

Region of Queens Municipality

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Region of Queens Municipality

April 21, 2010

Hon. Ross Landry, Chair
Law Amendments Committee
P.O. Box 1116
Halifax, NS
B3J 2X1

Dear Minister Landry:

Re: Submission Respecting Changes to MGA – Bill 29

Region of Queens Municipality is concerned that outstanding municipal fines presently that go unpaid are many times difficult and expensive to recoup based on existing legislation.

In consultation with our municipal solicitor, we believe that a more efficient and effective system could be implemented with minor changes to the *Municipal Government Act*. We fully support the government's recent introduction of legislation to collect fines on our behalf, however this may not be the most prudent for some municipalities. Those municipalities with large outstanding fine amounts stand to lose potentially large amounts of money with a 15% collection surcharge. Also if fines are uncollectable by the Province, then they get sent back to municipalities who will then face the same problems as they do today.

Because of these issues, we respectfully request the government's support of our recommendations which include:

1. That all municipal fines levied by a court become a first lien on any real property owned by the accused person; and
2. That all fines levied by a court, that are not satisfied prior to the time period specified for payment by the court, be allowed to be entered by each municipal unit as a judgment without further legal process.

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The South Shore's Great Experience!



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We feel with these changes, all municipal units in Nova Scotia will have several tools available to them to collect outstanding fines while doing so at minimal expense to taxpayers overall. Your support of our recommended amendments to Bill 29 would be greatly welcomed.

Yours truly,

Hon. John G. Leefe, DCL
Mayor

JGL/ml

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The South Shore's Great Experiment!