

NEIA Conference and Trade show

St. John's, NL

March 1st and 2nd, 2007

Report submitted by:

Allan Scott

Chairperson, CNWMC

N E I A (Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Industry Association) held the Conference, Trade Show and Environmental Industry Awards in St. John's from March 1st to the 2nd of 2007. Both Jeff Saunders, Chair of the Technical Committee and myself Allan Scott, Chair of CNWMC attended the Conference.

The Conference was opened on Thursday with a breakfast address from the Minister of Environment, Honorable Clyde Jackman. Mr. Jackman again confirmed that the waste management strategy will go forward with the only apparent change being the definition of the second generation engineered landfill. Environment is a priority for his Government and they want to see the implementation of the waste management strategy. They fully support the regional approach and the Committees that are in place. In the question and answers period after his speech, I questioned Minister Jackman on the timelines we can expect for the standards and regulations for a waste management system. He confirmed that the standards will be approved by the end of April.

I also had a chance to speak with Bruce Hallett, the newly appointed Deputy Minister of Environment. I questioned Bruce on the status of our application for the environmental registration of our central site. He was not sure and gave me his card to e-mail him so that he could check on it and get back to me.

John Scott of MMSB gave a presentation on the programs that they run and the various sources of funding they support. John got our request for funding but it was not in time to go before the Board in February. John again approved funding fairly quickly for a co-ordinator, but would have difficulty with the request for capacity building. The total funding he can approve now is \$50,000.00. There maybe another \$5,000.00 under education we can access. I have concern with that amount considering we may be in excess of four years before generating revenue. John feels we can expect a decision from Government fairly soon on the strategy. We agreed that he would hold off for three weeks to see the outcome of the waste management strategy. If it is later than that, then I will ask the Committee to decide on whether we would take the \$50,000.00 for the co-ordinator.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs, Hon. Jack Byrne spoke on both water systems and waste management. On waste management, the Minister reiterated what the Minister of Environment said earlier in the day. It appeared the Minister was announcing the waste management strategy. The strategy was slightly revised with 15 designated regions with Central being one of them. The strategy would recommend a regional approach. Robin Hood Bay would be the site for the Avalon.

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Points they are recommending are:

1. All municipalities to be charged equally.
2. Municipalities would not have to travel more than 100 km to a transfer station or central site.
3. Uniform costs across each region.
4. Tipping fees to cover operational costs.
5. Governance model to have equal representation from all parts of the region.
6. The capital cost to be covered by the Province with some funding coming from the Federal Government.
7. In the Provincial 07/08 budget there will \$5.5 Million outside of the gas tax for the waste management strategy.
8. The Province will be moving the waste management more quickly.

I spoke with Minister Byrne after his speech to thank him for his comments. I asked him if he had seen our request to establish the Regional Authority. He had not seen it and figured it was still with Baxter Rose. However he said it is time for us to get going. The money is in the budget and he expects Central to take the lead.