2018 – Notice to all MHAs, Directors of ERB, (and News Media.) (no response)
2. February 2, 2018 – Summary of issues re. cabin garbage and fees.
3. February 9, 2018 – Letter to Minister Joyce. (no response)
4. February 14, 2018 – Letter to Mr. Grant. (no response)
5. February 19, 2018 – Letter to Mr. Breen. (no response)
7. March 5, 2018 – Letter to Minister Joyce. (general response, issues not dealt with)
8. March 25, 2018 – Letter to Premier Ball (response pending)

In a CBC news release dated April 27, 2018 a Mr. Don Downer indicated that dealing with Minister Joyce was a terrible intimidating experience most of the time and Joyce was quite the bully in dealing with a lot of people. From the Avalon cabin owners’ perspective Minister Joyce’s name could be easily exchanged with that of the Eastern Regional Service Board as 99% of cabin owners feel the same way. Avalon Peninsula cabin owners are continually being intimidated, harassed and bullied with regard to ERB’s implementation and administration of this so called cabin garbage collection service. As is indicated in many of the above mentioned letters cabin owners have absolutely no say in how we are being treated and dealt with which goes back over the last 6 to 8 years. One of the main questions to the Board’s directors is why are the Avalon cabin owners treated in such a discriminating way compared to the rest of the province? You are elected officials who can advise and direct the ERB’s management.
on how to properly manage the waste management program and courteously deal with people. From our perspective however the management personnel are always calling the shots on what is to be done and how it is to be done with only marginal input (as per the Board's minutes) from the directors in attendance. It is extremely difficult for me to say this but a lot of people believe that the varies directors are board puppet and have more interest in receiving their per diem benefits than anything else.

Given the fact that 10 of the 20 director positions are held by councillors from the City of St. John's makes us all wonder why the professionalism associated with running the City's affairs is not adhered to when being an ERSB director. The point to be emphasized here as outlined in the City's Public Engagement Report dated 10/19/17 is that the City of St. John's recognizes that public engagement between the City and its citizens is an essential component of an effective municipal government. Public engagement is a process that brings people together to address issues of common importance, and to solve shared problems. It allows cities to work more collaboratively with their residents and establish processes for public input that help to inform the decision making process. Research indicates that cities with effective public engagement processes develop plans, strategies, programs and policies to better meet the need of their residents and key stakeholders. In turn this results in increased citizen satisfaction. It is noted that the City of St. John's applies the engagement policy to all activities and opportunities where information is shared and/or input is sought, including mandated and legislative processes. It is further noted that the goals of the City of St. John's public engagement policy are to:

- improve/inform decision making and programming.
- create space for everyone to feel involved and listened to.
- share information effectively and welcome different points of view.
- generate new ideas and solutions.
- build trust.
- understand the needs and priorities of the community.

Not withstanding the fact that 10 of the current directors are from the City of St. John's there was/is ABSOLUTELY NO public engagement with cabin owners with regard to how and why the cabin garbage collection service was/is implemented and administered. Most cabin owners believe there is little if any professionalism at all despite the fact that the directors i.e. elected councillors from around the Avalon, are expected to be as accommodating as possible even if they are not sitting in their council chambers. As noted earlier it is our belief that the ERSB's management is dictating to the board's directors as to what is to be done and how it is to be done with a minimum amount of noted discussions at the various board meetings.

In closing it has to be fully understood that 99% of cabin owners are honest, hard working, and law abiding citizens who are now being treated in a very disrespectful way. A lot of us are retired having worked all of our lives or are still actively working and still paying whatever legitimate taxes (municipal, provincial, and federal) that are owed and are now being treated as criminals. It would be interesting to know how the various directors would react if they were treated as we are being treated today with regard what is described as ERSB's intimidation collection policy where:

1. Interest is immediately added to your account if it is not immediately paid despite the fact that the cabin garbage collection service is not requested, not wanted and not used.
2. You are taken to court for the non payment of something that you have not requested, don't want, or don't use.
3. You are firmly threatened that your account will be turned over to collection agencies and your credit rating will be negatively affected which for 99% of cabin owners is an absolute insult.
4. If after 2/3/4/5 years go by and you finally received an invoice for something that you have not requested, don't want, or don't use you are charged for all previous years plus interest.

We are all wondering where we now live? Are we in NL/Canada or in a “communist” style/dictatorial type environment? For those of us who are retired we are absolutely discussed with how we are being insulted, intimidated and threatened despite a lifetime of hard work and honesty, raising a family and attempting to be as successful as possible. Yes there are some very expensive cabins that are now being built and enjoyed, and yes there are many more average cabins that have been built and enjoyed but why are we being forceably penalized, harassed, intimidated and bullied because we are doing the best we can in life as per our financial abilities and extremely independently environmentally conscious. To be looked down on and threatened with the ERSB directors’ approval is something that will never be accepted or forgotten and each director will be credited with supporting such a gross/unprofessional activity.

A response from as many directors as possible is requested as opposed to relying upon ERSB’s management commenting on your behalf by providing ONLY “legal” justification for an unrequested, unwanted, and unused so called garbage collection service.

Regards,

[Redacted]

cc. COATT
Hi Joanne...

Just wanted to let you know that I have the response letter ready to go to [REDACTED] but Minister Parsons won't be in town until Thursday. He said he will review it then and hopefully it will be signed and sent then.

Val

-----Original Message-----
From: Premier of NL
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 10:35 AM
To: Glynn, Valerie <VGlynn@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: FW: HPE Records Manager Incoming Correspondence : ICOR2018/1329 : ICOR2018/1329

Hi Valerie,

Can you provide an update on the response to [REDACTED]

Thank you,
Kaitlyn

-----Original Message-----
From: Premier of NL
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 12:02 PM
To: Glynn, Valerie <VGlynn@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: HPE Records Manager Incoming Correspondence : ICOR2018/1329 : ICOR2018/1329

Hi Valerie,

Attached, for the attention of your Minister and Deputy Minister, is a letter from [REDACTED] to Premier Ball regarding government's approved discriminatory policy - the implementation of the province's waste management strategy on the Avalon Peninsula.

We are requesting a response on behalf of the Premier. Please copy the Premier on the response and email a copy to premier@gov.nl.ca account within 10 business days.

Thank you,
Joanne

-----< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number: ICOR2018/1329
Title: Letter from [Name Redacted] to Premier Ball regarding Government's approved discriminatory policy regarding the implementation of the province's waste management strategy on the Avalon Peninsula
Buckle, Joy

From: Glynn, Valerie
Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2018 10:31 AM
To: Premier of NL
Subject: FW: HPE Records Manager Incoming Correspondence : ICOR2018/1329 : ICOR2018/1329

Good Morning...

Please find attached copy of response letter to [REDACTED]

Cheers...Val

-----Original Message-----
From: Glynn, Valerie
Sent: Tuesday, May 8, 2018 3:21 PM
To: Premier of NL <Premier@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: RE: HPE Records Manager Incoming Correspondence : ICOR2018/1329 : ICOR2018/1329

Hi Joanne...

Just wanted to let you know that I have the response letter ready to go to [REDACTED], but Minister Parsons won't be in town until Thursday. He said he will review it then and hopefully it will be signed and sent then.

Val

-----Original Message-----
From: Premier of NL
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 10:35 AM
To: Glynn, Valerie <Glynn@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: FW: HPE Records Manager Incoming Correspondence : ICOR2018/1329 : ICOR2018/1329

Hi Valerie,

Can you provide an update on the response to [REDACTED]?

Thank you,
Kaitlyn

-----Original Message-----
From: Premier of NL
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 12:02 PM
To: Glynn, Valerie <Glynn@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: HPE Records Manager Incoming Correspondence : ICOR2018/1329 : ICOR2018/1329

Hi Valerie,
Attached, for the attention of your Minister and Deputy Minister, is a letter from [REDACTED] to Premier Ball regarding government's approved discriminatory policy - the implementation of the province's waste management strategy on the Avalon Peninsula.

We are requesting a response on behalf of the Premier. Please copy the Premier on the response and email a copy to premier@gov.nl.ca account within 10 business days.

Thank you,
Joanne

Record Number: ICOR2018/1329
Title: Letter from [REDACTED] to Premier Ball regarding Government's approved discriminatory policy regarding the implementation of the province's waste management strategy on the Avalon Peninsula
I am writing in response to your recent correspondence to Premier Ball and various Ministers and MHAs in which you outlined concerns about the implementation of the Provincial Waste Management Strategy (the Strategy) in cabin areas across several regions of the province. As the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment, Premier Ball has requested that I respond on behalf of the Provincial Government.

First of all, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your engagement on these issues. I assure you that our government has heard the concerns that you and other members of COATT have raised and I have asked staff to provide me with a detailed briefing to help determine how to move forward on this important issue.

I would also like to formally acknowledge the environmental ethic of the majority of cabin owners across our beautiful province, and clarify that the Strategy has never suggested that cabin areas are experiencing higher rates of littering or indiscriminate dumping.

From its inception, the Strategy envisioned a regional approach to waste management, comprised of regional waste management systems and regional waste management authorities. As you've acknowledged in your correspondence, the Strategy includes municipalities, local service districts, and unincorporated areas. By definition, cabins across the province would be located in one of those three areas. The Strategy does not identify specific property types for inclusion or exclusion (e.g. seasonal properties, cabins, commercial properties).

This regional approach is a flexible one that is intended to ensure that important operational policy decisions are made at the regional level by elected local government representatives in a way that reflects each region's specific circumstances and needs. That said, I acknowledge that the Western Regional Service Board has taken a different approach to waste management for seasonal properties than the Eastern Regional Service Board (ERSB). I am also aware that other regional service boards have chosen to implement reduced fees for such properties. I can assure you that neither Premier Ball nor any other member of our government has had any input in any of those decisions. Again, these are operational policy decisions that are made at the regional level by the local government representatives who serve on each board.
Thank you, once again, for sharing your perspective and your recommendations regarding the implementation of the Provincial Waste Management Strategy. Our government remains committed to public engagement, collaboration, and service excellence; and I look forward to continuing to work with all stakeholders to improve waste management services for all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

Sincerely,

ANDREW PARSONS, QC
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment

cc: Honourable Dwight Ball, Premier
The attached letter is for Minister Parsons' attention, and a copy is to be forwarded to Premier Ball. I have cced Premier Ball but am not sure if that will reach him. If possible I would appreciate if one of you would ensure that it reaches the Premier's office.

Please acknowledge that this has been received.

Thank you,
March 21, 2018

Hon. Eddie Joyce, Minister
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

Re: Evaluation of Waste Management Strategy

Dear Minister Joyce,

In a news release yesterday, March 20, 2018, it was announced that two contracts were being awarded for the review of the current implementation plan for the Provincial Waste Management Strategy. It is noted that through a review of the strategy, government is ensuring that it is being implemented in a modern, efficient and cost effective manner.

From the cabin owners perspective, particularly those located around the Avalon Peninsula, many issues and concerns have been continually raised and brought to government's attention with very little recognition and/or action has been taken to address how the implementation of the so called garbage collection service has been forcefully administered by the Eastern Regional Service Board. Also your government's approval of how different boards operate illustrates how discriminatory this approval can be. The Western Waste Management Board offers cabin owners in your area a pay if you use service, if you don't use the service you are not required to pay a fee/tax. Cabin owners on the Avalon have absolutely no say in this as we have to pay whether the service is used or not. And if it is not paid the intimidation collection strategy is enforced: interest is immediately charge to you account and/or you are taken to court and/or you account may be turned over to collection agencies.

We are therefore requesting that the review of the Provincial Waste Management Strategy will include how and why this so called cabin garbage collection service is implemented and administered by all seven boards giving due consideration to the many issues and concerns that have been continually brought to government's attention. We would also welcome the opportunity to present our issues and concerns directly to those that are undertaking the review.

Please respond at your earliest.

Regards,

[Redacted]

cc: [Redacted]

Email: Valarie Glynn
May 13, 2018

Hon. Andrew Parsons, QC
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environmental
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Re: Avalon Peninsula Cabin Garbage Service

Dear Mr. Parsons,

Thank you for your letter dated May 10, 2018 in response to my letter dated March 26, 2018 to Premier Ball and to a recent email dated May 7, 2018 to all Ministers / MHAs regarding:

- Government's approved discriminatory policy regarding the implementation of the Province's Waste Management Strategy on the Avalon Peninsula.
- Additional letters that have been sent to all MHAs, former Minister Joyce, Mr. Ed Grant, Mr. Danny Breen, and the directors of the Eastern Regional Service Board (ERSB).

First of all it has to be noted that in the past the former minister, Eddie Joyce, had little or no interest in responding to the various letters that were sent to him and we are of the opinion that it was not at all very professional for a minister to perform in that way. It is also amazing that our elected representatives have remained very quiet as well which probably means that they fully support how the Province's Waste Management Strategy is being implemented and administered from one side of the province to the other. The fact that you have found the time to respond in a reasonable time frame is therefore well appreciated.

With regard to your response I would like to comment accordingly:

(a) You indicated that you would like to formally acknowledge the environmental ethic of the majority of cabin owners across our beautiful province, and clarify that the Strategy has never suggested that cabin areas are experiencing higher rates of littering or indiscriminate dumping.

This statement accurately confirms what we have always said and that is that 99% of cabin owners are environmentally conscious and always ensured that whatever small amount of garbage that was generated at their cabins was regularly brought home for proper disposal. This was never and still not recognized by the Eastern Regional Service Board and was/is falsely used as a reason to implement this so called cabin garbage service which is 99% unwanted and unused by cabin owners. It fully confirms what we have always said and that this is only a "cash grab"/a way to generate extra revenue for the ERSB's activities. It certainly questions how unprofessional this cabin garbage service was initially implemented as a survey and public engagement should have been undertaken to determine if it was required or not. Of course it can be accurately assumed that ERSB knew quite well that cabin garbage collection wasn't required as no survey or public engagement was considered and the so called cabin garbage service was just forcibly put in place with the approval of the previous PC government.

(b) You also indicated that the Provincial Waste Management Strategy was envisioned as a regional approach to waste management, comprised of regional waste management systems and regional waste management authorities. Also this regional approach is a flexible one that is intended to ensure that important operational policy decisions are made at the regional level by elected local government representatives in a way that reflects each region's specific circumstances and needs. Having said that you then acknowledged the various different approaches used by boards other than ERSB such as the Western Regional Service Board.

We are absolutely amazed that your government fully supports the uncontrollable flexibility that the "former" PC government gave to the various boards to implement and administer a PROVINCIAL
strategy. It is our belief and understanding that we are all equal Newfoundlanders and Labradorians and when it comes to implementing and administering a province-wide strategy then we should all be treated equally the same way. Is it possible that you can provide an illustration of what other province-wide strategies outside of waste management are implemented and managed differently from one side of the province to the other and the impact that they are having on the various recipients?

As was indicated in the letter to the ERSB directors 99% of the Avalon cabin owners are honest, hard working, and law abiding citizens who are now, with your government's approval, being treated in a very disrespectful way. A lot of us are retired having worked all of our lives or are still working and still paying whatever legitimate taxes (municipal, provincial, and federal) that are owed and are now being treated as criminals compared to the rest of the province. ERSB's intimidation collection policy for Avalon cabin owners is as follows:

1. Interest is immediately added to your account if it is not immediately paid despite the fact that this so-called cabin garbage collection service is not requested, not wanted, and not used.
2. You are taken to court for non-payment of something that you have not requested, don't want, or don't use.
3. You are firmly threatened that your account will be turned over to collection agencies and your credit rating will be negatively affected which for 99% of cabin owners is not only an absolutely insult but will have a devastating impact on those who are trying to survive in today's financial environment.
4. If after 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 years go by and you finally received an invoice for something that you have not requested, don't want or don't use you are charged for all previous years plus interest.

The question that the Avalon cabin owners have for Premier Ball and yourself is would you agree with this and not intervene if your constituents were treated as we are being treated and that the rest of the province's cabin owners were treated much more differently as well? I can assure you that if all cabin owners in the province particularly those in your districts were treated like we are now being treated there would be a province-wide revolt and I assume it can then be guaranteed that your government would definitely react and deal with it. As has been indicated to the ERSB directors we are all wondering where we are now living? Are we in NL/Canada or in a "communist" style/dictatorial type environment. For those of us who are retired we are absolutely discussed with how we are being insulted, intimidated, and threatened despite a lifetime of hard work, honesty, raising families, and attempting to be as successful as possible. To be looked down on, harassed, bullied, and threatened will never be accepted or forgotten. Recently in the House of Assembly your government made it very clear that when/if someone is bullied/harassed/intimidated then action has to be taken to deal with these issues. Well we are not in the House of Assembly but are in the same boat and require you government's assistance to deal with these issues as well.

As was mentioned earlier it is fully noted that the current Liberal government agrees with the way the "previous" PC government arbitrarily put in place the various boards with the flexibility to implement and manage what is called the "provincial waste management strategy". It is assumed that government thought that the various boards would be very reasonable and accommodating in implementing this strategy and in the way that it deals with people, and what appears to be happening off the Avalon seems to move in that direction. On the Avalon however cabin owners have been and continues to be harassed and bullied by ERSB as is noted above and in the many letters sent to ERSB they have received absolutely no reasonable response or accommodation. The common response from ERSB management and agreed to by the 20 directors is that they have the legal authority to do whatever they want, you have no say in what is going on, and if you don't pay up the intimidation collection policy will be forcefully applied. It is absolutely unreal that in this day and age such a dictatorial approach is applied with the various government's representatives (municipal and provincial) approval.
For your information we have been advised that the “new/reformed” PC party under the leadership of Mr. Ches Crosbie (and fully supported by the previous leadership candidate Mr. Tony Wakeham) would be much more accommodating for cabin owners if and when they form the next government. Unlike your comments Mr. Crosbie and Mr. Wakeham have formally stated (in two letters that are posted on the COATT website) the following:

- Regional government is about democracy and choice. The ERSB is unelected. It has imposed taxation without representation, and monopoly without oversight or alternative.
- We, in this province, are experiencing a democratic deficit. This is the root cause of the frustration of many cabin owners on the Avalon Peninsula feel toward the ERSB solid waste management strategy and the fees the Board imposes.
- We need to restore faith in our political institutions on many levels, and an efficient and fair democratic system of regional government is one of these levels.
- Under regional government the implementation and management of provincial waste management would be done democratically, and with the ability of citizens like cabin owners to weigh in on the issue in a meaningful way.
- While the ERSB has the legislative authority to charge and collect fees, the provincial government has a responsibility to ensure a consistent approach is in place across all regions of this province.
- The provincial government needs to take a leadership role and conduct a review to ensure fairness and consistency in garbage collection services for cabin owners. The review should be done in consultation with cabin owners.

Note: In a letter dated March 21, 2018 to Minister Joyce (attached) it was requested that the recently announced review of the Provincial Waste Management Strategy should include how and why this so called garbage collection service is implemented and administered by all boards, and we also welcomed the opportunity to present our issues and concerns directly to those that are undertaking the review. As per usual no response was received and it is assumed that our request was thrown in the garbage.

It is extremely obvious that the statements by Mr. Crosbie and Mr. Wakeham are much more accommodating to Avalon Peninsula cabin owners and is 100% ahead of your government’s position where we are left on our own to deal with ERSBs harassment, intimidation, and a bullying policy with how it implements and manages this unjustified, unwanted, and unused cabin garbage collection service.

It is also absolutely unbelievable that the current Liberal government will continue to ignore what the Avalon cabin owners/citizens/voters are exposed to by the way the ERSB is implementing and managing this so called service while cabin owners in the rest of the province are treated in a much more accommodating and respectful way, particularly with regard to those in your's and the Premier's electoral districts where a very acceptable user pay policy is available and adhered to. This “pay if you use and not pay if you don't use policy” makes a tremendous amount of sense that all seasonal cabin owners and others feel is the way this cabin garbage service should be implemented and managed. As you indicated in your letter the environmental ethic of the majority of cabin owners is acknowledged by your government, and that it has never been suggested that cabin areas are experiencing higher rates of littering or indiscriminate dumping. Given this statement you should be aware that when MHA’s express “negative” comments about how the board operates the board stated in it's minutes that this is irritating as the work of the board is mandated by the provincial government. We see in fact live on the Avalon we still are considered as Newfoundland and Labrador cabin owners who believe that
you are our provincial (not municipal) elected representatives and should be coming to our aid when and if required, and no doubt have the power to do so irrespective of what you have stated in your letter.

Also in your recent letter you thanked me i.e. Avalon cabin owners, for sharing our perspective and recommendations regarding the implementation of the Provincial Waste Management Strategy. You indicated that your government remains committed to public engagement, collaboration, and service excellence; and you look forward to continuing to work with all stakeholders to improve waste management services to all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. Based on this we would appreciate a positive response as to what is covered in this letter which all Avalon cabin owners will share with neighbours, relatives, and all of their Facebook friends and request that their friends share as well. The point to be noted is that we are firmly of the very obvious view that we are all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians no matter where we live and should be treated respectfully, fairly, and equally in that regard.

Regards,

[Redacted]

cc. COATT website
cc. Hon. Dwight Ball, Premier
all information redacted in accordance with S40(1)

Buckle, Joy

From: Ball, Dwight
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 9:46 AM
To: Premier of NL
Subject: FW: Avalon Peninsula Cabin Garbage Service
Attachments: Minister Parsons.pdf; Review letter Minister Joyce.pdf

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Sunday, May 13, 2018 7:20 PM
To: Glynn, Valerie <VGlynn@gov.nl.ca>; FannyHoddinott@gov.nl.ca; Ball, Dwight <DwightBall@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Avalon Peninsula Cabin Garbage Service

The attached letter is for Minister Parson's attention, and a copy is to be forwarded to Premier Ball. I have cc'd Premier Ball but am not sure if that will reach him. If possible I would appreciate if one of you would ensure that it reaches the Premier's office.

Please acknowledge that this has been received.

Thank you,
Buckle, Joy

From: Ball, Dwight
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2018 1:30 PM
To: Premier of NL
Subject: FW: Avalon Peninsula Cabin Garbage Service
Attachments: Minister Parsons.pdf; Review Letter Minister Joyce.pdf

From: Parsons, Pam
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2018 11:25 AM
To: Ball, Dwight <DwightBall@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: Anthony, Ivy <IvyAnthony@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Fw: Avalon Peninsula Cabin Garbage Service

Hi,
I've been asked to send this to you directly.
Thank you,
Pam

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 1:33 PM
To: Lamb, Tina; Parsons, Pam
Subject: Fwd: Avalon Peninsula Cabin Garbage Service

For your information.

--------- Forwarded message ---------
From: [Redacted]
Date: Sun, May 13, 2018 at 7:20 PM
Subject: Avalon Peninsula Cabin Garbage Service
To: "Glynn, Valerie" <vglynn@gov.nl.ca>, FannyHoddinott@gov.nl.ca, Premier Dwight Ball <dwightball@gov.nl.ca>

The attached letter is for Minister Parson's attention, and a copy is to be forwarded to Premier Ball. I have cc'd Premier Ball but am not sure if that will reach him. If possible I would appreciate if one of you would ensure that it reaches the Premier's office.

Please acknowledge that this has been received.

Thank you,
ICOR2018/1329-13
Hi Valerie,

Attached, for the attention of your Minister and Deputy Minister, is an email from [redacted] to Minister Parsons and Minister Joyce regarding Avalon Peninsula Cabin Garbage Service.

Please copy the Premier on the Minister’s response and email a copy to premier@gov.nl.ca within 10 business days.

Thank you,
Kaitlyn

-----< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number: ICOR2018/1329-10
Title: Email from [redacted] to Minister Parsons and Minister Joyce regarding Avalon Peninsula Cabin Garbage Service
Buckle, Joy

From: Ball, Dwight
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 9:46 AM
To: Premier of NL
Subject: FW: Avalon Peninsula Cabin Garbage Service
Attachments: Minister Parsons.pdf; Review letter Minister Joyce.pdf

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, May 13, 2018 7:20 PM
To: Glynn, Valerie <VGlynn@gov.nl.ca>; FannyHoddingott@gov.nl.ca; Ball, Dwight <DwightBall@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Avalon Peninsula Cabin Garbage Service

The attached letter is for Minister Parson's attention, and a copy is to be forwarded to Premier Ball. I have cc'd Premier Ball but am not sure if that will reach him. If possible I would appreciate if one of you would ensure that it reaches the Premier's office.

Please acknowledge that this has been received.

Thank you,
Good Morning...

Please find attached copy of response letter to Mr. [redacted]

Val

-----Original Message-----
From: Premier of NL
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2018 9:45 AM
To: Glynn, Valerie <VGlenn@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: HPE Records Manager Signed or PDF Copy of Record : ICOR2018/1329-10 : ICOR2018/1329-10 [redacted]

Hi Valerie,

Attached, for the attention of your Minister and Deputy Minister, is an email from [redacted] to Minister Parsons and Minister Joyce regarding Avalon Peninsula Cabin Garbage Service.

Please copy the Premier on the Minister's response and email a copy to premier@gov.nl.ca within 10 business days.

Thank you,
Kaitlyn

-----< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number: ICOR2018/1329-10
Title : Email from [redacted] to Minister Parsons and Minister Joyce regarding Avalon Peninsula Cabin Garbage Service
Further to my recent e-mails, I am writing in response to your letter dated May 13, 2018, regarding the implementation of the Provincial Waste Management Strategy in Eastern region. As Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment, Premier Ball has requested that I also provide you with a response on his behalf.

I appreciate your concerns about the Strategy being implemented differently across the province. However, I would suggest that the regional service boards are more appropriately compared to the province’s various municipalities and local service districts than to most other agencies, boards, or commissions. Much like municipal councils and committees across the province, these boards have similar authorities to make local service delivery decisions that can vary to better reflect local circumstances and priorities. For towns and local service districts, such decisions can include different mill rates and municipal by-laws, regulations, and policies. For the regional service boards, these decisions are primarily related to fee structures and collection policies.

Having said that, there are also a number of elements of the Strategy that are applied consistently across all regions, for example, the establishment of various province-wide environmental standards for waste management facilities and activities in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act.

I also recognize the points you shared from Mr. Crosbie and Mr. Wakeham regarding democratic representation and regional government. First of all, I must re-iterate that the members who serve on the regional service boards are not unelected. These individuals are local government representatives who, in accordance with the Regional Service Boards Act, 2012, must either be municipal councillors or local service district committee members for the specific purpose of democratic representation. Accordingly, these members are expected to appropriately represent the people that they serve. The Chairs of the boards are chosen by the board members.
Finally, with respect to your question about contributing to the ongoing review, if there are any additional recommendations you would like to provide, then I encourage you to consider making a written submission to the Department, to be duly considered as part of the review process.

Thank you, again, for all of your time and dedication on behalf of Avalon Peninsula cabin owners who have been sharing their concerns and experiences on this issue. I look forward to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to find solutions that work for the residents of Eastern region.

Sincerely,

ANDREW PARSONS, QC
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment

cc: Honourable Premier Dwight Ball
Hi Valerie,

Attached, for the attention of your Minister and Deputy Minister, is an email from [redacted] to Minister Parsons regarding Minister Parsons reply to [redacted] letter about Waste Management.

Please copy the Premier on the Minister's response, if a response is required, and email a copy to premier@gov.nl.ca within 10 business days.

Thank you,

Kaitlyn

---------- HPE Records Manager record Information ----------

Record Number: ICOR2018/1329-15
Title: Email from [redacted] to Minister Parsons regarding Minister Parsons reply to [redacted] letter about Waste Management
Hello Mr. Parsons,

I have a cabin in [redacted] and am a member of COATT. I am following up on your reply response letter (June 18th, 2018) to [redacted] letter about garbage collection started being implemented differently across the province.

First, there is no justification why there are several different strategies across the province from different boards. If this decision is based on waste management, then everyone should pay the same.

I would like to give you some background on our issues with this overall injustice that has been shoved upon us by ERSB. When we had a first meeting at the end of January, 2018, with MR. Eddie Joyce, Pam Parsons, Steve Crocker, other members of government, and members of ERB (who taped the whole meeting), government was very supportive of our cause, and said that other areas of the province offered up to 50% less for seasonal cabin owners in non-incorporated areas, and that ERSB should be able to do the same for the Avalon cabin owners.

ERSB disputed this and said if other areas are doing this, it is illegal. This went back and forth between ERSB and government members for a few minutes, and finally Mr. Joyce said he would get his legal team to verify this and get back to everyone.

This was proven to be not illegal, and ERB does have the authority to change it. When Mr. Eddie Joyce asked ERB to get a copy of the taped meeting, they refused and your government had to file a application for access to freedom of information to get ERB to turn the information over.

One question that was asked at this meeting was how did ERB come up with the $180.00 amount. They said they added up all the homes in municipalities, non-incorporated communities and seasonal cabin owners. Then, whatever the total cost would be, they just divided the total number of units to come up with the $180.00 and said this was the best way to make it fair to everyone.

So, my point on this is, I have to pay (SUBSIDIZE) people who live in a community, who get road work done, roads plowed in the winter, have access to garbage collection all year around, and have access to water and electricity. Yet, I have no running water or electricity, have to pay our own committee to upkeep our road, no access for at least 6 months a year, and this is supposed to be fair ??????? Something is NOT democratic with that picture.

That's almost like saying to someone who lives in Carbonear, who pays half the property tax as I do living in ST. John's, we are going to charge the person living in Carbonear more so my property tax in ST. John's can be less to make it fair for everyone.

Also, at that meeting in January, it was discussed how could they charge for garbage collection in the winter, if they could not get in to pick up garbage. ERB suggested there would be drop-off places in the winter. It was only after this meeting, that they started going around putting up signs.

After that meeting, I went out to Northern Bay [redacted] and decided to check and see where they put the sign up in Western Bay. When I checked (see attached pictures), I was completely shocked, they had a sign up at the end of the road into Western Bay Line, right next to peoples homes in the community of Western Bay. No dumpsterers, just a sign. I took pictures of this and sent it to government and ERB.

I believe someone from government made they take the sign down. Even then, the sign only said January 1st to March 1st. This area is not normally accessible from December until May.
Another issue which was discussed at that meeting was garbage collection in the summer time. Most people go to their cabins from Friday to Sunday for a few weekends in the summer time. In Western Bay Line, they collect garbage Friday mornings.

So, in the winter time, ERSB wanted me and about 85 cabin owners to drop garbage off on the ground in front of peoples home in the community and be there for 5 days in the winter time before it was collected, if not torn apart by birds, animals, or buried up in a snowstorm, and, in the summer time, garbage will be left out 5 days in the heat before it is collected.

Surely, Mr. Parsons, who is head over the department of Municipal Affairs and Environment, must agree from my comments above, that ERSB is NOT supplying 12 month service and protecting our environment.

Just about every area on the COATT site have said that the service is not needed, not supplied or if it is supplied, it is very erratic, and our natural environment is actually getting more polluted not better, since this policy came into place. ERSB has no intention of changing anything and as far as I am concern, this is a big money grab. There is an estimated 5,000 cabin owners on the Avalon, which equates to well over 20,000 people who are very upset.

If, as you government & MR. Ball has said, that you are there for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, I am suggesting that to get this issue resolved, you and your government need to change the legislative law to force ERSB to be more flexible when dealing with seasonal cabin owners.

I see so many comments or reapons about why people are leaving our beautiful province and how can we try and get more people to stay here. There are several reasons for this, such as jobs, but one of the biggest reasons is that we are taxed to death.

but this so called garbage tax for seasonal cabin owners, who are already paying property tax and garbage tax in the main communities they live in, is nothing short of robbery.

P.S. I would like to thank Pam Parsons to speaking in the House of assembly on behalf of seasonal cabin owners.
Potential copyright material

If you wish to obtain a copy please contact the ATIPP Office at (709) 729-7072 or atippoffice@gov.nl.ca.
Hi Valerie,

Attached, for the attention of your Minister and Deputy Minister, is an email from [REDACTED] to Premier Ball and government members regarding an updated Summary of the Avalon cabin owners issues and concerns.

Please copy the Premier on the Minister’s response, if a response is required, and email a copy to premier@gov.nl.ca within 10 business days.

Thank you,
Kaitlyn

------< HPE Records Manager record Information >------

Record Number: ICOR2018/1329-17
Title: Additional email from [REDACTED] to Premier Ball regarding an updated Summary of the Avalon cabin owners issues and concerns
Buckle, Joy

From: Ball, Dwight
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 11:54 AM
To: Premier of NL
Subject: FW: Updated Summary of the Avalon cabin owners issues and concerns re. so called cabin garbage collection service
Attachments: Summary of cabin garbage - June 2018 .pdf

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 10:22 AM
To: Hawkins, Allan <AllanHawkins@gov.nl.ca>; Parsons, Andrew <AndrewParsons@gov.nl.ca>; Davis, Bernard <BernardDavis@gov.nl.ca>; Parsley, Betty <BettyParsley@gov.nl.ca>; Warr, Brian <BrianWarr@gov.nl.ca>; Haley, Carol Anne <CarolAnneHaley@gov.nl.ca>; Bennett, Cathy (MHA) <CBennett@gov.nl.ca>; Mitchelmore, Christopher <CMitchelmore@gov.nl.ca>; Holloway, Colin <ColinHolloway@gov.nl.ca>; Bennett, Derek <DerekBennett@gov.nl.ca>; Bragg, Derrick <DerrickBragg@gov.nl.ca>; Byrne, Gerry <GerryByrne@gov.nl.ca>; Letto, Graham <GrahamLetto@gov.nl.ca>; Dean, Jerry <JerryDean@gov.nl.ca>; Finn, John <JohnFinn@gov.nl.ca>; Haggie, John <JohnHaggie@gov.nl.ca>; Dempster, Lisa <LisaDempster@gov.nl.ca>; Browne, Mark <MarkBrowne@gov.nl.ca>; King, Neil <NeilKing@gov.nl.ca>; Parsons, Pam <PamParsons@gov.nl.ca>; Trimper, Perry <PerryTrimper@gov.nl.ca>; Ball, Dwight <DwightBall@gov.nl.ca>; Edmunds, Randy <RandyEdmunds@gov.nl.ca>; Reid, Scott <scottreid@gov.nl.ca>; GambinWalsh, Sherry <SherryGambinWalsh@gov.nl.ca>; Coady, Siobhan <SiobhanCoady@gov.nl.ca>; Crocker, Steve <SteveCrocker@gov.nl.ca>; Osborne, Tom <tosborne@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Updated Summary of the Avalon cabin owners issues and concerns re. so called cabin garbage collection service

The attached summary is for your information.
Updated summary (June 2018) of the Avalon Peninsula cabin owner’s major concerns with regard to what cabin owners believe is Eastern Regional Service Board’s (ERSB) bullying, harassing, and discriminatory implementation and administration of the Provincial Waste Management Strategy with regarding to the aggressive enforcement of a so called cabin garbage collection service, and government’s support i.e. our democratic elected representatives, for the way that the ERSB operates.

The Provincial Government in 2002 brought about a Provincial Waste Management Strategy to primarily deal with municipal garbage collection and disposal services. The focus of the strategy was initially geared toward municipalities, local service districts, and unincorporated “communities”. There was no indication publicly that cabin areas were to be part of the strategy. Nine (9) waste management committees were eventually given the authority to implement and administer the provincial strategy in specific areas:

- Bonavista Peninsula
- Burin Peninsula
- Central NL
- Coast of Bays
- Western NL
- Eastern
- Green Bay
- Northern Peninsula
- Southern Labrador

Three (3) of the above areas were eventually managed by regional service boards:
- Central NL Regional Service Board
- Eastern Regional Service Board (ERSB)
- Western Regional waste Management Board

In and around 2012 the strategy was expanded to include areas outside of municipalities and local service districts which are generally cabin areas. While cabin owners OFF the Avalon were given due consideration for their seasonal nature and/or charged reduced fees for using a garbage collection service and/or not charged if the service was not used, cabin owners on the Avalon Peninsula without absolutely any consultation were told by the Eastern Regional Service Board that a cabin garbage collection service would be implemented in their areas and a fee of $180.00 would be applied. While 99% of cabin owners expressed their disagreement with having this service forced on them and also forced to pay a $180.00 fee the ERSB totally ignored all issues that were raised about the implementation and administration of this service by simply quoting the fact that government legislation gave them the full authority to do what they were doing and to charge whatever “they” felt was necessary to provide the service.

The following highlights many of the issues and concerns raised by cabin owners via emails, personal discussions, and on the “Cabin Owners Against the Trash Tax” Facebook website (COATT):

1. **Seasonal Use of Cabins:** Most cabins are only used on weekends / holidays i.e. on a seasonal basis, which generates only a small amount of garbage i.e. a shopping bag full, which is brought home to their permanent residence for proper disposal. There was / is obviously no valid reason or requirement for garbage collection.

2. **Garbage Collection Not Provided As Advertised And Creating Environmental Issues:** A large number of cabin areas are totally shut down during the wintertime and the access roads are generally snowed in and inaccessible which makes it impossible to continue to provide this so called cabin garbage collection service for a 4 or 5 month period despite the fact that ERSB maintains that it’s service is provide on a 12 month / weekly basis and you are charged accordingly. Also in the winter there are only bulk residential drop off sites in a number of cabin areas covering the period anywhere from January 1st to March 31st. This past winter for example when some cabin roads were inaccessible cabin owners were told to dump their garbage in specified open areas for pick up resulting in a lot of garbage being blown around into the near woods, onto nearby
properties and picked apart by animals, rodents, and birds. Meanwhile a statement by ERSB which is hard to believe says the following "we need to keep our province healthy and beautiful, and it is up to us to take good care of the environment ensuring that generations to come are able to enjoy it as much as we do".

(3) **Cabin Area Private Roads**: Many cabin owners pay a fee to their own road committees for road maintenance and in some cases for winter snow clearing which ERSB uses (if and when they attempt to provide this cabin garbage collection service) without any due consideration to contributing to these associated costs.

(4) **No Consultation**: Absolutely no consultation was undertaken with cabin owners (either permanent or seasonal) before the cabin garbage collection service was planned, designed, and implemented. Cabin owners had absolutely no say in what was to happen and that is the way it is still done today.

(5) **Taxes Paid At Primary Residences**: Owners, who do not live full time at their cabins, believe that they are already contributing to the provincial waste management strategy by paying taxes (garbage disposal, etc.) in their communities, towns, and cities where they reside full time.

(6) **Cabin Owners Waste Management**: 99% of cabin owners ensure that their cabin properties are properly maintained, kept clean and respectable and none of this is recognized or acknowledged by ERSB which means that what it is doing is a money grab to finance it's other activities. We are what is considered as "cash cows". We are basically taxed twice: where we live full time and pay considerably high taxes, and where we live on a part time / seasonal basis with little or no garbage to be collected. This Province overall is considered by it's citizens as a TAX KINGDOM where everyone is taxed to death and government couldn't care less.

(7) **No Credit / Recognition For Cabin Owners Waste Management**: The fact that we look after the small amount of garbage that is generated at our cabins means that we are fully adhering to the goals and objectives of the Provincial Waste Management Strategy without any additional cost but this is not at all positively recognized by ERSB or government.

(8) **Non Environmental Rules For Cabin Garbage Collection And Resulting Safety Hazards**: After weekend activities cabin owners are required to leave their garbage at their cabins which will be picked up within 2/3/4/5 days afterwards which to everyone's dismay will attract animals and rodents to the area and create a safety hazard to families in particular to their kids and pets. In St. John's for example the day that garbage is collected it is stated that all garbage must be only placed out for collection between 6:00 and 8:00 AM on that particular day otherwise you will be held responsible for not adhering to the regulations. Ten (10) of the ERSB directors are St. John's City councillors and they have expressed no concerns about how cabin garbage is handled compared to how it is handled in their city.

(9) **Garbage Not Collected On A Regular Basis**: In many cases cabin owners have noticed that cabin garbage is not always collected on a regular weekly basis and is left there over extended periods of time resulting in terrible odours and attracting animals, rodents, and birds.

(10) **Service Fees Different Between Boards**: Service fees are different across the province depending on where you live. It is viewed as a discriminatory and biased approach when parts of the province is treated differently than others especially with regard to what is called a Provincial Waste Management Strategy.

(11) **Fire Protection and Emergency Services**: A fee of $50.00 is forcibly charged and while most cabin owners believe that if this was done right it would be a great service there are many concerns as to how effective and realistic it will be regarding (1) how long will it take the fire departments to respond to remote fires and in that regard it is understood that such response times will be well within 45 minutes or more, (2) how will remote cabin locations be identified both near and far, (3) there are no fire hydrants available for use so how many tanker trucks are required and available for use, (4) in the winter time a lot of cabins are in use but the roads are inaccessible and that will prevent a response. In St. John's it is understood that an acceptable response time to
combat a fire issue is within 6 minutes. St. John's citizens would not be at all impressed with what we have to pay for and accept as a fire protection service which is approved by ten (10) St. John's City councillors who are directors on the ERSB.

(12) **Cabin Owners Have No Elected Representation:** It is noted that the ERSB directors are elected municipal councillors from various municipalities around the Avalon with ten (10) from the City of St. John's. These directors are authorized to give and review direction regarding the implementation and administration of services by the ERSB in various municipal areas which now includes vast unincorporated cabin areas. Based on this cabin areas have absolutely no representation on the board which indicates that it does not function and operate in a democratic way.

(13) **Financial Challenges:** There is also the affordability factor for many cabin owners as not all cabin owners in today's environment have the financial ability to absorb extra expenses such as the initial fee of $180.00 OR be charged increased interest on one's account OR be charged for all past years when one only receives an invoice for this year OR have your credit rating negatively affected if you do not have the financial ability to pay what you are being charged. There is a tremendous lack of understanding that the majority of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are generally just getting by and cabin life in a lot of cases is very basic. Not everyone is making the big bucks as most are making modest or low end salaries which translates into living day to day - pay cheque to pay cheque especially when you factor in what it takes to live today in Newfoundland and Labrador or as we call it in the *Newfoundland and Labrador Tax Kingdom.* When you include retirees into the mix it further compounds the affordability factor given the fact that many are just getting by as well; however, those in charge have absolutely no appreciation of this or couldn't care less.

(14) **Intimidation Collection Strategy:** As this so called cabin garbage collection service is NOT required, NOT necessary, NOT requested, and NOT used by 99% of cabin owners the ERSB has established an “intimidation collection policy” as per the following:

(a) **Interest** is immediately added to your account if it is not immediately paid.

(b) You are taken to Small Claims Court for non payment and when you outline to the judge that there are many issues that exist regarding this so called collection service the judge, as per ERSB's position and direction, confirms the fact that the legislation that governs what ERSB does requires you to pay irrespective of any problems that might arise especially if the garbage is not picked up. Obviously the previous PC government, in approving this type of legislation, had and the current Liberal government still has no problem with anyone paying for a service that is not provided.

(c) **You are firmly threatened that your account will be turned over to collection agencies and your credit rating will be negatively affected** which for 99% of cabin owners is not only an insult but will have a devastating impact on those who are trying to survive in today's financial environment.

(d) If after 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 years go by and you finally receive an invoice for this so called garbage collection service you are still charged for ALL previous years PLUS interest.

The ERSB management, ERSB directors, and government have been written on many many occasions over the last 6 years to address the issues and concerns raised by cabin owners which has resulted in either no response having been received to address the issues or only the legislation is quoted which basically says that ERSB has the legal authority to do what it does or doesn't do and charge accordingly. In that regard any and all issues are not addressed. Given what cabin owners feel is ERSB's negative attitude toward cabin owners and how we are being treated is viewed by many as being bullied, harassed, and intimidated which is quite the frustrating experience for 99% of cabin owners that are honest, hard working, and law abiding citizens. For those of us who are retired we are absolutely disgusted with how we are being insulted, intimidated, and threatened despite a lifetime of hard work,
honesty, raising families, and attempting to be as successful as possible and along the way paying whatever taxes are required in this TAX KINGDOM.

One of the biggest issues that has been raised is that the ERSB's aggressive implementation and administration policy regarding the Provincial Waste Management Strategy is only applied to cabin owners on the Avalon Peninsula. Off the Avalon cabin owners either pay very little for a garbage collection service as is the policy on the Burin Peninsula or only pay if you use the service as is the policy around the rest of the province. Pay if you use the service or don't pay if you don't use the service is a very accommodating policy and is offered to all cabin owners on the west of the Island which includes the electoral districts of Premier Ball, Minister Andrew Parsons plus former minister Eddie Joyce and others. Given the fact that the Provincial Waste Management Strategy is a province-wide initiative we are of the belief that everyone in the province should be treated respectively, fairly, and equally. It is with that in mind that we made a request for the current Liberal government to intervene and request that all the boards implement and administer waste management in a consistent province-wide manner.

The question that we asked Minister Parsons is that would he or the Premier agree and not intervene if their constituents were being treated as we were being treated and the rest of the province's cabin owners were treated much more differently as well?

Minister Parsons on the Premier's behalf refused to answer the above noted question and refused to recognized the fact that Avalon cabin owners were being forcibly discriminated against compared to the rest of the province. In his first response (letter dated May 10/18) he stated that he acknowledged that the Western Regional Service Board has taken a different approach to waste management for seasonal properties than the Eastern Regional Service Board. He was also aware that other regional service boards have chosen to implement reduced fees for such properties. He assured us that neither Premier Ball or any other member of the Liberal government has had any input in any of those decisions and that these decisions are operational policy decisions that are made at the regional level by the local (municipal) government representatives who serve on each board.

In his second response (letter dated June 18/18) Minister Parsons and Premier Ball justified and supported how the ERSB is operating by suggesting that the regional boards are more appropriately compared to the province's various municipalities and local service districts than to other agencies, boards or commissions. Much like municipal councils and committees across the province, these boards have similar authorities to make local service delivery decisions that can vary to better reflect local circumstances and priorities. For towns and local service districts, such decisions can include different mill rates and municipal by-laws, regulations, and policies. For regional service boards, these decisions are primarily related to fee structures and collection policies.

It can be noted that all MHAs have been written regarding all the issues we have with regard this so called cabin garbage collection service with only two responses having been made; an email from Paul Lane indicating that he supports Avalon cabin owners efforts to have the issues addressed, and Pam Parsons indicated her concerns in an address in the House of Assembly. Not one other MHA responded accordingly particularly those who represent districts on the Avalon where cabin owners are being discriminated against and intimidated by the ERSB.

It can also be noted that all Eastern Regional Service Board directors have been personally written outlining the many concerns that cabin owners have regarding cabin garbage collection and not one response received particularly with regard to the total lack of interaction with those affected. It is
very interesting to note that 10 of the 20 board directors are councillors from the City of St. John's who it is understood believes in and operates under the City's public engagement policy but have shown no interest in having any public engagement with Avalon cabin owners.

The fact that we live in a democracy we expected that government would support and protect us from such bullying and harassment that we believe we are receiving from the ERSB. And no matter where we live in the province we should be treated in a fair and equal way with regard to how the implementation and administration of the waste management strategy is delivered whether you live in the east, in the west, central, north or south. **For the current government to totally ignore our legitimate concerns and let the ERSB to continue to do what it does is absolutely unbelievable and unacceptable.** In an interview on NTV after the recent Liberal convention in Gander the Premier talked about how his government would do in the next election and one comment that he made was “his government would be doing the right things for the people in the Province” which means that most people will be happy with his government and he will win the next election. **It is amazing that his government's support for how the ERSB treats the cabin owners on the Avalon Peninsula is considered the right thing to do and in that regard we should be happy with being (what we consider as) harassed, bullied, and intimidated. Time will tell, no doubt!**
Dear [Redacted]

This e-mail is to confirm that your correspondence to Minister Parsons, Minister Crocker, Premier Ball, and several other MHAs regarding issues with garbage collection services provided in cabin areas by Eastern Regional Service Board has been received.

Please be advised that this correspondence is being reviewed, and a response will be issued in the near future.

Thank you,

Jerry Collins
Manager, Infrastructure and Waste Management (A)
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

------ HPE Records Manager record Information ------
Record Number: ICOR2018/1329-15
Title: Email from [Redacted] to Minister Parsons regarding Minister Parsons's reply to [Redacted] letter about Waste Management

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From: [Redacted]
Sent: Sunday, June 24, 2018 2:51 PM
To: Parsons, Andrew
Cc: Parsons, Pam; Crocker, Steve; Premier of NL; Lester, Jim; [Redacted]; David Crawford; Minister, TW
Subject: Mr. Parsons's reply to [Redacted] letter about Strategy being implemented differently across the province

Hello Mr. Parsons,

I have a cabin in [Redacted] and am a member of COATT. I am following up on your reply response letter (June 18th, 2018) to [Redacted] letter about garbage collection started being implemented differently across the province.

First, there is no justification why there are several different strategies across the province from different boards. If this decision is based on waste management, then everyone should pay the same.

I would like to give you some background on our issues with this overall injustice that has been shoved upon us by ERSB. When we had a first meeting at the end of January, 2018, with MR. Eddie Joyce, Pam Parsons, Steve Crocker, other members of government, and members of ERSB (who taped the whole meeting), government was very supportive of our cause, and said that other areas of the province offered up to 50% less for seasonal cabin owners in non-incorporated areas, and that ERSB should be able to do the same for the Avalon cabin owners.

ERSB disputed this and said if other areas are doing this, it is illegal. This went back and forth between ERSB and government members for a few minutes, and finally Mr. Joyce said he would get his legal team to verify this and get back to everyone.
This was proven to be not illegal, and ERSB does have the authority to change it. When Mr. Eddie Joyce asked ERSB to get a copy of the taped meeting, they refused and your government had to file a application for access to freedom of information to get ERSB to turn the information over.

One question that was asked at this meeting was how did ERSB come up with the $180.00 amount. They said they added up all the homes in municipalities, non-incorporated communities and seasonal cabin owners. Then, whatever the total cost would be, they just divided the total number of units to come up with the $180.00 and said this was the best way to make it fair to everyone.

So, my point on this is, I have to pay(SUBSIDIZE) people who live in a community, who get road work done, roads plowed in the winter, have access to garbage collection all year around, and have access to water and electricity. Yet, have no running water or electricity, have to pay our own committee to upkeep our road, no access for at least 6 months a year, and this is suppose to be fair ??????? Something is NOT democratic with that picture.

That’s almost like saying to someone who lives in Carbonear, who pays half the property tax as I do living in ST. John’s, we are going to charge the person living in Carbonear more so my property tax in ST. John’s can be less to make it fair for everyone.

Also, at that meeting in January, it was discussed how could they charge for garbage collection in the winter, if they could not get in to pick up garbage. ERSB suggested there would be drop-off places in the winter. It was only after this meeting, that they started going around putting up signs.

After that meeting, I went out to Northern Bay to visit [REDACTED] and decided to check and see where they put the sign up in Western Bay. When I checked(see attached pictures), I was completely shocked, they had a sign up at the end of the road into Western Bay Line, right next to peoples homes in the community of Western Bay. No dumpsters, just a sign. I took pictures of this and sent it to government and ERSB.

I believe someone from government made they take the sign down. Even then, the sign only said January 1st to March 1st. This area is not normally accessible from December until May.

Another issue which was discussed at that meeting was garbage collection in the summer time. Most people go to their cabins from Friday to Sunday for a few weekends in the summer time. In Western Bay Line, they collect garbage Friday mornings.

So, in the winter time, ERSB wanted me and about 85 cabin owners to drop garbage off on the ground in front of peoples home in the community and be there for 5 days in the winter time before it was collected, if not torn apart by birds, animals, or buried up in a snowstorm, and, in the summer time, garbage will be left out 5 days in the heat before it is collected.

Surely, Mr. Parsons, who is head over the department of Municipal Affairs and Environment, must agree from my comments above, that ERSB is NOT supplying 12 month service and protecting our environment.

Just about every area on the COATT site have said that the service is not needed, not supplied or if it is supplied, it is very erratic, and our natural environment is actually getting more polluted not better, since this policy came into place. ERSB has no intention of changing anything and as far as I am concerned, this is a big money grab. There is an estimated 5,000 cabin owners on the Avalon, which equates to well over 20,000 people who are very upset.

If, as you government & MR. Ball has said, that you are there for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, I am suggesting that to get this issue resolved, you and your government need to change the legislative law to force ERSB to be more flexible when dealing with seasonal cabin owners.

I see so many comments or reasons about why people are leaving our beautiful province and how can we try and get more people to stay here. There are several reasons for this, such as jobs, but one of the biggest reasons is that we are taxed to death.

but this so called garbage tax for seasonal cabin owners, who are already paying property tax and garbage tax in the main communities they live in, is nothing short of robbery.

P.S. I would like to thank Pam Parsons to speaking in the House of assembly on behalf of seasonal cabin owners.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10
Good Morning [Name]

Please see attached response letter sent on behalf of Minister Andrew Parsons. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jerry Collins at JerryCollins@gov.nl.ca. Thanks, Connie

CONNIE K. SHEA
Administrative Assistant to Deputy Minister Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
Phone: 729-3052 Fax: 729-0943
Email: ckshea@gov.nl.ca

------< HPE Records Manager record Information >------

Record Number: COR/2018/02130-02
Title: Acknowledgement Letter - Concerns with Waste Management Services in Eastern Region
I am writing in response to your e-mail dated July 4, 2018, in which you re-iterated a number of concerns with Eastern Regional Service Board's (ERSB's) waste management services and fees in cabin areas. I hope that this response will provide some clarification on the issues that you have outlined.

First, I am familiar with the meeting that took place between concerned cabin owners, the former Minister, and ERSB representatives. As indicated during and following that meeting, the regional service boards have the authority to establish their own fee structures.

I understand that ERSB has not made any changes to their fee structures or collection policies in cabin areas to date, and have maintained their position that a common fee applied across the entire region is the fairest solution. On this point, I must re-iterate that the regional service boards are comprised of democratically-elected local government representatives who are expected to represent those who live in their respective regions. These individuals are selected by communities from among municipal councils and local service districts in the region, and are best positioned to understand and appropriately respond to local concerns. This is why they have been granted the authority for making these operational policy decisions under the Regional Service Boards Act, 2012. This is also why there have been some differences in terms of how some regional service boards are delivering these services across the province, as you have noted.

You are correct that the previous Winter Residential Waste Drop-off locations, including the one you’ve highlighted at Western Bay Line, did not meet the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act. ERSB was advised of this by officials with my department’s Environment Branch, and department officials continue to work with ERSB to develop appropriate solutions prior to the upcoming winter season.

I also acknowledge your concerns that waste put out for collection is being scattered by nuisance wildlife. However, I would note that these potential risks exist in many rural communities, not just in cabin areas, and that they can be efficiently managed through
appropriate waste containment and placement practices. Covering waste by using nets or secure containers, and placing it out for collection at pre-determined times are key strategies for addressing these risks that are employed by various waste collection providers across the province, including ERSB. That said, if ERSB’s current collection schedules and service standards are not meeting the needs of cabin owners in certain areas, then I would encourage you to work with ERSB staff and the board member for the sub-region to find solutions that might be better suited to those needs.

Thank you once again for taking the time to express your concerns with ERSB’s waste management services and fees. I understand that this has been a frustrating experience for many cabin owners, but I am optimistic that solutions can be found through continued engagement and dialogue between stakeholders and ERSB.

I look forward to continuing the important work to providing modern, responsible, and sustainable waste management services across our beautiful province.

Sincerely,

ANDREW PARSONS, Q.C.
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment

cc: Honourable Premier Dwight Ball
    Honourable Steve Crocker, Minister of Transportation and Works
    Ms. Pam Parsons, MHA
    Mr. Jim Lester, MHA
Thank you for your reply to my letter that I sent to government about a month ago. I have highlighted several of Mr. Parsons’ responses to some of our issues and concerns, and I hope they can be discussed further when we have our meeting with Mr. Parsons next week.

One major issue I have that Mr. Parsons stated was that the best way to get some of those issues resolved would be with continued dialogue with ERSB.

We have exhausted all avenues with ERSB to get any of those issues resolved. ERSB know that they have the authority to accommodate cabin owners like they do on the west coast, central, and Marystown area, but are NOT willing to do anything.

They are using us as a cash cow, to keep the cost of garbage collection down in municipalities & un-incorporated communities, who have full access to garbage collection all year around.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Good Morning

Please see attached response letter sent on behalf of Minister Andrew Parsons. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jerry Collins at JerryCollins@gov.nl.ca. Thanks, Connie

CONNIE K. SHEA
Administrative Assistant to Deputy Minister
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
Phone: 729-3052  Fax: 729-0943
Email: ckshea@gov.nl.ca

-----< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----
Record Number :  COR/2018/02130-02
Title :  Acknowledgement Letter - Concerns with Waste Management Services in Eastern Region

“This email and any attached files are intended for the sole use of the primary and copied addressee(s) and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. Any distribution, use or copying by any means of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender.”
AUG 06 2018
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
Office of the Minister

COR/2018/02130-02

Dear [Redacted]

I am writing in response to your e-mail dated July 4, 2018, in which you re-iterated a number of concerns with Eastern Regional Service Board's (ERSB's) waste management services and fees in cabin areas. I hope that this response will provide some clarification on the issues that you have outlined.

First, I am familiar with the meeting that took place between concerned cabin owners, the former Minister, and ERSB representatives. As indicated during and following that meeting, the regional service boards have the authority to establish their own fee structures.

I understand that ER SB has not made any changes to their fee structures or collection policies in cabin areas to date, and have maintained their position that a common fee applied across the entire region is the fairest solution. On this point, I must re-iterate that the regional service boards are comprised of democratically-elected local government representatives who are expected to represent those who live in their respective regions. (This may be true, but 99% of cabin owners are NOT within the various municipal boundaries and are NOT part of municipal election process.)

These individuals are selected by communities from among municipal councils and local service districts in the region, and are best positioned to understand and appropriately respond to local concerns. This is why they have been granted the authority for making these operational policy decisions under the Regional Service Boards Act, 2012. This is also why there have been some differences in terms of how some regional service boards are delivering these services across the province, as you have noted. *(Again, as I stated in my previous email, ER SB are using Cabin owners to subsidize garbage collection in rural communities, who have access to garbage collection all year around, have electricity, running water, maintenance for road work, etc. WE do NOT).*

You are correct that the previous Winter Residential Waste Drop-off locations, including the one you've highlighted at Western Bay Line, did not meet the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act. ER SB was advised of this by officials with my department's Environment Branch, and department officials continue to work with ER SB to develop appropriate solutions prior to the upcoming winter season. *(So, my point to this issue is that this past winter(2018), was the first year that they even put up those winter drop off signs, only because we brought it up at that January*
meeting we had with Government representatives and ERSB. Also, the signs said residential winter drop off from January 1st, to March 1st. Cabin owners are NOT residential, and if this was the first year they put up those signs, and your government made them take them down in a couple of weeks because of complaints, how can they charge cabin owners for a service over the last several years that was NOT, and could NOT be supplied).

I also acknowledge your concerns that waste put out for collection is being scattered by nuisance wildlife. However, I would note that these potential risks exist in many rural communities, not just in cabin areas, and that they can be efficiently managed through appropriate waste containment and placement practices. (Is this a double standard? I can’t put my garbage in a recycle container on the corner of my street in St. John’s for 5 days before it is collected. I have to put it out NOT before 07:00 am of the day garbage is collected. I believe it is officially stated on the DEPT. of Fisheries & Land resources website that cabin owners are encouraged to avoid attracting bears by ensuring that nothing is left outside or around their cabin properties with the particular emphasis on cabin garbage which should be stored inside a shed or garage UNTIL just before pick-up.) Covering waste by using nets or secure containers, and placing it out for collection at pre-determined times are key strategies for addressing these risks that are employed by various waste collection providers across the province, including ERSB. That said, if ERSB’s current collection schedules and service standards are not meeting the needs of cabin owners in certain areas, then I would encourage you to work with ERSB staff and the board member for the sub-region to find solutions that might be better suited to those needs. (We have brought this issue with garbage collection timeframes with ERSB on several occasions, and NOTHING has been done with the garbage collection. As I stated on my previous Email, in Western Bay line, garbage is collected on Fridays. Yet, most people don’t go to their cabin until Friday, and back home on Sunday. This leaves garbage out in the summertime for 5 days before it is collected. At our last meeting with ERSB, when we discussed all those issues again, MR. Grants comments were “it is obvious we agree to disagree and that will not change).”

Thank you once again for taking the time to express your concerns with ERSB’s waste management services and fees. I understand that this has been a frustrating experience for many cabin owners, but I am optimistic that solutions can be found through continued engagement and dialogue between stakeholders and ERSB.

I look forward to continuing the important work to providing modern, responsible, and sustainable waste management services across our beautiful province.

ANDREW PARSONS, Q.C.
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment

/jk
cc: Honourable Dwight Ball
Honourable Steve Crocker, Minister of Transportation and Works
Ms. Pam Parsons, MHA
Mr. Jim Lester, MHA
Hi Valerie,

Attached, for the attention of your Minister and Deputy Minister, is an email from [REDACTED] with attached letter to Minister Parsons regarding potential safety hazards regarding the cabin garbage collection service.

Please copy the Premier on the Minister's response and email a copy to premier@gov.nl.ca within 10 business days.

Thank you,
Kaitlyn

-----< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number: ICOR2018/2734
Title: Email from [REDACTED] with attached letter to Minister Parsons regarding Potential Safety Hazards Regarding The Cabin Garbage Collection Service
The attached letter is for your attention and response.
Hon. Andrew Parsons, Minister
Dept. Of Municipal Affairs and Environment

July 3, 2018

Re. Cabin Garbage Collection – Potential Hazard to Cabin Owners

Dear Minister Parsons,

In the recent updated summary (June 2018) outlining the Avalon Peninsula cabin owner's major concerns with regard ERSB's implementation and administration of the so called cabin garbage collection service there are many issues that require attention. To date two responses (one from a Minister and another from a MHA) have been received which expressed agreement with the fact that the Provincial Waste Management Strategy should be implemented and administered consistently on a province-wide basis. Either we should ALL “pay for something we don't need, have not requested, and don't use” or it should be “pay if you use or don't pay if you don't use” policy. It was thought that you would provide a response as well; however, no response has been received as yet which sad to say is what we experienced on a regular basis from the previous minister.

In the meantime on VOCM yesterday and shared on the website Newfoundland Association of Hunters and Anglers there was a picture of a black bear recently seen in Aquaforte located along the Southern Shore. Over the last number of years bear sightings are becoming more frequent around the Avalon and it is with that in mind that cabin owners are very concerned about the potential hazard of leaving garbage out for pick-up in cabin areas that will definitely attract rodents, birds, and animals. Animals such as bears (and coyote/wolf hybrids i.e. coywolf) have the potential of being somewhat aggressive and could result in a major risk to cabin owners, their families and pets if indeed these animals are attracted to cabin areas as a result of the forceful implementation of this so called cabin garbage collection service. This concern has been raised with the Eastern Regional Service Board and with your government which illustrates the point that a cabin garbage collection service cannot be safely implemented in such areas either on an irregular / untimely basis or at all. In the meantime ERSB has expressed absolutely no concerns in this regard which applies to everything that it does in cabin areas.

Besides being the Minister Of Municipal Affairs and Environment you are also the Minister of Justice and cabin owners would very much appreciate your views on the legality of enforcing an unnecessary garbage collection service that has the potential of creating an unsafe environment for the health and well being of cabin owners and their families. It is assumed that if a tragic incident should occur then legal action may very well be pursued against the ERSB management and it’s directors as well as your government which in your recent letter fully supports what the ERSB is doing. As our elected representative it would also be much appreciated if you can provide a response to that given the government approved legislation that is in place that the ERSB hides behind.

One last item is that a telephone call from Mr. Randy Simms indicated that you were willing to meet with cabin owners towards the end of June and discuss our concerns regarding the implementation and administration of this so called cabin garbage collection service. To date that has not happened and in that regard is it still on or what is your response?

Regards,

(On behalf of COATT)

cc. COATT
cc. Premier Ball
Good Morning....

Please find attached copy response letter to [redacted]

Val

-----Original Message-----
From: Premier of NL
Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2018 9:59 AM
To: Glynn, Valerie <VGlynn@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: HPE Records Manager Incoming Correspondence : ICOR2018/2734 : ICOR2018/2734

Hi Valerie,

Attached, for the attention of your Minister and Deputy Minister, is an email from [redacted] with attached letter to Minister Parsons regarding potential safety hazards regarding the cabin garbage collection service.

Please copy the Premier on the Minister's response and email a copy to premier@gov.nl.ca within 10 business days.

Thank you,
Kaitlyn

-----< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number: ICOR2018/2734
Title : Email from [redacted] with attached letter to Minister Parsons regarding Potential Safety Hazards Regarding The Cabin Garbage Collection Service
AUG 29 2018

E-mail: [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted],

I am writing in response to your recent correspondence, dated June 26 and July 4, 2018, to Premier Ball, Members of the House of Assembly, and myself in which you provided an updated summary of cabin owners' issues with garbage collection services in Eastern Region, and outlined potential hazards to cabin owners as a result of wildlife encounters. I am also responding to more recent correspondence from August 2018, following the meeting that I attended along with Minister Osborne, MHA Parsons, concerned cabin owners, and officials from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment.

I would like to thank you for taking the time earlier this month to meet and discuss these issues in more detail. I appreciated the opportunity for a face-to-face discussion of your concerns, and I appreciate that these continue to be important issues for cabin owners in Eastern Region.

The summary list of concerns that you shared is currently being reviewed, and I expect to be in a position to respond in more detail in the near future.

Sincerely,

ANDREW PARSONS, QC
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment

cc: Honourable Premier Dwight Ball
Hi Valerie,

Attached for your Minister and Deputy Minister’s attention, is an email sent to Premier Ball from [redacted] regarding the Avalon cabin owners and the issues they are having with ERSB and Government.

We are requesting a response on behalf of the Premier. Please copy the Premier on the response and email it to premier@gov.nl.ca within 10 business days.

Thank you,

Marian

———< HPE Records Manager record Information >———

Record Number: ICOR2018/2734-03
Title: Additional email from [redacted] to Premier Ball et. al. regarding the Avalon cabin owners and the issues we have with ERSB and government pertaining to court appearances
From: Ball, Dwight
Sent: Wednesday, September 5, 2018 9:49 AM
To: Premier of NL
Subject: FW: Arrest Warrants: Avalon cabin owners and the issues we have with ERSB and government

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 4, 2018 4:51 PM
To: Parsons, Andrew <AndrewParsons@gov.nl.ca>; Chippett, Jamie <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca>; Ball, Dwight <DwightBall@gov.nl.ca>; [Redacted]; Osborne, Tom <tosborne@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Arrest Warrants: Avalon cabin owners and the issues we have with ERSB and government

In small claims court an Avalon cabin owner was expected to show up and deal with the non payment of a very ridiculous fee issued by the ERSB for a so called cabin garbage collection service that was not requested, not wanted, and not used. The ERSB as plaintiff was represented however the defendant failed to show. The judge then ordered an arrest warrant.

An arrest warrant we generally believe applies to criminals. This we have to say is absolutely crazy and brings this whole cabin garbage collection service fiasco to a boiling point. The honest and hard working citizens / cabin owners on the Avalon are being subjected to absolute abuse by ERSB where it hides behind government legislation and to date is 100% supported by government no matter what ERSB does. Where in the hell do we live?

Minister Parsons recent letter dated August 29 indicated that the list of concerns that we shared at a recent meeting is currently being reviewed and a response will be available in the near future. Well if this is being reviewed why is the ERSB allowed to flex it's muscle and send a harsh message to all Avalon cabin owners / citizens / voters indicating that if you do not toe the line it will have honest, hard working and law abiding citizens dragged into court and punished accordingly. This is really the straw that breaks the camel's back as we had expected that the Minister would have requested ERSB to hold any such action while the issues are being reviewed. This basically tells us that the many issues and concerns that have been connected with ERSB is not taken very seriously and is viewed as very minor in nature.

We are absolutely amazed that this government fully supports what is being done to it's citizens.

[Redacted] on behalf of COATT
ICOR2018/2734-04
all information redacted in accordance with S40(1)

Buckle, Joy

From: Ball, Dwight
Sent: Wednesday, September 5, 2018 9:50 AM
To: Premier of NL
Subject: FW: Arrest Warrants : Avalon cabin owners and the issues we have with ERSB and government

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 4, 2018 6:23 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Parsons, Andrew <AndrewParsons@gov.nl.ca>; Chippett, Jamie <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca>; Ball, Dwight <DwightBall@gov.nl.ca> Osborne, Tom <tosborne@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Re: Arrest Warrants : Avalon cabin owners and the issues we have with ERSB and government

You are so right. I was in the court this morning and couldn't believe what I was hearing about an arrest warrant being issued to a cabin owner for now paying this ridiculous fee. All government officials that are sitting back and not dealing with this issue should be ashamed, as I am of them. What is happening to cabin owners, only on the Avalon, is disgraceful to say the least.

Sent from my iPad

> On Sep 4, 2018, at 16:51, [redacted] wrote:
> 
> In small claims court an Avalon cabin owner was expected to show up and deal with the non payment of a very ridiculous fee issued by the ERSB for a so called cabin garbage collection service that was not requested, not wanted, and not used. The ERSB as plaintiff was represented however the defendant failed to show. The judge then ordered an arrest warrant.
> 
> An arrest warrant we generally believe applies to criminals. This we have to say is absolutely crazy and brings this whole cabin garbage collection service fiasco to a boiling point. The honest and hard working citizens / cabin owners on the Avalon are being subjected to absolute abuse by ERSB where it hides behind government legislation and to date is 100% supported by government no matter what ERSB does. Where in the hell do we live?
> 
> Minister Parsons recent letter dated August 29 indicated that the list of concerns that we shared at a recent meeting is currently being reviewed and a response will be available in the near future. Well if this is being reviewed why is the ERSB allowed to flex its muscle and send a harsh message to all Avalon cabin owners / citizens / voters indicating that if you do not toe the line it will have honest, hard working and law abiding citizens dragged into court and punished accordingly. This is really the straw that breaks the camel's back as we had expected that the Minister would have requested ERSB to hold any such action while the issues are being reviewed. This basically tells us that the many issues and concerns that have been connected with ERSB is not taken very seriously and is viewed as very minor in nature.
> 
> We are absolutely amazed that this government fully supports what is being done to its citizens.
> 
>
Hi Valerie,

Attached are two emails from [redacted] for your Minister and Deputy Minister, addressed to the Premier and the Minister providing each with a copy of a letter addressed to Ed Grant regarding COATT.

We are requesting a response on behalf of the Premier. Please copy the Premier on the response and email it to premier@gov.nl.ca.

Regards,

Marian Glavine

--------< HPE Records Manager record Information >--------

Record Number: ICOR2018/2734-07
Title: Update email from [redacted] requesting a reply to his recent email (a letter from Paul Antle to Ed Grant) regarding Arrest Warrants: Avalon cabin owners and the issues they have with ERSB and government

--------< HPE Records Manager record Information >--------

Record Number: ICOR2018/2734-06
Title: Email from [redacted] to Premier et. al. attaching a letter from Paul Antle addressed to Ed Grant, ERSB, regarding Avalon cabin owners and the issues they have with ERSB and Government
Buckle, Joy

From: Ball, Dwight
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2018 5:03 PM
To: Premier of NL
Subject: FW: Arrest Warrants : Avalon cabin owners and the issues we have with ERSB and government
Attachments: ERSB Letter.pdf

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 9, 2018 5:07 PM
To: Parsons, Andrew <AndrewParsons@gov.nl.ca>; Ball, Dwight <DwightBall@gov.nl.ca>; Osborne, Tom <tosborne@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: GambinWalsh, Sherry <SherryGambinWalsh@gov.nl.ca>; Parsons, Pam <PamParsons@gov.nl.ca>; Chippett, Jamie <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Arrest Warrants : Avalon cabin owners and the issues we have with ERSB and government

The attached letter sent to Ed Grant and the ERSB directors is for your information.

It can be noted that the Avalon cabin owners are 99% impressed with what the letter contains as there is a full recognition by Mr. Antle (and Premier Ball we are told)) of the issues and concerns that we have with the ERSB’s forceful implementation of a so called cabin garbage collection service. Having been dealing with this for the last number of years it is the first time that someone with a degree of influence has fully and formally support COATT’s issues and concerns which has been highlighted to government on many occasions.

Based on our past and limited interaction with ERSB it is very obvious that the board has NO intention of dealing with or addressing our concerns. Given that Mr. Antle is currently an election candidate for the Windsor Lake district it would be much more accommodating and meaningful if we had a formal similar response from either Premier Ball of Minister Parsons which we would post on COATT to confirm Mr. Antle’s position. Such confirmation would be supported 100% by COATT and we would ensure that the message is well shared with everyone that we have a contact with. Such official confirmation would eliminate any negative reaction that members believe is not a guaranteed government position unless the individual is an official government representative with a level of authority.

As was previously indicated ERSB is still aggressively pursuing court action against Avalon citizens / cabin owners with two more cases being dealt with this week and each week this fall. It is absolutely amazing that the current government agrees with what is happening to it’s citizens on the Avalon while the rest of the province is being accommodated in a very respectful manner. Based on Minister Parsons recent letter that our issues are being reviewed WHY is the ERSB given the freedom to continue to drag many of us to court if this is truly underway. Sad to say cabin owners believe that ERSB is answerable to no one even when government might attempt to intervene.

A response from Premier Ball and/or Premier Ball would be much appreciated.

Regards,

[Redacted] (on behalf of COATT)
Hi [redacted], please see the attached correspondence that I sent off to the ERSB today.

All the best.

Paul

From: [redacted]
Date: Wednesday, September 5, 2018 at 10:29 AM
To: Paul Antle
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Arrest Warrants : Avalon cabin owners and the issues we have with ERSB and government

Paul, thank you very much for your support. We really appreciate this and after your meeting with the Premier an up date would certainly be appreciated. And by the way another Avalon cabin owner is being dragged to court this morning, and many more throughout September and right through the fall. A lot of us will attend the court hearings and provide support, and protest rallies around Atlantic Place will soon be undertaken which no doubt will make the news.

You also indicated that you are interested in meeting with COATT [redacted] If you are available a meeting next Wednesday around 2:00 is suggested.

Regards,

[redacted]

On Wed, Sep 5, 2018 at 9:30 AM Paul Antle [redacted] wrote:
all information redacted in accordance with S40(1)

thanks for sending me your note. The situation is outrageous.

I am meeting with the Premier later today to discuss the matter. I know he is as upset about this as I am. I will get back to you after that meeting.

All the best.

From: [redacted]
Date: Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 4:51 PM
To: "Parsons, Andrew" <andrewparsons@gov.nl.ca>, "Chippett, Jamie" <jamiechippett@gov.nl.ca>, "Ball, Dwight" <dwightball@gov.nl.ca>, Paul Antle, Tom Osborne <tosborne@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Arrest Warrants : Avalon cabin owners and the issues we have with ERSB and government

In small claims court an Avalon cabin owner was expected to show up and deal with the non payment of a very ridiculous fee issued by the ERSB for a so called cabin garbage collection service that was not requested, not wanted, and not used. The ERSB as plaintiff was represented however the defendant failed to show. The judge then ordered an arrest warrant.

An arrest warrant we generally believe applies to criminals. This we have to say is absolutely crazy and brings this whole cabin garbage collection service fiasco to a boiling point. The honest and hard working citizens / cabin owners on the Avalon are being subjected to absolute abuse by ERSB where it hides behind government legislation and to date is 100% supported by government no matter what ERSB does. Where in the hell do we live?

Minister Parsons recent letter dated August 29 indicated that the list of concerns that we shared at a recent meeting is currently being reviewed and a response will be available in the near future. Well if this is being reviewed why is the ERSB allowed to flex it's muscle and send a harsh message to all Avalon cabin owners / citizens / voters indicating that if you do not toe the line it will have honest, hard working and law abiding citizens dragged into court and punished accordingly. This is really the straw that breaks the camel's back as we had expected that the Minister would have requested ERSB to hold any such action while the issues are being reviewed. This basically tells us that the many issues and concerns that have been connected with ERSB is not taken very seriously and is viewed as very minor in nature.
all information redacted in accordance with S40(1)

We are absolutely amazed that this government fully supports what is being done to its citizens.

[Redacted] on behalf of COATT
September 6th, 2018

Mr. Ed Grant
Chair of the Board of Directors
Eastern Regional Services Board
255 Majors Path, Suite 3
St. John’s, NL
A1A 0L5

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am writing on behalf of the cabin owners of the Avalon Peninsula. I am requesting that you conduct an internal review of the Eastern Regional Services Board’s policies and practices to address the inequities and unfairness that has been brought to your attention time and again by the cabin owners. I also urge you to include representatives of the cabin owners in this review process. In essence, I’m asking you to do the right thing.

I have no doubt, working together, we can come to an equitable and agreeable solution.

While conducting this review, I further ask that you cease and desist from suing and taking to court cabin owners who are resisting paying for services they feel they neither need, want, or receive.

I have spoken to Premier Ball on this. He feels as I do. He wants this fixed now rather than moving to the next logical step – a legislative review. We have to ensure that the cabin owners of the Avalon Peninsula are treated equitably, fairly, and with the respect they deserve.

I trust that we can find a resolution here that is satisfactory to the stakeholders in this matter, and more particularly, to the cabin owners.

Yours truly,

Paul Antle

cc: Board of Directors, Eastern Regional Services Board
Buckle, Joy

From: Ball, Dwight
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2018 5:05 PM
To: Premier of NL
Subject: FW: Arrest Warrants : Avalon cabin owners and the issues we have with ERSB and government

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Sunday, September 9, 2018 7:55 PM
To: Parsons, Andrew <AndrewParsons@gov.nl.ca>; Ball, Dwight <DwightBall@gov.nl.ca>; Osborne, Tom <tosborne@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Re: Arrest Warrants : Avalon cabin owners and the issues we have with ERSB and government

The last sentence in my email should read: A response from Premier Ball and/or Minister Parsons would be much appreciated.

On Sun, Sep 9, 2018 at 5:06 PM [Redacted] wrote:

The attached letter sent to Ed Grant and the ERSB directors is for your information.

It can be noted that the Avalon cabin owners are 99% impressed with what the letter contains as there is a full recognition by Mr. Antle (and Premier Ball we are told)) of the issues and concerns that we have with the ERSB's forceful implementation of a so called cabin garbage collection service. Having been dealing with this for the last number of years it is the first time that someone with a degree of influence has fully and formally support COATT's issues and concerns which has been highlighted to government on many occasions.

Based on our past and limited interaction with ERSB it is very obvious that the board has NO intention of dealing with or addressing our concerns. Given that Mr. Antle is currently an election candidate for the Windsor Lake district it would be much more accommodating and meaningful if we had a formal similar response from either Premier Ball of Minister Parsons which we would post on COATT to confirm Mr. Antle's position. Such confirmation would be supported 100% by COATT and we would ensure that the message is well shared with everyone that we have a contact with. Such official confirmation would eliminate any negative reaction that members believe is not a guaranteed government position unless the individual is an official government representative with a level of authority.

As was previously indicated ERSB is still aggressively pursuing court action against Avalon citizens / cabin owners with two more cases being dealt with this week and each week this fall. It is absolutely amazing that the current government agrees with what is happening to it's citizens on the Avalon while the rest of the province is being accommodated in a very respectful manner. Based on Minister Parsons recent letter that our issues are being reviewed WHY is the ERSB given the freedom to continue to drag many of us to court if this is truly underway. Sad to say cabin owners believe that ERSB is answerable to no one even when government might attempt to intervene.

A response from Premier Ball and/or Premier Ball would be much appreciated.

Regards,
Hi [Name], please see the attached correspondence that I sent off to the ERSB today.

All the best.

Paul

Paul, thank you very much for your support. We really appreciate this and after your meeting with the Premier an up date would certainly be appreciated. And by the way another Avalon cabin owner is being dragged to court this morning, and many more throughout September and right through the fall. A lot of us will attend the court hearings and provide support, and protest rallies around Atlantic Place will soon be undertaken which no doubt will make the news.

You also indicated that you are interested in meeting with COATT (David Crawford and myself). I am [Name] available a meeting next Wednesday around 2:00 is suggested.

Regards,

[Name]

On Wed, Sep 5, 2018 at 9:30 AM Paul Antle [Name] wrote:
thanks for sending me your note. The situation is outrageous.

I am meeting with the Premier later today to discuss the matter. I know he is as upset about this as I am. I will get back to you after that meeting.

All the best.

Paul

From: [Redacted]
Date: Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 4:51 PM
To: "Parsons, Andrew" <andrewparsons@gov.nl.ca>, "Chippett, Jamie" <jamiechippett@gov.nl.ca>, "Ball, Dwight" <dwrightball@gov.nl.ca>, Paul Antle, [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted] Tom Osborne <tosborne@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Arrest Warrants : Avalon cabin owners and the issues we have with ERSB and government

In small claims court this morning (Sept. 4/18) an Avalon cabin owner was expected to show up and deal with the non payment of a very ridiculous fee issued by the ERSB for a so called cabin garbage collection service that was not requested, not wanted, and not used. The ERSB as plaintiff was represented however the defendant failed to show. The judge then ordered an arrest warrant.

An arrest warrant we generally believe applies to criminals. This we have to say is absolutely crazy and brings this whole cabin garbage collection service fiasco to a boiling point. The honest and hard working citizens / cabin owners on the Avalon are being subjected to absolute abuse by ERSB where it hides behind government legislation and to date is 100% supported by government no matter what ERSB does. Where in the hell do we live?

Minister Parsons recent letter dated August 29 indicated that the list of concerns that we shared at a recent meeting is currently being reviewed and a response will be available in the near future. Well if this is being reviewed why is the ERSB allowed to flex it's muscle and send a harsh message to all Avalon cabin owners / citizens / voters indicating that if you do not toe the line it will have honest, hard working and law abiding citizens dragged into court and punished accordingly. This is really the straw that breaks the camel's back as we had expected that the Minister would have requested ERSB to hold any such action while the issues are being reviewed. This basically tells us that the many issues and concerns that have been connected with ERSB is not taken very seriously and is viewed as very minor in nature.
We are absolutely amazed that this government fully supports what is being done to its citizens.

[redacted] on behalf of COATT
Hi Valerie,

Please see attached for your Minister and Deputy Minister, an email from [REDACTED] to Minister Parsons regarding a comment the Minister made in his letter to [REDACTED] dated September 14, 2018.

Please copy the Premier on the Minister's response by emailing a copy to premier@gov.nl.ca.

Regards,

Marian Glavine

--------< HPE Records Manager record Information >--------

Record Number:  ICOR2018/2734-09
Title :  Email from [REDACTED] to Andrew Parsons referencing a comment made by the Minister in his letter dated September 14
My response to Premier Ball dated Sept. 16 referenced your letter as well with regard to dealing with the issues that Avalon cabin owners are subjected to by ERSB.

In your letter the following comment was noted: Regarding small claims court and recent decisions to issue arrest warrants for people failing to show up for their court appearance, it should be noted that the decision to issue such a warrant lies with the judge and not with ERSB or the department.

I attended a small claims court hearing to observe how two cabin owners would be dealt with by ERSB and the court. The two in question did not show up and the judge asked the ERSB representative what further action should be taken. From what I heard and understand the ERSB representative immediately requested that an arrest warrant be issued and the judge will now proceed accordingly to issue an arrest warrant for [redacted]. This is absolutely unbelievable.

Based on this it can be noted that ERSB does indeed make such decisions.

Regards,
Buckle, Joy

From: Glynn, Valerie
Sent: Tuesday, September 18, 2018 1:55 PM
To: Premier of NL
Subject: RE: ICOR2018/2734-06 & 07 Response to
Attachments:

Please find attached copy of response letter to
Val;

-----Original Message-----
From: Premier of NL
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2018 4:34 PM
To: Glynn, Valerie <Vglyn@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: ICOR2018/2734-06 & 07

Hi Valerie,

Attached are two emails from [redacted] for your Minister and Deputy Minister, addressed to the Premier and the Minister providing each with a copy of a letter addressed to Ed Grant regarding COATT.

We are requesting a response on behalf of the Premier. Please copy the Premier on the response and email it to premier@gov.nl.ca.

Regards,

Marian Glavine

------< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number: ICOR2018/2734-07
Title : Update email from [redacted] requesting a reply to his recent email (a letter from Paul Antle to Ed Grant) regarding Arrest Warrants: Avalon cabin owners and the issues they have with ERSB and government

------< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number: ICOR2018/2734-06
Title : Email from [redacted] to Premier et. al. attaching a letter from Paul Antle addressed to Ed Grant, ERSB, regarding Avalon cabin owners and the issues they have with ERSB and Government
Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your email of September 9th expressing your ongoing concern with the Eastern Regional Service Board. Premier Ball has asked that I respond on his behalf.

As per our recent meeting in which you articulated many of these concerns to me, I immediately asked my officials to review each individual issue you raised to develop options that we will raise with ERSB as potential solutions. In the event solutions cannot be reached through such a dialogue, I asked officials to similarly develop legislative and/or regulatory options that could be pursued under the Department's mandate. If ERSB is willing to pursue a review of these areas on its own, we as a Government certainly support such an action but in the meantime we are continuing on with the work that we started following our meeting.

The right to collect annual fees is contained in the legislation establishing the regional service authorities. Regarding the matter of small claims court and recent decisions to issue arrest warrants for people failing to show up for their court appearances, it should be noted that the decision to issue such a warrant lies with the judge and not with ERSB or the department. People who have been called to court and fail to appear are subject to the court's authority, the department has no jurisdiction in this matter.

As the Minister responsible, and as committed to you at our meeting, I am working to find a fair and equitable solution to your concerns.

Sincerely,

ANDREW PARSONS, QC
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment

P.O. Box 6700  St. John's, NL Canada  A1B 4J6  709 729 3048  709 729 0643  www.gov.nl.ca
Good Afternoon [REDACTED]

Please see the attached letter I am forwarding on behalf of Premier Ball.

Thank you,

Edna

EDNA ROBERTS | Secretary to the Honourable Dwight Ball

Office of the Premier
Executive Council
Government of Newfoundland & Labrador
8th Floor East Block, Confederation Complex
P.O. Box 8700, St. John's NL A1B 4J6

(T) 709-729-3570 | ergroberts@gov.nl.ca
(F) 709-729-9875
September 14, 2018

(On behalf of COATT)
Cabin Owners against Trash Tax
Via email:  

Dear [Redacted],

I am aware that you have received a letter from Paul Antle on September 6, 2018, with respect to your on-going issues with the Eastern Services Regional Board. Paul and I did indeed have a conversation about this. I have spoken to officials within the department and you have my assurances that my government is committed to finding a resolution to the grievances outlined by your organization.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dwight Ball
Premier
My response to Premier Ball dated Sept. 16 referenced your letter as well with regard to dealing with the issues that Avalon cabin owners are subjected to by ERSB.

In your letter the following comment was noted: Regarding small claims court and recent decisions to issue arrest warrants for people failing to show up for their court appearance, it should be noted that the decision to issue such a warrant lies with the judge and not with ERSB or the department.

[Redacted] we attended a small claims court hearing to observe how two cabin owners would be dealt with by ERSB and the court. The two in question did not show up and the judge asked the ERSB representative what further action should be taken. From what I heard and understand the ERSB representative immediately requested that an arrest warrant be issued and the judge will now proceed accordingly to issue an arrest warrant for [Redacted]. This is absolutely unbelievable.

Based on this it can be noted that ERSB does indeed make such decisions.

Regards,
The attached letter dated Sept.16 is for Premier Ball and is in response to his letter dated Sept.14. Please acknowledge receipt and ensure that the Premier receives it.

Thank you,

On Fri, Sep 14, 2018 at 5:27 PM Roberts, Edna <Eroberts@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

Good Afternoon

Please see the attached letter I am forwarding on behalf of Premier Ball.

Thank you,

Edna

EDNA ROBERTS | Secretary to the Honourable Dwight Ball

Office of the Premier

Executive Council

Government of Newfoundland & Labrador

6th Floor, East Block, Confederation Complex

P.O. Box 8700, St. John's NL A1B 4J9

(T) 709-729-3570 | eroberth@gov.nl.ca

(F) 709-729-5875
September 16, 2018

Premier Dwight Ball
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Dear Premier Ball,

On behalf of COATT (Cabin Owners Against Trash Tax) I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated September 14, 2018 and an additional letter (no date but also received September 14) from Minister Parsons and both letters are in reference to Avalon cabin owners very frustrating association with the Eastern Regional Service Board (ERSB) and it's forceful implementation of a so called cabin garbage collection service. Up until now we have been totally ignored by the previous PC government (not Ches Crosbie), ERSB, and to a degree by the current Liberal government but in that regard it was well appreciated that Minister Parsons, operating in a very accommodating way, did meet with us and did provide responses to COATT’s correspondence which was quite the challenge dealing with the previous minister.

After our meeting with Minister Parsons on August 13, 2018 he gave us a commitment that he will undertake a review of our issues and concerns and respond accordingly. It is now over a month later and no response has been received outside of what is indicated in the recent letter saying that the Minister’s officials are reviewing the issues and will develop options that will be raised with ERSB as potential solutions. While it is great to hear that it is being addressed the fact that we have no input into what potential solutions might be developed regarding our stated issues is a major concern to us all. Without input this tells us that whatever potential solutions are developed by government and then agreed upon between government and ERSB is what we will have to accept. Sad to say this is how ERSB implemented and continues to implement this so called cabin garbage collection service with no input whatsoever with cabin owners. We are therefore requesting that representatives from COATT be part of government’s review process and when completed we can raise it with COATT’s membership to explain where we are coming from before it is discussed with ERSB. This is not at all unreasonable and we are requesting that this be approved.

Paul Antle’s involvement however was very impressive and it gave most Avalon cabin owners the opportunity to believe that our issues and concerns would finally be addressed. And it can be noted that the majority of Avalon cabin owners are very impressed with the support that your government is finally giving us and will be extremely impressed if indeed an acceptable solution is found when dealing with our legitimate issues and concerns. Obviously if an acceptable solution is not soon found any future commitments by the Liberal government will not be accepted or taken seriously as is expressed by COATT’s membership. Notwithstanding these comments we will for now give your government full support for what is stated in the letters and encourage cabin owners to view your involvement in a positive way.

Outside of agreeing to have Avalon cabin owners invited to partake in government’s review process the other biggest issue right now is knowing how ERSN operates and to date has absolutely no interest in dealing with our issues and concerns. We are therefore very concerned that a solution will not be agreed upon very quickly and, unless government takes control in a reasonable time frame, we will continue to be bullied and harassed which will result in a degree of doubt as to what is contained in the above noted letters. It is our understanding that ERSB is well aware of what Minister Parsons is saying in his letter regarding his officials are currently reviewing COATT’s stated issues and will be discussing this with ERSB to find solutions. Obviously ERSB is not at all concerned about that as right now it is
business as usual where additional cabin areas are this past week receiving their first bills for this so called cabin garbage collection service and ERSB are still aggressively taking cabin owners to small claims court this coming week, the following week and right through the fall. Paul Antle indicated that he raised this with ED Grant and Grant quickly said that it can not be circumvented. We would have thought that if ERSB recognized that the Avalon cabin owners issues were a concern to be addressed it would have shown a degree of support by delaying and postponing the implementation of this so called cabin garbage collection service and small claims court action. This is not happening and should clearly indicate that ERSB has absolutely no interest in dealing with this and as Ed Grant formally stated in a recent email to me/COATT: “we agree to disagree and that will never change.”

On behalf of COATT (Avalon Cabin Owners/Citizens) I want to thank you for your support, and a response at your earliest would be much appreciated.

Regards,

[Redacted]

cc. Minister Parsons
cc. Paul Antle
cc. [Redacted] and COATT website
To date we have not received a response to the above noted letter.

This morning we have been advised that you have asked the Eastern Regional Service Board to evaluate it's garbage collection fee policy for cabin owners on the east coast of the province. In other words your government fully agrees with Avalon cabin owners being charged a fee for the forceful implementation of a garbage collection service that is not wanted, not requested, and not used but based on your VOCH statement it is only about the fee amount while cabin owners in the rest of the province is treated in a much more accommodating and respectful way with a user pay / not used don't pay policy in place.

It is absolutely amazing that our elected government must ASK the boards to do something which gives them more power and authority than government. What a tremendous democracy that we live in??????

This is currently being commented on the COATT site and a response will be posted by lunch hour to let Avalon cabin owners know where your government is coming from or not.

Regards,
Buckle, Joy

From: Ball, Dwight
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 6:20 PM
To: Premier of NL
Subject: FW: Letter dated September 16, 2018

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 1:54 PM
To: Ball, Dwight <DwightBall@gov.nl.ca>; Parsons, Andrew <AndrewParsons@gov.nl.ca>; Roberts, Edna <ERoberts@gov.nl.ca>; Chippett, Jamie <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Letter dated September 16, 2018

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: [Redacted]
Date: Thu, Sep 20, 2018 at 1:51 PM
Subject: Re: Letter dated September 16, 2018
To: Paul Antle [Redacted]

Paul, I have to say that you appear to be totally down to earth and your support once you are elected will be highly published on the COATT website. Up until now very little legitimate support has been received from either the past PC government and only a little up until now by the current government and in that regard we truly believe that your involvement has made a big difference.

As I keep saying, good luck with the current by-election.

>>>>>>>>>>

On Thu, Sep 20, 2018 at 1:24 PM Paul Antle <[Redacted]> wrote:

[Redacted] it was always our intention that cabin owners be involved in this process. In fact it is essential. I have the Premier’s assurance on this in no uncertain terms. As you can appreciate, if I am elected, I will be leading the charge and we will get this fixed once and for all.

All the best.

Paul Antle

> On Sep 20, 2018, at 9:20 AM, [Redacted] wrote:
>
> To date we have not received a response to the above noted letter.
>
> This morning we have been advised that you have asked the Eastern Regional Service Board to evaluate it's garbage collection fee policy for cabin owners on the east coast of the province. In other words your government fully agrees with Avalon cabin owners being charged a fee for the forceful implementation of a
garbage collection service that is not wanted, not requested, and not used but based on your VOCM statement it is only about the fee amount while cabin owners in the rest of the province is treated in a much more accommodating and respectful way with a user pay / not used don't pay policy in place.

> It is absolutely amazing that our elected government must ASK the boards to do something which gives them more power and authority than government. What a tremendous democracy that we live in??????

> This is currently being commented on the COATT site and a response will be posted by lunch hour to let Avalon cabin owners know where your government is coming from or not.

> Regards,
Thank you and I will as I was only reading the COATT posts.

In the meantime can we expect a reply very soon to the Sept. 16 letter.

Regards,

On Thu, Sep 20, 2018 at 11:28 AM Ball, Dwight wrote:

Dear

Please listen to the entirety of the clip of the story that was reported on VOCM this morning, September 20, 2018. In this interview I have clearly stated, as I have said numerous times, that if the ERSB does not comply with our demands for treating cabin owners fairly and correctly – than I will resort to a legislative review to ensure they do.

Sincerely,

Dwight

“This email and any attached files are intended for the sole use of the primary and copied addressee(s) and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. Any distribution, use or copying by any means of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender.”
From: Ball, Dwight
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2018 11:52 AM
To: Premier of NL
Subject: FW: Thank you for your support

---Original Message---

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2018 9:22 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Paul Antle <PaulAntle@gov.nl.ca>; Ball, Dwight <DwightBall@gov.nl.ca>; Parsons, Andrew <AndrewParsons@gov.nl.ca>; Roberts, Edna <ERoberts@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Re: Thank you for your support

I agree with Paul ran a honorable candidacy and it's disappointing for COATT to lose the support he showed for our cause. I wish him all the best in the future and hope premier Ball follows through with his statements concerning ERSB. This issue has gone on long enough.

Sent from my iPad

> On Sep 21, 2018, at 09:03, [redacted] wrote:
> 
> > Paul, it is very disappointing that you did not get elected last evening as the MHA for the district of Windsor Lake. A 218 vote difference means that if you had another 110 votes you would have won. It is also assumed that in the up and coming provincial election many districts may very well have a very close vote count.
> > 
> > Most COATT members appeared to support you but many appeared to have doubts that the current Liberal government will actually address our ongoing issues. During 2018 in particular many letters have been written to government (Minister Eddie Joyce and Premier Ball) outlining our very legitimate concerns and requesting government’s assistance in dealing with ERSB which resulted in either no response at all or a very generalized response that didn’t give us much of a belief that it would be dealt with. Actually the responses from Minister Joyce at the time were probably drafted by ERSB because he gave the board support in what it was doing. This no doubt has been etched in a lot of cabin owner’s minds and has become quite the challenge to change until of course our issues and concerns are finally addressed in a positive way.
> > 
> > It is assumed that given the Premier’s recent comments in support of COATT we will see something positive happening very shortly because the longer this drags on the more difficult it will be for Avalon cabin owners/voters to believe what Premier Ball and his government says. It is extremely frustrating for Avalon cabin owners / citizens / voters to go through what we are going through re. extreme interest charges, court action, one’s credit rating being threatened, and the creation of health and safety hazards for our families at our cabins.
> >
Again thank you very much for your support and I fully believe that you should seriously consider running again in the 2018 provincial election.

All the best,
Premier Ball,

This is concerning the ongoing extortion that is the ERSB. You and your colleagues have had numerous opportunities to address the issues that cabin owners on the Avalon have with the ERSB. Below is a post on the COATT (Cabin Owners Against Trash Tax) Facebook page. It expresses our frustration with the lack of leadership and the lack of transparency shown by yourself, Minister Parsons, former Minister Joyce, etc.

"Seems to be a lot of activity in the group this morning. I guess most everyone, including myself, are frustrated by the fill in the blank responses and the delay tactics displaying the unwillingness by those in power to address the issues with the garbage mafia. "Is this the hill you want to die on?" is an appropriate phrase here. "No better place to die" is a hell of a response. Can't they understand that the $180 is not the big issue, but standing up for our rights and not being bullied is. The process was and is flawed beyond comprehension. The lack of communication is at issue. The lack of representation is an issue. The lack of, and I hate this overused word, engagement...(i just threw up a little)...is at issue. The lack of leadership and fairness is at issue. What tax or fee or petty extortion is next. Where does it stop. All taxpayers in this province should be concerned that our, repeat OUR, government is willing to hand such power to a board, or essentially one person in this case, to extort, humiliate and harass it's citizens. This is government abdicating it's sworn duty. But hey...it's only 180 bucks."

The responses to direct questions are met with an overused explanations of how the board came to be formed along with how government is powerless to address changes to the boards, and so on. The political tactic of answering the question with the song and dance has to stop. We need, in fact, we deserve a direct and succinct answer to the question: Are you, and your government, willing to immediately legislate the changes required to remove cabin owners from the mandatory tax and move to a pay as you go system and immediately have the gestapo tactics of ERSB with reference to dragging law abiding citizens, under the threat of arrest and confiscation of property, to court stopped immediately. We do not need the history of the spawning of the "board". We do not care if you "engaged the stakeholders" or "have taken the issue under advisement". Please stop with the political games and do what you know is right. The board does not have the citizens it harasses in it's best interest, but you should.

As a citizen, a taxpayer, a cabin owner and a voter I thank you for your time,
Hi Valerie,

Please see attached for your Minister and Deputy Minister’s attention, a copy of an email to Premier Ball from [REDACTED] regarding the Eastern Waste Management Fee imposed on Cabin Owners.

We are requesting a response on behalf of the Premier and a copy be sent by emailing it to premier@gov.nl.ca within 10 business days.

Regards,

Marian Glavine

--------< HPE Records Manager record Information >--------

Record Number: ICOR2018/3823
Title: Email from [REDACTED] to Premier Ball regarding Cabin Tax
From: Ball, Dwight
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 6:49 PM
To: Premier of NL
Subject: FW: Cabin Tax

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 11:08 AM
To: Ball, Dwight <DwightBall@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Cabin Tax

Good Morning Mr Ball,

I am writing you today to convey my frustration and concerns regarding the cabin tax I have been paying to the EWM (Eastern Waste Management). I own a cabin which has no electricity or running water I actually started getting taxed when i only had a shack on my land and our cabin was not built and we spend approximately 40 days out of 365 days a year there. People that spend 365 days a year at their cabin pay the same as I do it just don't seem right. We are very responsible cabin owners and the little bit of garbage we generate in a day we take back to St John's with us to dispose of (small sobeys bag full).

EWM are to provide garbage pick-up because I am paying the 180.00 dollar fee on Thursdays!! well if I left my garbage all week it would be torn up and scattered by wild life in the area and not to mention the rodents it would generate. In some areas they have a drop off zone again the same problem exists and during the winter months they put a sign indicating the garbage removal will be closed until spring....so cabin owners are paying for a service they are not even getting.

I have no problem paying for a service that I want and need however I don't need this service nor do i want it and I can speak for at least 2600 cabin owners in the COATT group. I work hard for my money and some might say its only 180.00 but when you have to pay a levy, plus this 180.00 yearly it adds up we are barely making it now with the cost of everything that extra few dollars means allot in my household.

I don't understand if something wasn't broken why are you trying to fix it us cabin owners take pride in our land and work hard to maintain it the only reason i can come up with is it is a money grab another way to take more out of us.

If we don't pay on time we are being charged interest, if we refuse to pay they take us to court and last i heard they will confiscate property if not paid this is really crazy sir how EWM can make you pay for a service you don't want.

Sorry to bother you and thank you for taking the time to read my email as I know you are a very busy man I just wanted to put forth my concerns in the hopes to eliminate this garbage tax and only provide it to cabin owners who want it.
Good Morning...

Please find attached response letter to [Redacted]

Val

-----Original Message-----
From: Premier of NL
Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2018 11:15 AM
To: Glynn, Valerie <VGlynn@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: HPE Records Manager Incoming Correspondence: ICOR2018/3823 : ICOR2018/3823 [Redacted]

Hi Valerie,

Please see attached for your Minister and Deputy Minister's attention, a copy of an email to Premier Ball from [Redacted] regarding the Eastern Waste Management Fee imposed on Cabin Owners.

We are requesting a response on behalf of the Premier and a copy be sent by emailing it to premier@gov.nl.ca within 10 business days.

Regards,

Marian Glavine

-----< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----
Record Number: ICOR2018/3823
Title: Email from [Redacted] to Premier Ball regarding Cabin Tax
I am writing in response to the e-mail you wrote to Premier Ball on September 20, 2018, regarding fees charged by Eastern Regional Service Board’s for garbage collection at your cabin. As Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment, Premier Ball has requested that I respond on his behalf.

I assure you, our government has been listening to the concerns of cabin owners. As you may already be aware, we have arranged several meetings over the past year with representatives from the Cabin Owners Against Trash Tax (COATT) group. More recently, Premier Ball also wrote a letter to one of those representatives and did an interview on a local talk radio show, outlining our government’s approach to these issues.

Officials with the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment have been reviewing the various concerns that have been raised by cabin owners, including fees, service standards and instances of garbage being scattered in cabin areas, and temporary winter drop-off zones. I expect to be in a position to share the outcomes of that review in the near future.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views and perspective on these issues.

Sincerely,

ANDREW PARSONS, QC
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment

cc: Honourable Premier Dwight Ball
Hi Valerie,

Please see attached for your Minister and Deputy Minister's attention, an email from [redacted] addressed to the Premier.

We are requesting a response on behalf of the Premier. Would you please copy the Premier on the Minister's response by emailing it to premier@gov.nl.ca.

Cheers,

Marian Glavine

--------< HPE Records Manager record Information >--------

Record Number: ICOR2018/3821
Title: Email from [redacted] to Premier regarding the tax on Garbage imposed by ERSB
Mr. Premier

Please sir let it be know that we have knowing members of my family that have all confirmed may not mean much to you, but with 2600 members of COATT I'm sure we can elect other than your party ...
Your inexcusable arms length approach to this matter is not acceptable ...
I will not forget the time and energy I've wasted trying to explain to your appointed board They are relentless and so am I .. we will vote you out
I also notice this approach doesn't apply to your district .. How convenient for your voters, but clear discrimination for the east coast We WILL NOT forget..Cheers
Hi Valerie,

Attached, for the attention of your Minister and Deputy Minister, is an email from [Redacted] to Premier Ball requesting an update regarding ERSB, COATT, and government intervention.

I have been advised to forward this correspondence to MAE for review and response on behalf of the Premier. Please copy the Premier on the response and email it to premier@gov.nl.ca within 10 business days.

Thank you,
Kaitlyn

-------< HPE Records Manager record Information >-------

Record Number: ICOR2018/3932
Title: Email from [Redacted] to Premier requesting an update regarding ERSB, COATT, and Government Intervention
The attached letter is for the Premier's information and response.

Regards,
Dear Premier Ball,

During the Windsor Lake by-election we exchanged emails with yourself and others on a semi-regular basis with respect to Avalon cabin owners’ request for government’s assistance in dealing with Eastern Regional Service Board’s (ERSB) forceful implementation of a so called cabin garbage collection service including what we all believe as a very bullying and harassment collection policy plus many more issues and concerns.

Your letter dated September 14, 2018 indicated that we have your assurances that your government is committed to finding a resolution to the grievances outlined by COATT.

Another letter received from Minister Parsons on September 14, 2018 indicated that after our meeting on August 13, 2018 he immediately asked his officials to review each individual issue and develop options that will be raised with ERSB as potential solutions. It was also indicated that if solutions cannot be reached he requested his officials to similarly develop legislative and/or regulatory options that could be pursued under the Department’s mandate.

On September 16, 2018 on behalf of COATT I acknowledged receipt of your letter dated September 14 and requested that representatives from COATT have input in the review process as outlined in Minister Parson’s letter. It was indicated that this was not an unreasonable request and that it should be approved.

On September 20, 2018 you sent me an email indicating that we should listen to the story that was reported on VOCM that morning where you clearly stated that “if the ERSB does not comply with your government’s demands for treating (Avalon) cabin owners fairly and correctly, then you will resort to a legislative review to ensure that they do.”

Not withstanding what has been noted above it appears that ERSB is still operating as per usual giving no indication that anything will change and this fully illustrates to all that ERSB has more power and authority than your government. If that isn’t what appears to be the case then ERSB would have placed on hold all current and future action until our concerns and issues have been dealt with.

In a recent email dated September 27, 2018 from ERSB management and sent to an Avalon cabin owner (co-ed to yourself, Minister Parsons, Minister Crocker, and Randy Simms) it focused on his comments made on COATT about small claims court activities and his frustration that very little has been done by government officials regarding how we are treated by ERSB. The email is expressed in a very negative context for the purpose of highlighting that the frustrating comments show little respect for our justice system and our elected officials. The true reality of course is that Avalon cabin owners are very frustrated and not very impressed that most MHAs (except for only a few from Avalon Peninsula districts) have expressed no support for Avalon cabin owners who are trying to deal with ERSB and it’s forceful implementation of this so called cabin garbage collection service while the rest of the province is treated in a very respectful and accommodating way. As per usual from Avalon cabin owners perspective ERSB wants to have everyone focus on what it considers as negative comments as opposed to the tremendous number of legitimate issues surrounding how it operates and treats honest
and hard working cabin owners. And of course there was no mention that in the ERSB minutes dated May 4, 2016 it is officially stated that the Board feels irritated when MHAs express their views that they do not support the work of the Board. To make such a statement in the ERSB minutes appears to verify that the ERSB feels that it is answerable to no one and it will remain that way until or when it is challenged by those people who are our provincially elected representatives; i.e. currently your Liberal government.

Mr. Premier, the COATT membership would very much appreciate an update on what has happened so far given your recently formalized comments and the fact that according to Minister Parsons his officials have been reviewing our issues and concerns since August 13 (almost 2 months ago). Surely some degree of action has been undertaken by now? Also a response to the letter sent to you dated September 16 is requested as well. We are hopeful that you will respond as prior to the Windsor Lake by-election very few responses were received on a regular basis from government.

As a final note many people have concerns that government’s commitments during elections are not always kept. It is something that many cabin owners do not totally agree with and in that regard your government’s assistance in having our issues and concerns satisfactorily dealt with sooner rather than later is extremely important and will confirm that what you have stated as premier of the current Liberal government will actually occur.

On behalf of COATT (Avalon) thank you for your support.

Regards,

cc. Minister Andrew Parsons

COATT
Thank you for the response.

Over all there is a tremendous amount of frustration felt by cabin owners given the fact that (1) Minister Parsons has been reviewing our issues and concerns for almost 2 months and (2) recent letters dated early October to cabin owners from Eastern Regional Service Board has indicated that what it is doing will stay that way based on the government legislation that it operates by.

It is indicated in your response that a reply will be forthcoming once it has been further reviewed. Is it possible that the Premier can advise Avalon cabin owners when his reply might take place.

Regards,

On Wed, Oct 10, 2018 at 2:56 PM Roberts, Edna <ERoberts@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

Good Day,

I have followed up with your request and I would like to advise that a reply will be forthcoming once it has been further reviewed.

Thank you.

EDNA ROBERTS | Secretary to the Honorable Dwight Ball
This email was sent to you on October 2 and to date no response has been received.

A response is requested.

Regards,
Good morning Edna,

I emailed the above noted letter yesterday on behalf of CIOATT to Premier Ball and cc'd you as well.

It is assumed that it has been received by the Premier.

Please acknowledge.

Thank you,

“This email and any attached files are intended for the sole use of the primary and copied addressee(s) and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. Any distribution, use or copying by any means of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender.”
Hi Valerie,

Attached is an email from [redacted] to your Minister (copied to the Premier) requesting a response to his letter dated September 16, 2018 as well as an update on the ongoing issue with ERSB.

Would you please copy the Premier on the Minister’s response by emailing it to premier@gov.nl.ca.

Regards,

Marian Glavine

------< HPE Records Manager record information >-----

Record Number:  ICOR2018/3932-04
Title:   Email from [redacted] to Minister Parsons (copied to Premier) requesting update regarding discussions with ERSB
The attached letter is self explanatory regarding the above noted subject and how ERSB is continuing to operate.

A response is requested.

Thank you,
October 15, 2018

Minister Andrew Parsons
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Dear Mr. Parsons,

This refers to a recent letter dated October 1, 2018 emailed to Premier Ball and cc-ed to yourself requesting a response to the previous letter dated September 16, 2018 as well as an update pertaining to recent discussions with ERSB regarding the issues and concerns that Avalon cabin owners have pertaining to ERSB's forceful implementation and management of a so called cabin garbage collection service. Your letter received on September 14, 2018 indicated that after our meeting on August 13, 2018 (two months ago) you immediately asked your officials to review each individual issue and develop options that will be raised with ERSB as potential solutions. It was also indicated that if solutions cannot be reached you requested your officials to develop legislative and/or regulatory options that can be pursued under your Department's mandate.

Given the fact that two (2) months have now passed it would be very much appreciated and not an unreasonable request that you will provide an update.

While no update has so far been provided by government, the ERSB has not been quiet and are continually giving Avalon cabin owners a very clear indication/update that it still is and will continue to be business as usual. A recent letter dated October 5, 2018 to a cabin owner from the chairman of ERSB, Mr. Ed Grant, states the following:

1. ERSB is put in place by the provincial government to oversee the implementation of the PWMS in the eastern region.
2. Section 24 of the Regional Service Boards Act 2012 grants EWM the authority to charge user fees and section 4 of the ERSB regulations, 2013, allows EWM to recover these fees by civil court action. The legislation does not require the concurrence of anyone for the fees to be applied.
3. It is noted that this initiative operates as a not-for-profit and the waste management fees charged to property owners which cover the cost of providing waste management services is only $180/year.
4. All property owners pay the same rate regardless of usage of their property.
5. The fee is fair to all property owners.
6. A reference is made toward MINISTERS EDDIE JOYCE AND ANDREW PARSONS regarding government's support for what ERSB does.
7. It is stated that overdue fees are subject to interest of 2% compounding monthly.

Besides what is stated in the recent letter from ERSB, the court system is still used on a regular basis by ERSB, we attended a small claims court hearing in support of a local cabin owner (ERSB would not postpone the court hearing) and nevertheless held their ground and would not give in to how ERSB operates. It can be said that the judge was reasonably accommodating by fully explaining that the current government legislation is the law and unless government makes changes it will stay like it is. The judge also appeared to be amazed that despite the legislation being the law (that the court has to abide by) there were still many cabin owners who are pursuing their concerns in the court system. In my view this judge seemed to appreciate that Avalon cabin owners are not at all happy how they are
being treated by ERSB. I wonder as well if the court system is not at all impressed with how it is being tied up time and time again by ERSB bringing more and more cabin owners to court based on the current government legislation.

It can be noted that a tremendous amount of frustration is continuing to develop based on the fact that:
- after two (2) months government is not prepared to give Avalon cabin owners an appreciation of how it is dealing with the issues and concerns raised by COATT regarding ERSB’s forceful implementation of this so called cabin garbage collection service
- ERSB has expressed no hesitation with how it is operating and will continue to operate meaning that government’s stated intervention is going nowhere.
- most cabin owners were of the understanding that based on government’s formalized support the issues and concerns would be sincerely dealt with. It is very hard to believe that it appears that government has less power and authority than ERSB.

Based on the above a response at your earliest would again be appreciated.

Regards,

cc Premier Ball
cc
cc
cc COATT
Please pass this letter along to Premier Ball.

Thank you,
October 21, 2018

Premier Dwight Ball
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Dear Premier Ball.

In a letter dated October 1, 2018 (3 weeks ago) you were requested for an update regarding:

1. Your personal commitment in a letter dated September 14, 2018 (prior to the Windsor Lake by-election) that Avalon cabin owners have assurances that your government is committed to finding a resolution to the grievances outlined by COATT.

2. Also on September 14, 2018 Minister Parsons indicated in another letter that after COATT’s meeting on August 13, 2018 he immediately asked his officials to review each individual issue and develop options that will be raised with ERSB as potential solutions. He also noted that if solutions cannot be reached he requested his officials to develop legislative and/or regulatory options that could be pursued under the Department’s mandate.

3. On September 20, 2018 you sent an email indicating that in a story on VOCM you stated: “if the ERSB does not comply with your government’s demands for treating (Avalon) cabin owners fairly and correctly, then you will resort to a legislative review to ensure that they do.

4. In the October 1st letter you were advised that ERSB was still operating as per usual (expanding it's so called cabin garbage collection service to additional cabin areas, continuing to charge excessive interest on cabin owner’s accounts, and dragging honest/hard working/law abiding citizens to court) and this gave absolutely no indication that anything was being worked on or would change.

5. Also it was noted that we had yet to receive a response to a September 16 letter where it was requested that a delegation of cabin owners should have input in the review process outlined in Minister Parson’s letter.

NOTE: As of yet no response has been received from either Minister Parsons or yourself.

In another letter dated October 15, 2018 to Minister Parsons the following was noted:

1. Given the fact that two (2) months had passed it would be appreciated if Avalon cabin owners can get an update on current discussions with ERSB.

2. To date ERSB had expressed no hesitation with how it was operating and will continue to operate which appeared to give the indication that your commitment was going no where.

3. Most cabin owners were of the understanding that based on your formalized support that the issues and concerns would be dealt with it now appeared that the ERSB had more power and authority than your government.

NOTE: No acknowledgement or response.

[Redacted] a cabin owner and his wife i.e. average citizens, were personally served with a Small Claims Court document Statement of Claim by ERSB and these cabin owners are definitely not alone in that regard.

The FIRST invoice was received on April 16 of this year and amounted to $1076.05 = $720.00 principal (4 years at $180) and $356.05 interest. The Statement of Claim indicates that it is now $1,275.41 = $720.00 principal, $415.41 interest, $100.00 filing fee, and $40.00 service fee.

If you were an average citizen trying to raise a family and make ends meet would you and other citizens be happy and accept this?
— If you were an average citizen and didn't request this service, didn't want this service, and didn't use this service would you and other citizens be happy and accept this?

— If you were an average citizen and spends and/or spent your life being honest, hard working, law abiding, and paying all legitimate taxes: would you and other citizens still be happy and accept this? Even if you can afford it (while many can't afford it today) it is a tremendously intimidating way to do business.

— If you were an average citizen and lived on the Avalon and know that the rest of the Province is not being treated like this, would you and other citizens still be happy and accept this?

— It highlights the fact that the ERSB is still pursuing business as usual with absolutely no consideration for what you and Minister Parsons had indicated would be dealt with prior to the Windsor Lake by-election if indeed it is being sincerely dealt with at all.

Based on what is noted above Avalon cabin owners/citizens/voters are not at all impressed with the fact that:

1. You and your government have absolutely no desire to provide an update as to what has been discussed with ERSB and what it's response has been. This request is from the average Joe and Josephine and sad to say a lot of cabin owners are of the view that such requests from the average citizen is basically thrown in the garbage.

2. You and your government showed absolutely no interest in letting cabin owners, who are being bullied and harassed with the forceful implementation of a so called cabin garbage collection service, to be a part of the discussions that we are told is being undertaken with ERSB.

3. What ERSB is still doing is obviously done with your government's approval otherwise all such action would be placed on hold until the issues and concerns have been dealt with.

4. If it is not done with your government's approval then ERSB appears to have more power and authority than provincially elected government officials, including yourself, otherwise the issues and concerns would be addressed and any additional action would be placed on hold.

5. Given how many people today are struggling to make ends meet and the foreseeable future does not appear to be that great, how can your government ignore how the average citizen on the Avalon Peninsula (and not the rest of the province) is being targeted with this so called cabin garbage collection service which was/is not required, not needed, not requested, and not used.

6. Given how many cabin owners are struggling to make ends meet how can your government allow ERSB to issue through Small Claims court such ridiculously enhanced invoices that are placing a tremendous strain on those involved.

7. Government is allowing ERSB to create a hazardous environment by expecting cabin owners to leave garbage out for 1/2/3/4 days before it is picked up which has the potential to jeopardize cabin families safety and health. An online notice from your government confirms this.

8. ERSB uses the motherhood issue of environmental protection to emphasize that what it is doing is right for everyone. There was however no assessment undertaken at the very beginning and still not to determine if a cabin garbage collection service was required or not, and the fact that 99% of cabin owners properly looked after their properties and properly disposed of a small amount of garbage that was generated during weekend/seasonal activities was/is totally ignored. And if it wasn't required, what was it ......... a money grab or ????????????

Recently ERSB has increased what a lot of people believe is ERSB's intimidation strategy by keeping a close eye on the COATT site and documenting what it no doubt believes are negative comments about how it operates. When cabin owners are dragged into court these comments are highlighted and presented to the judge as opposed to justifying how it is forcefully implementing this so called cabin garbage collection service by dealing with all of the issues and concerns that cabin owners have. No
full justification is made in court and no full justification is or have been made to cabin owners who have written ERSB a tremendous amount of correspondence for answers regarding these issues and concerns. Do you think that this is a very professional approach in managing government’s waste management program? Or do you think that it is an unprofessional way to scare and get people to shut up? A response from ERSB and yourself would be well appreciated.

Based on the above (including many more issues and concerns) your government has not at all impressed 99% of cabin owners on the Avalon Peninsula who are now extremely frustrated by what is going on. The big question is: Do you and your government want to be elected again? On behalf of Avalon cabin owners (approx 4000 plus families and friends) I am not saying that you won’t be elected again but based on what we are reading on the COATT site, what is being discussed in cabin areas, and the general discussions with family and friends I can honestly say that it doesn’t look great. It is absolutely amazing that honest, hard working, law abiding, and retired citizens who own and use on a seasonally basis cabins on the Avalon Peninsula are now being demoralized to such an extent with what appears to be the Liberal governments approval of and very slow reaction to how ERSB operates.

It was initially thought, Mr. Premier, that you would be more accommodating by seriously appreciating the tremendous number of legitimate issues and concerns that have been brought to your government’s attention, and in that regard it was also thought that your government would forcefully and quickly deal with it. To say that it can not be quickly dealt with doesn’t give citizens on the Avalon (and no doubt many others) much appreciation for what appears to be your government’s very slow reaction to how ERSB is treating Avalon citizens. As noted in previous correspondence if the constituents off the Avalon particularly in yours and Minister Parson’s electoral districts were being treated the same way then we fully believe that it would not be tolerated and quickly dealt with. During future elections the Avalon MHAs will no doubt be hearing this loud and clear which is not a threat but is what has been stated time and time again by many Avalon voters.

As a final note it can be noted that CBC Go Public has been approached and asked to investigate and do a show on what we are dealing with. Go Public is an investigative national news segment on CBC-TV, radio, and the web featuring Rosa Marchitelli and Erica Johnson. It is our understanding that a response will be coming shortly.

Regards,

[Redacted]

cc. Minister Parsons

[Redacted]

COATT
Hi Valerie,

Please see attached for your Minister and Deputy Minister's information, an email from [REDACTED] to Members of the House of Assembly regarding the Avalon Cabin Owners frustration with the ER5B.

Would you please copy the Premier on the department's response, if it's determined a response is required, by emailing it to premier@gov.nl.ca.

Regards,

Marian Glavine

--------< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number: ICOR2018/3932-07
Title: Another email from [REDACTED] re Avalon Cabin Owners Frustration
For YOUR Information: The attached letter is self-explanatory and highlights the tremendous amount of frustration that AVALON cabin owners/citizens/voters have with how we are (in our view) bullied and harassed by the Eastern Regional Service Board (ERSB) with its forceful implementation of a so-called cabin garbage collection service and its intimidation collection policy which all appears to be 100% supported by the current government.

As yet (October 26) no response has been received which has a major negative impact on us all.
**From:** Roberts, Edna  
**Sent:** Monday, November 5, 2018 9:15 AM  
**To:** Premier of NL  
**Subject:** FW: Cabin Garbage Collection Service  
**Attachments:** Minister Parsons November 5, 2018.pdf  

For Trim  

**From:**  
**Sent:** Monday, November 05, 2018 7:39 AM  
**To:** Chippett, Jamie; Roberts, Edna  
**Subject:** Cabin Garbage Collection Service  

The attached letter is for Minister Parsons and cc-ed to Premier Ball.

Regards,
November 5, 2018

Minister Andrew Parsons
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Re: (1) The meeting on August 13, 2018 where Avalon cabin owners issues and concerns were discussed with you and other government representatives.

(2) Your letter dated September 14, 2018 where it is stated that after the meeting on August 13, 2018 your officials were immediately asked to review each individual issue and develop options that will be raised with ERSB as potential solutions. It was also indicated that if solutions cannot be reached you requested your officials to develop legislative and/or regulatory options that can be pursued under your Department's mandate.

(3) The Premier's letter dated September 14, 2018 which indicated that Avalon cabin owners have his assurances that the Liberal government is committed to finding a resolution to the grievances outlined by COATT.

(4) A letter on behalf of COATT dated September 16, 2018 to Premier Ball and cc-ed to yourself where it is requested that representatives from COATT have input in the review process.

(5) A letter on behalf of COATT dated October 1, 2018 to Premier Ball and cc-ed to yourself requesting an update as to what has been reviewed with ERSB regarding COATT's issues and concerns pertaining to ERSB's forceful implementation of this so-called cabin garbage collection service and it's harassing and intimidating collection policy.

(6) A letter on behalf of COATT dated October 15, 2018 to yourself and cc-ed to the Premier also requesting an update as to what has been reviewed with ERSB and what resolutions have been agreed upon.

(7) A letter on behalf of COATT dated October 21, 2018 sent to Premier Ball and cc-ed to yourself indicating the tremendous amount of frustration that Avalon cabin owners are experiencing with regard to ERSB's continued enforcement of this so-called cabin garbage collection service and what appeared to be government's refusal to provide a response to previous correspondence.

Dear Minister Parsons,

As yet no response has been received to the correspondence noted above regarding #s 4, 5, 6, and 7. It is unbelievable that this reasonable request for an update based on the contents outlined in the Premier's letter dated September 14, 2018 and your letter (also received on September 14, 2018) has not been responded to. While Avalon cabin owners are kept in the dark as to what is or is not happening ERSB is continuing to aggressively enforce the implementation of this so-called cabin garbage collection service and what we all believe is ERSB's bullying and harassing collection policy. This basically gives cabin owners the belief that your government fully supports exactly what ERSB is doing to honest, hard working, and law abiding cabin owners/citizens and only on the Avalon Peninsula. There are endless court hearings being pursued and every now and then arrest warrants are issued as if we are lifelong criminals. This is having a tremendous negative impact on all citizens that are affected and all those citizens who are now gaining an appreciation of what is going on.

Recently in the ERSB minutes dated September 26, 2018 there is absolutely no mention that what you had indicated in your September 14, 2018 letter has occurred, and it is the only update that has been brought to our attention. It provides the understanding that it is business as usual and ERSB will
continue to forcefully implement a so called cabin garbage collection service now and into the future. THE QUESTION IS: How can your government let this happen to individuals who are spending or have spent a lifetime adhering to and supporting law and order, raising families, paying legitimate taxes, and being as honest and sincere as possible and are now being persecuted ie. dragged to court and having one’s credit rating threatened and/or affected? Most cabin owners who are paying the fee are frightened to death of what ERSB will do to them and not at all impressed that your government will let this happen, and only happen on the Avalon Peninsula. This is a PROVINCIAL (province-wide) waste management strategy and with regard to ERSB’s actions it hides behind GOVERNMENT legislation/law which so far is fully supported by government despite what has been stated in previous letters.

In the meantime the September 26th ERSB minutes includes a copy of your letter sent to ERSB dated August 13 (the same day that you met with us) where it is stated that you are pleased to provide ERSB with the authority to provide fire protection services for the Eastern region; however, the approval is subject to a number of conditions. These conditions appear to reflect the concerns that cabin owners have with regard to this fire protection service that ERSB forcefully implemented on behalf of the Holyrood fire department. In particular it is stated that “prior to implementation approval must be provided by the Fire Commissioner following an assessment of the operational and management capacity of the fire department relative to the area being serviced. It is also stated that a fee for fire protection services cannot be charged to a property owner if the Fire Commissioner advises that the service cannot be reasonably provided for a given area. It is further stated that you would be amending the ERSB regulations to more accurately reflect this authority.”

Minister Andrews, the frustration that Avalon cabin owners are having is unreal and growing more and more day after day. In the meantime your approach with regard to our concerns regarding ERSB’s forceful implementation of a fire protection service is well appreciated and perhaps you will also request the Fire Commissioner to review what has been arranged with the Holyrood fire department to ensure that it can/will be properly administered as well. With regard to this so called cabin garbage collection service a similar arrangement should be put in place to undertake an “independent” assessment of the operational and management capacity of a cabin garbage collection service to the areas being serviced. And like the fire protection service a fee for a cabin garbage collection service cannot be charged to a property owner if the assessment confirms that such a service is not required and/or cannot be reasonably and safely provided in a given area. The regulations would then be amended accordingly.

A response at your earliest is again requested.

Regards,

cc. Premier Ball

COAFT
Buckle, Joy

Glynn, Valerie
Friday, November 16, 2018 9:26 AM
Premier of NL

Subject: Correspondence from Premier of NL and Response letter
Attachments:
HPE Records Manager Signed or PDF Copy of Record: ICOR2018/2734-03
ICOR2018/2734-03 - [Redacted]
HPE Records Manager Signed or PDF Copy of Record: ICOR2018/2734-06 & 07 - [Redacted]
HPE Records Manager Signed or PDF Copy of Record: ICOR2018/2734-09
ICOR2018/2734-09 - [Redacted]
HPE Records Manager Incoming Correspondence:
ICOR2018/3932 - ICOR2018/3932-04 - [Redacted]
HPE Records Manager Signed or PDF Copy of Record: ICOR2018/3932-04
ICOR2018/3932-04 - [Redacted]
HPE Records Manager Signed or PDF Copy of Record: ICOR2018/3932-07
ICOR2018/3932-07 - [Redacted]
Acknowledgement Letter - Update on Cabin Owner Waste Management Issues.pdf

Good Morning...

Attached is a response letter to [Redacted]

I have also attached all incoming emails from the Premier’s office. This response letter should close out all of these ICOR’s.

Hopefully, I have captured them all.

Thanks...Val

Valerie Glynn
Secretary to the Minister
Municipal Affairs & Environment
709-729-3046 - vglynn@gov.nl.ca.
I am writing in response to your recent letters to Premier Ball, then-Minister Parsons, and myself in which you requested an update on the status of cabin owners’ ongoing issues with the Eastern Regional Service Board (ERSB). I appreciate your frustration, and as the newly-appointed Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment, I assure you that I am taking your concerns very seriously, and finding appropriate solutions is a high priority for me, for my department, and for our government.

While analyzing potential legislative and policy solutions does take time, I am pleased to inform you that officials have completed their review of the issues, and that I am in the process of reviewing that analysis. I expect to be in a position to share the outcome of that work in the near future.

While I appreciate your concern that cabin owners have not been directly involved in that review thus far, I assure you that your positions are well understood from the many letters, meetings and calls you have made to the Minister’s office, the Premier’s office, and local MHAs. The significant feedback you have provided has been duly considered during this review. I look forward to discussing the results of the review that has been conducted.

I must also clarify that our government has not been involved in the operational decisions that any regional service boards have made regarding their service delivery policies or fee structures. For example, I understand that the Western Regional Service Board has taken a different approach than the ERSB by choosing to focus on the operation of their new transfer station facilities rather than expanding waste collection services at this time. Similarly, the regional service boards on the Burin and Northern Peninsulas have chosen to offer reduced fees for seasonal properties. Different regions face different issues, and the approach to date has been that the local government representatives who serve on these boards are in the best position to understand local issues and make decisions that duly consider residents’ views as well as the best interests of the region.
This does not mean that the regional service boards have "more power" or "more authority" than the Provincial Government, and it does not mean that our government condones the approach of ERSB or any other board. As the Premier and my predecessor have committed, we will take appropriate action to find resolutions to the issues that have been raised by cabin owners in eastern region.

Thank you once again for your continued engagement on these issues, and I look forward to sharing our next steps in the near future. Please contact my office at vglynn@gov.nl.ca or (709) 729-3046 to find a time for a meeting to discuss these matters in more detail.

Sincerely,

GRAHAM LETTO, MHA
District of Labrador West
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment

/jl

cc: Honourable Premier Dwight Ball
Hi Valerie,

Attached is an email from [Redacted] regarding confirmation of his meeting with your Minister on the continued push to have Government intervene on ERSB with respect to the Waste Management fee imposed on cabin owners. Would you please forward any updates on this file by emailing them to premier@gov.nl.ca.

Regards,

Marian Glavine

--------< HPE Records Manager record Information >--------

Record Number: ICOR2018/3932-11
Title: COATT’s request for Meeting with Minister Letto
From: Roberts, Edna
Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2018 10:07 AM
To: Premier of NL
Subject: FW: Meeting with Minister Letto

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2018 10:03 AM
To: Glynn, Valerie; Ball, Dwight; Roberts, Edna; Letto, Graham
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Re: Meeting with Minister Letto

If that is the earliest possible time for the meeting then yes it is noted and I will pass it along to COATT's membership.

In the meantime I received notification yesterday that the Premier was sincerely determined to have our issues and concerns (including ERSB's court actions) dealt with "very shortly" and in that regard we were of the view that the meeting with Minister Letto would occur sooner rather than later. The longer this goes on fully enhances what ERSB is harassingly doing to cabin owners on the Avalon compared to how other boards off the Avalon are respectfully treating their cabin owners/citizens/voters.

It would be very interesting to know if, prior to this proposed meeting, the Minister is meeting with ERSB or others prior to this meeting with Avalon cabin owners.

Please pass this along to Minister Letto for his information.

Thank you,
[Redacted] on behalf of COATT

On Tue, Nov 20, 2018 at 9:34 AM Glynn, Valerie <VGlynn@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

[Redacted]

As per our conversation this morning, Minister Letto's schedule is pretty full for this week and next week, he is not in the office, he will be in Labrador West.

I now have this meeting scheduled for Monday, December 3 @ 9:00 a.m.

Can you please let me know if this time/date is convenient.
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2018 12:45 PM
To: Letto, Graham <GrahamLetto@gov.nl.ca>; Glynn, Valerie <VGlynn@gov.nl.ca>; Chippett, Jamie <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca>; [Redacted]
Subject: Meeting with Minister Letto

Based on my recent email is it possible that we will soon having a meeting with Minister Letto?

Please respond at your earliest.

Thank you,

[Redacted]

"This email and any attached files are intended for the sole use of the primary and copied addressee(s) and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. Any distribution, use or copying by any means of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender."
Hi Marian...

Fyi...Minister Letto and staff met with [REDACTED] and members of COATT on Thursday, November 22.

Val

-----Original Message-----
From: Premier of NL <Premier@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Friday, November 23, 2018 12:02 PM
To: Glynn, Valerie <VGlynn@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: HPE Records Manager Signed or PDF Copy of Record : ICOR2018/3932-11 : ICOR2018/3932-11 - [REDACTED]

Hi Valerie,

Attached is an email from [REDACTED] regarding confirmation of his meeting with your Minister on the continued push to have Government intervene on ERSB with respect to the Waste Management fee imposed on cabin owners. Would you please forward any updates on this file by emailing them to premier@gov.nl.ca.

Regards,

Marian Glavine

------< HPE Records Manager record information >------

Record Number: ICOR2018/3932-11
Title : COATT's request for Meeting with Minister Letto
From: Ball, Dwight
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2018 3:22 PM
To: Premier of NL
Subject: FW: Current Government Legislation re. Regional Service Boards

From: Letto, Graham <GrahamLetto@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2018 1:46 PM
To: Letto, Graham <GrahamLetto@gov.nl.ca>; Ball, Dwight <DwightBall@gov.nl.ca>; Glynn, Valerie <VGlynn@gov.nl.ca>; Chippett, Jamie <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Current Government Legislation re. Regional Service Boards

The attached letter is for your information and action.

Thank you,
Minister Graham Letto  
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  

November 28, 2018

Dear Minister Letto,

Despite your letter dated Nov. 23, 2018 sent to Ed Grant requesting that ERSB should consider to “show good faith and cease further court action against cabin owners, etc.” the court trial was nevertheless undertaken. While ERSB did all that he could to indicate to the court that ERSB did not provide this so called cabin garbage collection on a consistent and regular basis it resulted in little that the court could do to rule in favour. The judge gave the impression that he understood that certain issues did exist but the current government legislation is the law and he had no choice but to adhere to the law, and in that regard he had no choice but to rule in favour of ERSB.

During the trial and to highlight ERSB’s position it’s representative gave reference to when and how the legislation was put in place which occurred via the previous PC’s government’s time in office and, under Minister Kevin O’Brien’s tenure as Minister of Municipal Affairs in 2012, the legislation was amended to allow the boards to do or not do whatever they wished which also provided no legal options to deal with any legitimate concerns for anyone which the boards serviced. Those of us who attended and supported court hearing had to shake our heads to believe that any government would either bring this type of legislation in place or defend it down the road. As has been said time and time again – where do we live?

While we have a tremendous number of issues that are required to be addressed by the current government one of the most important is amending the current government to require that the various boards must legally justify the way they operate and permit it’s “customers” to legally pursue court action if and when required. Right now life long criminals go to court and it appears that the law and the court system is designed to be very accommodating time and time again. In the meantime 99.9% of us Avalon cabin owners (honest, hard working and law abiding citizens) are not life long criminals but under the current government legislation have no rights at all dealing with this so called cabin garbage collection service. And yes it primarily applies to the Avalon and not anywhere else otherwise it is our view that it would have been dealt with long before now.

We thought that it is extremely important to keep you and the Premier up dated as we have been given the impression by Premier Ball, previous Minister Andrew Parsons, and yourself that Avalon cabin owner’s issues and concerns would be dealt with and properly addressed. After our last meeting you indicated that additional follow up meetings will occur and in that regard we are looking forward to such meetings; however, Government action in dealing with this specific legislation issue requires immediate attention otherwise ERSB will continue to harass and intimidate Avalon cabin owners and drag them to court without any concerns regarding a negative outcome. It was indicated in your previous letter dated Nov. 16, 2018 that the regional boards do not have “more power” or “more authority” than the Provincial Government. In all due respect it is everyone’s opinion the current legislation does indeed give them more power and authority than anyone else.

Regards,

cc Premier Ball
cc COATT
This replaces the previous letter.

----------- Forwarded message -----------
From: [Redacted]
Date: Wed, Nov 28, 2018 at 1:46 PM
Subject: Current Government Legislation re. Regional Service Boards
To: Graham Letto <grahamletto@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: Premier Dwight Ball <dwightball@gov.nl.ca>, Glynn, Valerie <vglynn@gov.nl.ca>, Chippett, Jamie <jamiechippett@gov.nl.ca>

The attached letter is for your information and action.

Thank you,
Minister Graham Letto

Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

November 28, 2018

Dear Minister Letto,

Despite your letter dated Nov. 23, 2018 sent to Ed Grant requesting that ERSB should consider to “show good faith and cease further court action against cabin owners, etc.”, a court trial was nevertheless undertaken. While [redacted] did all that he could to indicate to the court that ERSB did not provide this so-called cabin garbage collection on a consistent and regular basis it resulted in little that the court could do to rule in [redacted]’s favour. The judge gave the impression that he understood that certain issues did exist but the current government legislation is the law and he had no choice but to adhere to the law, and in that regard he had no choice but to rule in favour of ERSB.

During the trial and to highlight ERSB’s position it’s representative gave reference to when and how the legislation was put in place which occurred via the previous PC’s government’s time in office and, under Minister Kevin O’Brien’s tenure as Minister of Municipal Affairs in 2012, the legislation was amended to allow the boards to do or not do whatever they wished which also provided no legal options to deal with any legitimate concerns for anyone which the boards serviced. Those of us who attended and supported [redacted] court hearing had to shake our heads to believe that any government would either bring this type of legislation in place or defend it down the road. As has been said time and time again – where do we live?

While we have a tremendous number of issues that are required to be addressed by the current government one of the most important is amending the current government to require that the various boards must legally justify the way they operate and permit it’s “customers” to legally pursue court action if and when required. Right now life long criminals go to court and it appears that the law and the court system is designed to be very accommodating time and time again. In the meantime 99.9% of us Avalon cabin owners (honest, hard working and law abiding citizens) are not life long criminals but under the current government legislation have no rights at all dealing with this so-called cabin garbage collection service. And yes it primarily applies to the Avalon and not anywhere else otherwise it is our view that it would have been dealt with long before now.

We thought that it is extremely important to keep you and the Premier up dated as we have been given the impression by Premier Ball, previous Minister Andrew Parsons, and yourself that Avalon cabin owner’s issues and concerns would be dealt with and properly addressed. After our last meeting you indicated that additional follow up meetings will occur and in that regard we are looking forward to such meetings; however, Government action in dealing with this specific legislation issue requires immediate attention otherwise ERSB will continue to harass and intimidate Avalon cabin owners and drag them to court without any concerns regarding a negative outcome. It was indicated in your previous letter dated Nov. 16, 2018 that the regional boards do not have “more power” or “more authority” than the Provincial Government. In all due respect it is everyone’s opinion the current legislation does indeed give them more power and authority than anyone else.

Regards,

[redacted]

cc Premier Ball
cc COATT
Buckle, Joy

From: Roberts, Edna
Sent: Wednesday, December 5, 2018 9:22 AM
To: Premier of NL
Subject: FW: Letter to Minister Letto dated December 5, 2018
Attachments: Miniser Letto December 5 2018.pdf

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, December 05, 2018 8:34 AM
To: Letto, Graham
Cc: Ball, Dwight; Glynn, Valerie; Roberts, Edna; [Redacted]
Subject: Letter to Minister Letto dated December 5, 2018

Please note and / or pass along.

Thank you,
December 5, 2018

Minister Graham Letto
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Dear Minister Letto,

At our meeting on November 22, 2018 it was indicated that COATT was given word in an email dated November 19, 2018 that Premier Ball had said that Avalon cabin owners issues with Eastern Regional Service Board (ERSB) would be resolved sometime during the week of November 19th and this also included a stop in ERSB's court cases. As follow up you wrote a letter to Ed Grant requesting that ERSB should show good faith and cease from advancing further court action against cabin owners until a number of issues would be dealt with. This didn't work at all and as of the above noted date (December 5th) ERSB is still pursuing it's forceful implementation of a so called cabin garbage collection service as well as continuing court action against Avalon cabin owners.

In addition to the email that we received on November 18th we had previously received a letter from Premier Ball dated September 14, 2018 where he stated the following: "I have spoken to officials within the department (Municipal Affairs) and you have my assurances that my government is committed to finding a resolution to the grievances outlined by COATT." This letter was written almost three (3) months ago and we are still waiting on his government to have this dealt with knowing full well that it could have been dealt with by now.

We know that at our November 22th meeting you indicated that it would take additional time to have our issues dealt with and that would include additional meetings at a later date. Additional time and additional meetings will however continue to authorize ERSB to keep doing what it forcefully does to Avalon cabin owners. The fact remains that a fair amount of time has passed without anything happening that we are aware of and in that regard cabin owners are totally frustrated and are expressing a fair amount of negativity regarding the fact that not much has been done to date. Outside of the tremendous number of issues that cabin owners have to date experienced the three key issues are: (1) to amend the current legislation that currently allows the various boards to do or not do whatever they wish and not be legally held responsible for their actions, (2) to undertake an independent "government" assessment specifically in cabin areas to determine what is or is not required regarding garbage collection and then to ensure that the results are adhered to, and (3) as this is a PROVINCIAL waste management strategy it is strongly recommended that whatever is required in cabin areas be implemented on a consistent basis as opposed to only in specific cabin areas.

It can be noted that Avalon cabin owners/citizens/voters are coming to the conclusion that it is becoming extremely difficult to believe what the Premier says. Surely if the Premier meant what he said it would have happened by now. This is not said as an insult but as a lot of cabin owners are now saying it is becoming very difficult to believe that Avalon cabin owner's issues will be properly addressed by the current Liberal government.

Regards,

cc Premier Ball
cc COATT
Hi Valerie,

Please see attached for your Minister and Deputy Minister’s attention, an email from [Redacted] to Minister Parsons regarding “Cabin Owners Against Trash Tax.”

Would you please copy the Premier on the Minister’s response, it’s determined that a response is required, by emailing it to premier@gov.nl.ca.

Regards,

Marian Glavine

-----< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number: ICOR2018/4378
Title: Email from [Redacted] re CABIN OWNERS AGAINST TRASH TAX
Buckle, Joy

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 5, 2018 3:28 PM
To: Parsley, Betty; Parsons, Andrew
Cc: Parsons, Pam; Premier of NL
Subject: Fw: CABIN OWNERS AGAINST TRASH TAX

----- Original Message ----- 
From: [redacted]
To: BettyParsley@gov.nl.ca; andrewparsons@gov.nl.ca
Sent: Friday, November 02, 2018 9:36 AM
Subject: Fw: CABIN OWNERS AGAINST TRASH TAX

How long does it take to change legislation to take the power away from the ERSB and that farce of a garbage collection which is being forced on seasonal cabin owners. Yesterday in the House I listened as you all debated discrimination and changing legislation so that immigrants can obtain jobs as security. We are DISCRIMINATED against by ERSB because they are forcing us to pay $180.00 a year plus interest for a garbage collection at our seasonal cabin which we do not want, do not need and did not request. Other areas of our province have a USER PAY system while we are being intimidated, forced to pay, harassed, bullied, I can't think of enough words to describe the ERSB and their methods of forcing this fee on us. My cabin does not have electricity or running water and I would not be able to live there permanently. IT IS A CABIN (basic with no luxuries). It is the same as pitching a tent, we have to bring our water with us. Our road is not being maintained by government. Cabin owners need ACTION NOW on this farce. It is nothing but a money grab. We are senior citizens living on a fixed income.
----- Original Message ----- 
From: [redacted]
To: BettyParsley@gov.nl.ca; andrewparsons@gov.nl.ca
Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2018 7:29 PM
Subject: Fw: CABIN OWNERS AGAINST TRASH TAX

----- Original Message ----- 
From: [redacted]
To: BettyParsley@gov.nl.ca; andrewparsons@gov.nl.ca
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 11:14 AM
Subject: Fw: CABIN OWNERS AGAINST TRASH TAX

----- Original Message ----- 
From: [redacted]
To: BettyParsley@gov.nl.ca; andrewparsons@gov.nl.ca
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2018 4:18 PM
Subject: Fw: CABIN OWNERS AGAINST TRASH TAX

We need this farce of a garbage collection to stop now. We are being treated like criminals for something we do not want and do not need.
----- Original Message ----- 
From: [redacted]
To: bettyparsley@gov.nl.ca; andrewparsons@gov.nl.ca
Sent: Saturday, October 20, 2018 11:35 AM
Subject: Fw: CABIN OWNERS AGAINST TRASH TAX

----- Original Message ----- 
From: [redacted]
I am a seasonal cabin owner with no electricity and no running water but I am still being charged for garbage collection which I had no say in, do not want, do not need. This is nothing but a tax grab. The ERSB use intimidation, bullying, and are as ignorant as pigs to hard working, honest and law abiding citizens who are forced to pay for this FARCE. Prior to and on Sept. 20 byelection, government was all over the media that they told ERSB to work with cabin owners to resolve these issues. Not a word has been heard from government since. Meanwhile ERSB are still continuing to drag innocent cabin owners to court and force them to pay this fee. I am sure the judges time could be better spent dealing with more urgent issues with so many criminals out there. What a waste of taxpayers dollars. In the next while another byelection will be called and next year a general election.

IT IS TIME FOR GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ACTION ON THIS ISSUE, instead of allowing ERSB to harass, bully, intimidate and force honest and law abiding citizens to pay this fee. We are not criminals and should not be treated as such. The silence is deafening since the byelection.
Hi Valerie,

Attached is an email from [redacted] regarding fees imposed by the Eastern Regional Service Board on cabin owners.

Would you please copy the Premier on the Minister's response by emailing it to premier@gov.nl.ca.

Regards,

Marian Glavine

---< HPE Records Manager record information >---

Record Number: ICOR2018/4378-03
Title: Additional email from [redacted] re Cabin Owners Against Trash Tax

---< HPE Records Manager record information >---

Record Number: ICOR2018/4378-02
Title: Additional Email from [redacted] re CABIN OWNERS AGAINST TRASH TAX
Buckle, Joy

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2019 1:57 PM
To: Parsley, Betty; Letto, Graham; Premier of NL; tomosbourne@gov.nl.ca
Subject: Cabin Owners Against Trash Tax

I am not a happy camper today. I just received a bill from ERSB with $134.46 interest charges. In July I made an agreement with them to pay monthly until October 2019. I wrote Ed Grant requesting interest charges be dropped for the amount I owed. I never ever received a reply from him. My cabin has no electricity, no running water and we are in an unincorporated area where roads are not maintained by government. I tried calling ERSB this morning but I get a recording that no one is available to answer your call, please leave a message. I don’t have the time or the patience to sit around waiting for them to call me. They are ignorant to deal with and use intimidation, harassment, and threatening court or collection agency. We only use our cabin occasionally and bring our garbage home with us. We do not need, do not want and were never consulted about this so called garbage collection. Government needs to change the legislation right now and take the power away from the ERSB (Robbers). They were given too much power from the start. If government is looking to save money abolish this farce now. It was stated that boards consume quite a chunk of the provincial budget, I assume ERSB is one of them, so why not do away with them. They are just another branch of government who are treating honest citizens like criminals. I cannot afford to pay taxes at my cabin along with my community where I live. We are paying taxes here and my garbage can be disposed off here in my community. We are senior citizens living on a fixed income.
It's been a year now since I've been sending e-mails to government and ERSB (ROBBERS) regarding seasonal cabin garbage collection which is not wanted, not needed and we are being forced to pay for by ERSB using threats, intimidation, arrogance, harassment. We are seniors living on a fixed income and we pay taxes in our own community for garbage collection. We bring our garbage home from the cabin. Why should we have to pay twice? The best Christmas gift I could receive would be for government to ACT NOW and stop making BROKEN PROMISES about this SO CALLED GARBAGE SERVICE. We deserve better treatment than this. We do not need and do not want this so called service and government needs to take action against the ERSB for the way they are treating seasonal cabin owners. My cabin has no electricity and no running water. I should not have to pay this tax.

After all these months of writing letters and sending e-mails, it is clear ERSB has no intention of treating cabin owners with the respect they deserve, and give us the option of a USER PAY basis or take seasonal cabin owners out of the mix altogether. They continue to intimidate people by taking them to court (what a waste of taxpayers dollars) or a collection agency. It irks me every month when I have to write a cheque to ERSB for a service I did not ask for, do not want and do not need. I am not sending this cheque of my own free will, I am sending it because I was threatened with court or a collection agency by ERSB. I DO NOT AGREE with ERSB charging seasonal cabin owners for garbage collection which I do not need. I bring my garbage home with me. ERSB say they are operating under government legislation. We are being treated like criminals and government condones this. Government needs to act now and put a STOP to this mess ERSB has created. We are senior citizens living on a fixed income and we need to be treated with respect by government also. I am asking government to change the legislation now to take the power away from the ERSB. I Government has been silent on this issue since the byelection in September. I am tired of waiting for an acceptable reply saying this has been rectified. The silence is deafening.
USER PAY system is the only FAIR way, or abolish ERSB altogether, we are quite capable of looking after our own garbage and I pay taxes in my community which includes garbage collection.

----- Original Message -----  
From: [redacted]  
To: BettyParsley@gov.nl.ca ; andrewparsons@gov.nl.ca  
Sent: Friday, November 02, 2018 9:36 AM  
Subject: Fw: CABIN OWNERS AGAINST TRASH TAX  

How long does it take to change legislation to take the power away from the ERSB and that farce of a garbage collection which is being forced on seasonal cabin owners. Yesterday in the House I listened as you all debated discrimination and changing legislation so that immigrants can obtain jobs as security. We are DISCRIMINATED against by ERSB because they are forcing us to pay $180.00 a year plus interest for a garbage collection at our seasonal cabin which we do not want, do not need and did not request. Other areas of our province have a USER PAY system while we are being intimidated, forced to pay, harassed, bullied, I can't think of enough words to describe the ERSB and their methods of forcing this fee on us. My cabin does not have electricity or running water and I would not be able to live there permanently. IT IS A CABIN (basic with no luxuries). It is the same as pitching a tent, we have to bring our water with us. Our road is not being maintained by government. Cabin owners need ACTION NOW on this farce. It is nothing but a money grab. We are senior citizens living on a fixed income.

----- Original Message -----  
From: [redacted]  
To: BettyParsley@gov.nl.ca ; andrewparsons@gov.nl.ca  
Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2018 7:29 PM  
Subject: Fw: CABIN OWNERS AGAINST TRASH TAX  

----- Original Message -----  
From: [redacted]  
To: BettyParsley@gov.nl.ca ; andrewparsons@gov.nl.ca  
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 11:14 AM  
Subject: Fw: CABIN OWNERS AGAINST TRASH TAX  

----- Original Message -----  
From: [redacted]  
To: BettyParsley@gov.nl.ca ; andrewparsons@gov.nl.ca  
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2018 4:18 PM  
Subject: Fw: CABIN OWNERS AGAINST TRASH TAX  

We need this farce of a garbage collection to stop now. We are being treated like criminals for something we do not want and do not need.

----- Original Message -----  
From: [redacted]  
To: bettyparsley@gov.nl.ca ; andrewparsons@gov.nl.ca  
Sent: Saturday, October 20, 2018 11:35 AM  
Subject: Fw: CABIN OWNERS AGAINST TRASH TAX  

----- Original Message -----  
From: [redacted]  
To: BettyParsley@gov.nl.ca ; andrewparsons@gov.nl.ca  
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2018 2:33 PM  
Subject: Fw: CABIN OWNERS AGAINST TRASH TAX  

----- Original Message -----  
From: [redacted]  
To: BettyParsley@gov.nl.ca ; andrewparsons@gov.nl.ca
I am a seasonal cabin owner with no electricity and no running water but I am still being charged for garbage collection which I had no say in, do not want, do not need. This is nothing but a tax grab. The ERSB use intimidation, bullying, and are as ignorant as pigs to hard working, honest and law abiding citizens who are forced to pay for this FARCE. Prior to and on Sept. 20 byelection, government was all over the media that they told ERSB to work with cabin owners to resolve these issues. Not a word has been heard from government since. Meanwhile ERSB are still continuing to drag innocent cabin owners to court and force them to pay this fee. I am sure the judges time could be better spent dealing with more urgent issues with so many criminals out there. What a waste of taxpayers dollars. In the next while another byelection will be called and next year a general election.

IT IS TIME FOR GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ACTION ON THIS ISSUE, instead of allowing ERSB to harass, bully, intimidate and force honest and law abiding citizens to pay this fee. We are not criminals and should not be treated as such. The silence is deafening since the byelection.
Buckle, Joy

From: Roberts, Edna
Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2018 12:29 PM
To: Premier of NL
Subject: FW: Letter to Minister Letto dated December 17, 2018
Attachments: Minister Letto Decembe 17, 2018.pdf

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, December 17, 2018 8:46 AM
To: Letto, Graham; Ball, Dwight
Cc: Glynn, Valerie; Roberts, Edna;
Subject: Letter to Minister Letto dated December 17, 2018

The attached letter is for everyone's attention and/or action.

Regards,
December 17, 2018

Minister Graham Letto
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Dear Minister Letto,

On November 22, 2018 a delegation of Avalon cabin owners met with you and your Deputy Minister to discuss the issues and concerns pertaining to Eastern Regional Service Board’s (ERSB) forcefully implementation of a so called cabin garbage collection service on the Avalon Peninsula. Additional letters dated November 27 and 28 as well as December 5 were recently forwarded to you as well. At the November 22 meeting you indicated that you would be further discussing our issues and concerns with ERSB and additional meetings would then be held with us to find a resolution to what is going on.

As has been stated time and time again it is absolutely very frustrating that Government’s overall reaction with having this dealt with appears to be extremely slow and we are continued to be kept in the dark as to what is going on. Avalon cabin owners believe that if this only applied to Labrador, particularly your electoral district, it would have been dealt with by now. This is all part of the Provincial Waste Management Strategy and governed by government legislation which allows the ERSB to discriminate the way it treats Avalon cabin owners/citizens compared to the rest of the Province.

It again has to be officially stated that ERSB’s forceful implementation of this so called cabin garbage collection service and ERSB’s intimidation collection action, which appears to be fully supported by the current Liberal government, is negatively impacting financially on the well-being of many Avalon cabin owners, creating a tremendous amount of overall frustration, and recently it has been brought to our attention that it is also now starting to negatively have an impact on a family’s mental health. This has to be formally stated to yourself and the Premier given the potential hazards that can result if more and more people are stressed to the limit with no help in sight, particularly when it is allowed to happen in only one part of the Province and not the other.

Given the fact that the Christmas holidays will soon be upon us and very little will be accomplished until the new year (if anything at all) it is therefore requested that an update be provided as to what has happened so far and a response to the recently noted letters would be appreciated as well.

Regards,

[Redacted]

cc Premier Ball
cc COATT
Please see attached correspondence forwarded to [redacted] on behalf of Minister Letto. Thanks, Connie

CONNIE K. SHEA
Administrative Assistant to Deputy Minister Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment
Phone: 729-3052  Fax: 729-0943
Email: ckshea@gov.nl.ca

--------< HPE Records Manager record Information >--------

Record Number:  COR/2018/02754-20
Title :  Acknowledgement Letter - Update and Next Steps for Cabin Owners' Issues
E-mail: [redacted]

Dear [redacted]

Further to your recent correspondence, I am writing to provide an update on the various issues that cabin owners have raised regarding the Eastern Regional Service Board, and to outline the next steps for an independent review of those issues. As I have said during several meetings, phone calls, and letters over the past few months, our government takes these issues seriously, and we are committed to finding appropriate solutions.

I appreciate your frustration with the pace of progress on these issues to date. However, I assure you that they have received considerable attention within the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment. We have also heard your concerns that the Cabin Owners Against Trash Tax (COATT) group did not have sufficient input into previous internal reviews. That is why I committed that COATT would have an opportunity to review and comment on the terms of reference for an independent review by an external firm.

To this end, I am formally requesting that COATT review the attached Consultant Fee Request, which outlines the proposed scope of work and approach for this review. This review of service levels and fees will be incorporated into the recently-announced comprehensive review of the Provincial Waste Management Strategy. Please provide comments on the attached directly to my office by end of day, January 18, 2019.

Thank you once again for taking the time to advocate on behalf of COATT's members.

Sincerely,

GRAHAM LETTO
District of Labrador West
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment

cc: Honourable Premier Dwight Ball

Enclosure

P.O. Box 8700, St. John's, NL, Canada  A1B 4J6  709 729 3046  709 729 0943  www.gov.nl.ca
CONSULTANT FEE REQUEST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Analysis of Level of Service and Waste Collection Fees in Unincorporated Areas of the Eastern Region of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAE Contact</td>
<td>Joseph Dunphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firm</td>
<td>White + Abbott</td>
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<tr>
<td>Firm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date Requested</td>
<td>January 21, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Proposal Due</td>
<td>January 30, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your firm has been selected to provide a costing proposal on the scope of work indicated below. Please review and if interested, provide your proposal on the attached Consultant Proposal Form by the date indicated above to Joseph Dunphy, via email, at jdunphy@gov.nl.ca.

Please note the following for the proposal:
1. Please submit any supporting documentation you feel would be pertinent to your proposal.
2. The Consultant must indicate any potential conflicts of interest in their proposal.
3. Any questions during the proposal stage can be directed by email to the contact listed above. The question and resulting answer may be distributed to all proponents by email or in the form of an addendum.
4. Proposals shall be valid for 90 days after submittal.
5. Proposals shall be submitted using the attached Consultant Fee Proposal

Scope of Work

1. Background
The Provincial Waste Management Strategy was released in 2002, and outlined a regional approach in which regional authorities with local community representation would coordinate the delivery of waste management services. These regional waste management systems were intended to enable all communities within a region (i.e., municipalities, local service districts, and unincorporated areas) to pool their resources to accomplish shared objectives. Regional waste management authorities would have the ability to provide waste management services, including collection and disposal, as well as assess, charge, and collect fees for services.

The regional authorities were subsequently established as regional service boards, under the authority of the Regional Service Boards Act, 2012 (the Act). The Act provides the boards with authority to generate revenue through the assessment of fees to variety of entities and individuals, including municipalities, local service districts, persons who occupy real property, and users of facilities and services.

2. Project Description
To complete an independent analysis of waste collection services and associated fees in unincorporated areas of the Eastern Region of the island portion of the Province, with the goal of developing recommendations to achieve service levels and a fee structure in these areas that are reasonable, equitable, and practicable.
CONSULTANT FEE REQUEST

3. Detailed Scope
   a) To complete a review of the Eastern Regional Service Board’s (ERSB’s) expenditures to determine the costs and fees associated with collection of waste in unincorporated areas in Eastern Region (including an appropriate portion of overhead and administration costs).
   b) To meet with ERSB representatives to obtain input on costs to be included in the collection fee calculation.
   c) To complete a limited comparative review of select regions and/or jurisdictions to provide an overview of how comparable properties are serviced by other waste management authorities.
   d) To assess the practicability of ERSB implementing a differential fee structure for seasonal and/or secondary properties (i.e. compared to primary residences).
   e) To provide opportunities for submissions by ERSB and the Cabin Owners Against Trash Tax group.
   f) To synthesize all data and submissions, and provide recommendations aimed at achieving waste collection service levels and fee structure for these areas that is reasonable, equitable, and practicable.

Key Deliverables:
- The Consultant shall provide a formal report outlining the methodology, assumptions, limitations and summary of their analysis, including recommendations.
- The report shall have, at a minimum, the following information:
  1. Executive summary
  2. Methodology
  3. Assumptions
  4. Identification of constraints and limitations
  5. Limited comparative review of other regions/jurisdictions
  6. Financial analysis of the operational costs and revenues of the service
  7. Assessment of practicability of a differential fees in Eastern Region
  8. Recommendations aimed at achieving a reasonable, equitable, and practicable waste collection
     - Service levels; and
     - Fee structure
- The Consultant will provide the Department with all work products used to complete the financial analysis, including spreadsheets.
- The Consultant will provide three (3) hard copies of the final report including all appendices as well as one (1) electronic copy of the final reports and spreadsheets. Spreadsheets are to be provided in .XLS format.
CONSULTANT FEE REQUEST

Schedule

The work shall be completed using the following schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Draft Report</td>
<td>Five weeks after contract award.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Report</td>
<td>Two weeks after MAE supplies comments on draft.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please submit your proposal on the form attached.

Sincerely,

Joseph Dunphy  
Senior Engineer  
Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment  
Tel: (709) 729-2051 | E-mail: jdunphy@gov.nl.ca
# CONSULTANT FEE REQUEST

## Consultant Fee Proposal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fees</th>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
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<td>HST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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</table>

## Schedule

- [ ] We have resources available to complete the work within the prescribed schedule.
- [ ] We propose the following schedule:

## Addendum

- [ ] We acknowledge receipt of Select Number of Addendums addendums issued for this project.

## Methodology

Consultant Representative

Print Name  
Supporting Information:  

Signature

---

Page 1
Hi Valerie,

Attached for your Minister and Deputy Minister's information, is an email from [REDACTED] to the Premier regarding the trash tax imposed on cabin owners.

We are requesting a response on behalf of the Premier. Would you please copy the Premier on the Minister's response by emailing it to premier@gov.nl.ca.

Regards,

Marian Glavine

------< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number: ICOR2019/0044
Title: Email from [REDACTED] regarding the ERSB - Trash Tax paid by Cabin Owners
Mr. Ball,

We have been paying the waste management tax for the Avalon for a year and a half. We have never put out garbage at the cabin as there is no set place to put a bin for pick up near my property. There is not an open road to our cabin. Are we suppose to put a bin out on the side of the long country road where anybody can dump their garbage. This causes garbage to be strewn everywhere. You can see pictures of this on the COATT FB page. Also we only spend about 4 to 6 months of the year at the cabin. We feel this is an unjust tax that is used to take more money from the taxpayers of this province. Don't you think we pay more than enough in taxes and to pay for a service that isn't available to everyone, isn't wanted and isn't used. We do not use the very unorganized service that has been forced for us to pay. FORCED! Do we not live in a democratic country!

The only reason we are paying for an unwanted and never given service is to not let our line of credit be ruined. We should not have to pay to cover other peoples garbage pickup. We pay for garbage pickup in our community. We are not asking cabin owners who live at their cabin to help pay our garbage tax in the community we live. It all does not make sense to many of us.

It seems that the buck gets passed from our government to the board of ERSB. COATT is not going away. We will continue to state our discontent at the unfairness of this waste management tax.
Hi Valerie,

Attached is an email from [redacted] to your Minister (copied to the Premier) regarding the ongoing dispute with Eastern Regional Service Board and the tax imposed on cabin owners for trash.

Would you please copy the Premier on the Minister's response if it's determined a response is required by emailing it to premier@gov.nl.ca.

Regards,

Marian Glavine

------< HPE Records Manager record Information >------

Record Number: ICOR2019/0086
Title: Email from [redacted]
Happy New Year Everyone.

First, I know that government is going to have an “OUTSIDE” consultant. The review will examine ERSB’s waste management policies & collection processes in unincorporated areas. THIS IS A GOOD START. Second, I believe in early January, a draft “Terms of Reference” for the review will be presented to ERSB and COATT for our input, before it is finalized prior to a request for proposals. AGAIN, THIS IS ALSO A GOOD IDEA.

I feel so strong about this unjust garbage collection, and how it can only be offered approx. 6 months a year (non serviced road) in Western Bay line, and even in the summer time garbage has to be left in the countryside for 4 days before it can be collected. (most cabin owners go to cabins on Friday, and back home on Sundays. Yet, garbage don’t get collected in the area until Thursdays.

Also, in the winter time, garbage trucks can get in on Western Bay line to collect garbage, because of accessibility. Garbage trucks can get in to collect garbage, yet, ERSB expects cabin owners to be able to get into their cabins.

So, to justify their existence, ERSB (and last year was the first year they did this), put a sign at the end of western Bay line for people to drop off their garbage from January 1st to March 1st on the ground (no dumpsters). Again, if people did this on Sundays, it would be there for 4 days before it is collected. We are talking about the winter time. Garbage will either be torn apart by dogs, birds, wildlife, or frozen into the ground, or completely buried in a snowstorm, only to be thawed in the spring.

Also, can access Western Bay Line part of December, all March, April, and most of May each year. ERSB don’t say how they would collect garbage during those months.

The picture above with garbage bags just thrown on the ground (Not even a sign this year), was on Tuesday, January 1st, 2019 in Western Bay Line. The next day was one of the biggest storms we had this year. So, I guess that got buried in snowstorm, as garbage collection was on Thursday.

The other picture is in Brigus junction.

On ERSB website, they state that they supply year round curbside garbage collection, on a weekly basis, and one of their main goals is protecting the environment. As I have said on so many occasions, those statements can only apply to people living in unincorporated communities, where roads are plowed, and ERSB has access peoples properties all year round.

Those statements can’t be applied or fulfilled for Avalon Cabin owners, and if nothing else, is making our beautiful countryside more polluted, instead of their statement, they are protecting the environment.
My first thought is “What am I paying the $180.00 a year for”, and am I living in a communist country. Finally, this independent review and Terms of reference, is absolutely useless, if we are taken to court and the judges interpretation of the legislation is “The fee is not related to service”.

All Avalon cabin owners don’t care if the PC government brought this legislation in, or if the Liberals are in power now. WE WANT THIS LEGISLATION FIXED ASAP. As long as ERSB knows that they will always win in small claims court against all the hard working, law abiding, tax payers of this province, nothing will change. We have no avenue to fight this unfair money grab by ERSB.

Yours sincerely
Potential copyright material

If you wish to obtain a copy please contact the ATIPP Office at (709) 729-7072 or atipoffice@gov.nl.ca.
I agree 100%.

On Wed, Jan 9, 2019, 12:14 PM [Redacted] wrote:

I feel your pain. As you know, it matters not if you are receiving any service, the Government legislation legally allows ERSB (and the other NL service boards) to charge any cabin owner this fee regardless where it is located on the Avalon. ERSB seems to be the only board that is aggressively enforcing this unfair fee. Fact is we are being forced to subsidize those who have chose to reside in unincorporated areas to avoid paying taxes.

The legislation must be changed in order to resolve the many negative issues surrounding ERSB implementation of it. In my opinion if this is not done the government(s) will suffer at the poles.

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 8, 2019, at 12:29 [Redacted] wrote:

Happy New Year Everyone.

First, I know that government is going to have an independent review by an "OUTSIDE" consultant. The review will examine ERSB’s waste management policies & collection processes in unincorporated areas. THIS IS A GOOD START.
Second, I believe in early January, a draft "Terms of Reference" for the review will be presented to ERSB and COATT for our input, before it is finalized prior to a request for proposals. AGAIN, THIS IS ALSO A GOOD IDEA.

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Also, in the winter time, garbage trucks can get in on Western Bay line to collect garbage, because of accessibility. Garbage trucks can get in to collect garbage, yet, ERSB expects cabin owners to be able to get into their cabins.

So, to justify their existence, ERSB (and last year was the first year they did this), put a sign at the end of western Bay line for people to drop off their garbage from January 1st to March 1st on the ground (no dumpsters). Again, if people did this on Sundays, it would be there for 4 days before it is collected. We are talking about the winter time. Garbage will either be torn apart by dogs, birds, wildlife, or frozen into the ground, or completely buried in a snowstorm, only to be thawed in the spring.

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Those statements can't be applied or fulfilled for Avalon Cabin owners, and if nothing else, is making our beautiful countryside more polluted, instead of their statement, they are protecting the environment.
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Finally, this independent review and Terms of reference, is absolutely useless, if we are taken to court and the judges interpretation of the legislation is “The fee is not related to service”.

All Avalon cabin owners don’t care if the PC government brought this legislation in, or if the Liberals are in power now.

WE WANT THIS LEGISLATION FIXED ASAP. As long as ERSB knows that they will always win in small claims court against all the hard working, law abiding, tax payers of this province, nothing will change.

We have no avenue to fight this unfair money grab by ERSB.

Yours sincerely

<Screenshot_20190108-105448_Gallery.jpg>
<Screenshot_20190108-105526_Gallery.jpg>
<Memo 002.m4a>
Buckle, Joy

From: Ball, Dwight
Sent: Monday, January 14, 2019 5:35 PM
To: Premier of NL
Subject: FW: Changes need to legislation to add "FEE IS RELATED TO SERVICE"
Attachments: Brigus junction.jpg; Response to COATT from MR. Ball Sept 14th 2018 letter.pdf; The telegram.docx; Western Bay, Jan. 1st 2019.jpg

From [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 14, 2019 1:02 PM
To: Letto, Graham <GrahamLetto@gov.nl.ca>; Ball, Dwight <DwightBall@gov.nl.ca>; Glynn, Valerie <VGlynn@gov.nl.ca>; Roberts, Edna <ERoberts@gov.nl.ca>; Osborne, Tom <tosborne@gov.nl.ca>; Chippett, Jamie <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca>; carlsonyoungnl@hotmail.com; Parsons, Pam <PamParsons@gov.nl.ca>; Crocker, Steve <SteveCrocker@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Changes need to legislation to add "FEE IS RELATED TO SERVICE"

RE-send... It has been a week since I sent the email below to Mr. Ball and Government officials.
I have NOT heard back from anyone. So, I am re-sending it again. We are into 2019 now, and ERSB is sending out the Garbage tax bills for 2019.
I am requesting government, on behalf of Avalon cabin owners, to at least for now, to update the legislation to add “FEE IS RELATED TO SERVICE”, until the review process is completed, so when we go to court to fight this unfair garbage tax, we can at least argue our case in court, which is the democratic thing we should have the right to do.
If someone can tell me why this can’t be done, I would Like to know. When Avalon seasonal cabin owners go to court and fight for our rights, because ERSB can’t supply year round, weekly, curbside garbage collection, we are told by the judges, that they understand our issues, but have got to rule in ERSB favor, because the judge interpretation of the law is “FEE IS NOT RELATED TO SERVICE”.
This is unacceptable, if this legislation is allowed to stay this way, it basically gives ERSB to right to charge cabin owners $180.00 are year, even if they don’t supply the service.
I have also attached an email from MR. Ball to [REDACTED] (COATT), on Sept 14th, 2018, which was during the by-election between Paul Antle and Chess Crosbie.
MR. Ball states that “I have spoken to officials within the department and you have my assurance that my government is committed to finding a resolution to the grievances outlined by your organization”.
That was 4 months ago, and nothing has been done. This review process will do nothing for us if the legislation does not get changed.
I have also attached a copy of the review that MR. Grant did last week with the Telegram. I have added my comments to his statements, and have sent it to media outlets.
MR. Grant just gives one side (ERSB), view of the issues, and as far as I am concerned, misrepresents the true facts about all the Avalon cabin owners.

Thank you

Sent from Mail for Windows 10
Happy New Year Everyone.

First, I know that government is going to have an independent review by an “OUTSIDE” consultant. The review will examine ERSB’s waste management policies & collection processes in unincorporated areas. THIS IS A GOOD START. Second, I believe in early January, a draft “Terms of Reference” for the review will be presented to ERSB and COATT for our input, before it is finalized prior to a request for proposals. AGAIN, THIS IS ALSO A GOOD IDEA.

However, even with those two proposals, I still have to start the new year off on a sour note.

I feel so strong about this unjust garbage collection, and how it can only be offered approx. 6 months a year(non serviced road) in Western Bay line, and even in the summer time garbage has to be left in the countryside for 4 days before it can be collected.(most cabin owners go to cabins on Friday, and back home on Sundays. Yet, garbage don’t get collected in the area until Thursdays.

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We have no avenue to fight this unfair money grab by ERSB.

Yours sincerely,
Potential copyright material

If you wish to obtain a copy please contact the ATIPP Office at (709) 729-7072 or atippoffice@gov.nl.ca.
Letters to the Editor

Simply put, the Eastern Regional Service Board (ERSB) doesn’t like taking people to court to collect waste fees; however, that is the only option given the Board, other than turning a blind eye to those who do not pay thus increasing the cost to everyone else. Furthermore, the attitude of "I’ll pay when you catch me" and then claim I didn’t know is unacceptable. They take people to court, because cabin owners are treated unfairly, and intimidated when we try to fight for our rights, for a service that nobody wanted, is not needed, and for most cabin owners can’t be supplied.

The ERSB has long suggested that all regional service boards be given the same authority as municipalities, which is the ability to lien a property for unpaid fees and collect if/when that property is sold. This would reduce the burden on the courts and allow service boards to better deal with genuine hardship cases. This is outrageous, most cabin owners refuse to pay the fee, because we do not get year round service as people living in the communities get for curbside, weekly garbage collection 12 months a year. This is why we have courts, for people to go a fight for something they feel is injustice.

The suggestion ERSB is charging “properties that are inaccessible most of the year” is generally, factually incorrect and spun by those who do not want to pay their fair share. The secondary homes ERSB services are no different than any house in any other community in the province. Some of these properties are in unincorporated areas and others are in “cabin” country. There are approximately 90 cabins in Western Bay Line. They are cabins, where people spend a few weekends a year to enjoy the countryside, and are NOT secondary homes. If government, Ed Grant and ERSB wants to do maintenance on our road, and do snow clearing from December to May, I would be more than happy to pay for garbage service 12 months a year, which people living in rural, non-incorporated communities receive. My cabin is on a nonservice road, which we pay our committee to get road work done each spring, so we can access our cabins from May until the fall. Western Bay Line has NO access from approx. December until mid May. Majority of the cabins on the Avalon have the same issues. So, Mr. Grants is Factually incorrect.)
A regular argument is "I only use it in the summer."

So what? If that property is in a municipality versus a Local Service District, unincorporated area or cabin area, you would pay the full property tax. Most of us don't use all services offered within our community but we don't get or expect an adjustment. This is misleading information. There is a difference in NOT availing of a service in a community, and still have to pay for it. We don't have access for the service for approximately 5 or 6 months a year. If people living in a community never had access to garbage for 6 months a year, or were told, in the wintertime you have to take your garbage 4 or 6 KLMs to a drop off dumpster, they would NOT pay $180.00 for year around, weekly, curb side garbage collection, which is what ERSB site states).

Why should a "cabin" advertised as 45 minutes from St. John's, renting for $1,800 a month, three bedrooms, 2½ bathrooms, ensuite with Jacuzzi tub, internet, access year-round, pays no property tax, no fire protection fees — yet complains about waste collection fees? This is only part of the true story. If MR. Grant wants to come with me to Western Bay Line, make sure he brings a ski-doo, I will gladly take him in to my cabin, and if he can find, Jacuzzi tubs, internet, access all year round, etc, I will give him a million dollars. ERSB has lumped ever cabin owner in the same group, as the example above, which is completely unfair).

Just recently it was newsworthy that a second property owner in an incorporated area with a paved road maintained and snow plowed year round by the province pays absolutely no tax (a luxury item for the majority of us) has to pay for garbage collection. That property generates waste — regular garbage, bulk items and household hazardous waste items. Why should the rest of us subsidize this property owner? Sounds like he is talking about a property in a community. Here's another side to this story, most of Avalon cabin owners are NOT in a community, we have cabins, and NOT secondary homes. Western Bay Line does not have paved roads, maintenance (only what we pay ourselves), and DOES
NOT have any snow clearing, alone snow plow year round. Maybe, MR. Grant and ERSB, needs to spend more time in communities and cabin areas, to understand who has access all year round, who uses those locations as their permanent address, and who are seasonal cabin owners, that only have access only for approx. 6 months a year. With regard that property generates waste. The bit of garbage that cabin owners generate on weekends for a few weekend a year, is the same waste they would generate, if they stayed home, where they already pay for garbage service. Mr. Grant’s comment above, “Why should the rest of us subsidize this property owner”. To that, I would say, if I can only access my cabin for 6 months a year, like majority of cabin owners, and we pay $180.00 a year, which is the same as people living in communities, and get road maintenance free, snow clearing in the wintertime, and have access to garbage collection 12 months a year, then Avalon cabin owners are subsidizing people in the communities.

As a judge said recently — “if you can afford a second property you can afford to pay the annual waste fees of $180.”

The Tax Review Report released by the province’s Department of Finance concluded the following: “For equity and fairness reasons, the province should consider implementing a provincial property tax, one similar to provincial property taxes in other provinces. The goal is to have property owners pay at least a minimum property tax on all properties in the province.” Again, simply put — Pay your Fair Share. 

I agree with this, especially, if you are living in a community with electricity, paved roads, road maintenance, snow clearing, etc. However, to get the complete picture, most Avalon Cabin owners don’t have the luxury as people living in rural communities. I would love it if government would put electricity in on Western Bay Line, do road maintenance, and snow clearing in the wintertime. This will NEVER happen, as it would cost millions of dollars.

This report and the Auditor General agreed on one fact — the province has a spending problem. Providing properties with essential services such as waste collection, fire protection, snow clearing, and road maintenance without charging any taxes is not fair and equitable to the rest of us. Someone pays for the service — why not the property owner? We don’t have snow clearing, road maintenance, etc. We are NOT the ones causing the government to have a spending problem. Avalon cabin owners actually generate money for the government, by staying home in our province and spending money on weekends at the cabins, instead of going away on trips, and spending money
outside the province. There is so much of MR. Ed Grants comments in this report that are just one sided, and most of it is inaccurate for Avalon seasonal cabin owners, who only have access for approx. 6 months a year).

We requested that government study the way services are funded in unincorporated areas to ensure everyone pays a fair share. A review of the Provincial Waste Management Strategy was recently announced [I agree and it's about time].

The Office of the Citizens' Representative, the Independent Tax Review Committee and various Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Environment are all on record agreeing local policy decisions are best made by those that are locally elected.

The ERSB has twenty municipal politicians all elected within their communities to provide leadership within this region of 270,000 residents. It is interesting these same people make decisions about hundreds of millions in spending in their communities, but when it comes to this issue these same 20 municipal politicians "got it all wrong." I don't think so. Ten of those members are on the ST. John's council and live directly in the ST. John's area. I would say, most of them don't even know where Western Bay Line is located.

So, again I ask, is this discussion really about a bag of garbage, or is this really about all property owners in the province paying property taxes and fees for the services they benefit from. For too long this whole discussion has been dominated by those looking to avoid paying for service at the expense of the Province and the rest of us. For Avalon cabin owners, this is all about a bag of garbage. It a funny thing, that MR. Grant talks about "SERVICE" in just about every place in this report. Yet, when we go to court, and fight for our rights, the judge tells us that "The FEE IS NOT RELATED TO SERVICE". So, that means that the $180.00 a year we pay, is just because we have a cabin, and nothing to do with service.

And finally, one other thing which ERSB keeps talking about and promoting on their website, is protecting the environment. Most people go to their cabins on Fridays, and back home on Sundays. Yet, in Western Bay Line, garbage is NOT collected until Thursdays. That means we have to leave garbage out for 4 days before it is collected in the heat in the summertime. This will attract wildlife, rodents, and insects. This has been brought to their attention several time over the last three years, and nothing is done about it.
Also, we have no access in the wintertime from mid December to mid May. Garbage trucks can’t get in on Western bay line for most of that period, and neither can cabin owners.

So, to try to justify they offer us a service in the wintertime, even though there is NO access, they put a sign out at the end of Western Bay Line (Residential winter drop off January 1st to March 1st), next to people’s homes. Even if we had access, and if people could get in to their cabins in the wintertime, they would have to bring garbage out on a Sunday, to be dumped on the ground and NOT picked up until Thursdays. This is wintertime, it will get torn apart by dogs, wildlife, birds, or frozen to the ground, or if we have a snow storm, would get completely buried in snow. Yet, ERSB talks about Protecting the environment. After complaining about this over the last three years, now they put a dumpster at the end of Western Bay line. Again, there is NO access in the wintertime.

I am speaking on behalf of Western Bay Line cabin owners. But, I hear the same story from other cabin owners from different areas on the Avalon.

Fairness and equity demands everyone pay their fair share so the rest of us are not paying more. Everyone should pay their fair share, if everyone gets the same service. If we are going to discuss all the issues with garbage collection, we need to get all the facts out, NOT just one side of the story. Thank You....

Ed Grant

Chairperson, Eastern Regional Service Board
Potential copyright material

If you wish to obtain a copy please contact the ATIPP Office at (709) 729-7072 or atippoffice@gov.nl.ca.
September 14, 2018

(On behalf of COATT)
Cabin Owners against Trash Tax
Via email

Dear [Redacted],

I am aware that you have received a letter from Paul Antle on September 6, 2018, with respect to your on-going issues with the Eastern Services Regional Board. Paul and I did indeed have a conversation about this. I have spoken to officials within the department and you have my assurances that my government is committed to finding a resolution to the grievances outlined by your organization.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dwight Ball
Premier
From: [Redacted]  
Sent: Monday, January 14, 2019 1:41 PM  
To: [Redacted]  
Cc: Letto, Graham <GrahamLetto@gov.nl.ca>; Ball, Dwight <DwightBall@gov.nl.ca>; Glynn, Valerie <VGlynn@gov.nl.ca>; Roberts, Edna <ERoberts@gov.nl.ca>; Osborne, Tom <otosborne@gov.nl.ca>; Chippett, Jamie <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca>; Parsons, Pam <PamParsons@gov.nl.ca>; Crocker, Steve <SteveCrocker@gov.nl.ca>

Subject: Re: Changes need to legislation to add "FEE IS RELATED TO SERVICE"

I hope someone out there is listening. What is happening to democracy in this province. I'm sure if we were somewhere else in Canada this legislation just would not exist as it is unfair as well as unjust.

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 14, 2019, at 13:02, [Redacted] wrote:

RE-send... It has been a week since I sent the email below to Mr. Ball and Government officials. I have NOT heard back from anyone. So, I am re-sending it again. We are into 2019 now, and ERSB is sending out the Garbage tax bills for 2019. I am requesting government, on behalf of Avalon cabin owners, to at least for now, to update the legislation to add "FEE IS RELATED TO SERVICE", until the review process is completed, so when we go to court to fight this unfair garbage tax, we can at least argue our case in court, which is the democratic thing we should have the right to do.

If someone can tell me why this can't be done, I would like to know. When Avalon seasonal cabin owners go to court and fight for our rights, because ERSB can't supply year round, weekly, curbside garbage collection, we are told by the judges, that they understand our issues, but have got to rule in ERSB favor, because the judge interpretation of the law is "FEE IS NOT RELATED TO SERVICE". This is unacceptable, if this legislation is allowed to stay this way, it basically gives ERSB to right to charge cabin owners $180.00 are year, even if they don't supply the service.

I have also attached an email from MR. Ball to [Redacted], on Sept 14th, 2018, which was during the by-election between Paul Antle and Chess Crosbie. MR. Ball states that "I have spoken to officials within the department and you have my assurance that my government is committed to finding a resolution to the grievances outlined by your organization". That was 4 months ago, and nothing has been done. This review process will do nothing for us if the legislation does not get changed.

I have also attached a copy of the review that MR. Grant did last week with the Telegram. I have added my comments to his statements, and have sent it to media outlets.
MR. Grant just gives one side (ERSB), view of the issues, and as far as I am concerned, misrepresents the true facts about all the Avalon cabin owners.

Thank you

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: [redacted]
Sent: January 8, 2019 12:30 PM
Subject: [redacted]

Happy New Year Everyone.

First, I know that government is going to have an independent review by an “OUTSIDE” consultant. The review will examine ERSB’s waste management policies & collection processes in unincorporated areas. THIS IS A GOOD START.

Second, I believe in early January, a draft “Terms of Reference” for the review will be presented to ERSB and COATT for our input, before it is finalized prior to a request for proposals. AGAIN, THIS IS ALSO A GOOD IDEA.

I feel so strong about this unjust garbage collection, and how it can only be offered approx. 6 months a year (non serviced road) in Western Bay line, and even in the summer time garbage has to be left in the countryside for 4 days before it can be collected. (most cabin owners go to cabins on Friday, and back home on Sundays. Yet, garbage don’t get collected in the area until Thursdays.

Also, in the winter time, garbage trucks can get in on Western Bay line to collect garbage, because of accessibility. Garbage trucks can get in to collect garbage, yet, ERSB expects cabin owners to be able to get into their cabins.

So, to justify their existence, ERSB (and last year was the first year they did this), put a sign at the end of western Bay line for people to drop off their garbage from January 1st to March 1st on the ground (no dumpsters). Again, if people did this on Sundays, it would be there for 4 days before it is collected. We are talking about the winter time. Garbage will either be torn apart by dogs, birds, wildlife, or frozen into the ground, or completely buried in a snowstorm, only to be thawed in the spring.

Also, can access Western Bay Line part of December, all March, April, and most of May each year. ERSB don’t say how they would collect garbage during those months.

The picture above with garbage bags just thrown on the ground (Not even a sign this year), was on Tuesday, January 1st, 2019 in Western Bay Line. The next day was one of the biggest storms we had this year. So, I guess that got buried in snowstorm, as garbage collection was on Thursday.

The other picture is in Brigus junction.

On ERSB website, they state that they supply year round curbside garbage collection, on a weekly basis, and one of their main goals is protecting the environment. As I have said on so many occasions, those statements can only apply to people living in unincorporated communities, where roads are plowed, and ERSB has access peoples properties all year round.

Those statements can’t be applied or fulfilled for Avalon Cabin owners, and if nothing else, is making our beautiful countryside more polluted, instead of their statement, they are protecting the environment.
My first thought is “What am I paying the $180.00 a year for”, and am I living in a communist country. Finally, this independent review and Terms of reference, is absolutely useless, if we are taken to court and the judges interpretation of the legislation is “The fee is not related to service”.

All Avalon cabin owners don’t care if the PC government brought this legislation in, or if the Liberals are in power now.

WE WANT THIS LEGISLATION FIXED ASAP. As long as ERSB knows that they will always win in small claims court against all the hard working, law abiding, tax payers of this province, nothing will change. We have no avenue to fight this unfair money grab by ERSB.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

 all information redacted in accordance with S40(1)