

Ministry of Northern Development

Regional Economic Development Branch

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Ministère du Développement du Nord

Direction du Développement économique Régional

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February 2, 2024

To whom it may concern:

The Ministry of Northern Development is moving forward with the modernization of the *Northern Services Boards Act* (NSBA) in alignment with the *Modernizing Ontario for People and Businesses Act, 2020*. The NSBA has not undergone a review since 1999, and the ministry is looking for feedback on potential burden reduction initiatives through changes to the NSBA. Local Services Boards located in the unincorporated territory in Northern Ontario are governed under the NSBA.

The ministry is seeking public feedback on matters which include the following:

- Modernizing NSBA administration processes (i.e., opportunity to align to digital / technological advancements);
- Improving clarity related to the definition of powers;
- Aligning Local Services Board (LSBs) and government fiscal schedules / year;
- Timing of LSB elections and length of terms of office;
- Providing services outside of the geographical boundaries (i.e., mutual aid (fire response / emergency services));
- Reviewing legislated financial requirements (i.e., review report by certified accountant vs. audit); and
- Flexibility in establishing LSB rules / procedures related to in-camera and public board meetings.

As part of seeking public feedback, the following items are considered out of scope:

- Increases to LSB Program funding;
- Increased responsibility relating to additional powers beyond the current nine (9) powers (fire protection, recreation, water supply, sewage, roads, garbage collection, public library services, street or area lighting and emergency telecommunications);
- Additional types of services (i.e., property planning matters, landfill site operations, etc.); and
- Discussion on amalgamation with neighboring municipalities.

As part of the consultation process, all Ontarians are able to provide comment through the Regulatory Registry. We encourage you to take the time to provide feedback to matters that may be of interest.

The link to the Ontario Regulatory Registry [Red Tape Reduction- Northern Services Boards Act Modernization \(ontariocanada.com\)](https://forms.office.com/r/5qCvy25M91) Copy and paste the link below into the address toolbar to complete the survey questions: <https://forms.office.com/r/5qCvy25M91>

Should you have additional questions relating to the modernization of the Northern Services Board Act please contact the LSB program coordinator Elizabeth Norman, at Elizabeth.Norman@ontario.ca.

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Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melanie Muncaster". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melanie Muncaster
Director Regional Economic Development Branch