



The Rural Municipality of Murray Harbour

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For immediate release - Area to Study New Southern Kings Municipality

Murray Harbour - November 18, 2023. This morning, at a special meeting, the Rural Municipality of Murray Harbour council passed a resolution supporting a study into the possibility of forming a new municipality in the Southern Kings area. The same resolution is being supported by the Rural Municipality of Murray River, which is currently under official trusteeship. The area would encompass the two rural municipalities and the fire districts of the Murray River and Murray Harbour fire departments.

The resolution states that ‘both municipalities are concerned about their ongoing viability, interested in exploring the funding, economic development and tourism opportunities that that a larger municipality could bring to the area; and interested in studying the costs and benefits of incorporating the two communities and their two fire districts into one new sustainable municipality of approximately 3000 residents in the Southern Kings area’.

“It is very challenging for small municipalities to thrive,” said Terry White, Mayor of Murray Harbour. “The area's residents deserve a strong local government. That is why we want to study how coming together might benefit our residents and the area.”

Specifically, the resolution states that both municipalities wish to engage a consultant to study the costs and benefits of establishing a new sustainable municipality in the Southern Kings Area. The study will include an assessment of the impact of the proposed restructuring on the existing incorporated and unincorporated areas, an assessment of the lost tourism and economic opportunities caused by the current lack of a coordinating body for the area, a community engagement plan to ensure that all area residents and stakeholders have an opportunity to participate in the study, and an assessment of changes required to provincial taxation to ensure that residents of the study area do not have to pay additional property tax.

“It is not just the challenge of meeting basic service needs; small municipalities are missing opportunities. This includes infrastructure funding, tourism and economic development, proper land planning and community programming,” said Robert Hughes, Official Trustee for the Rural Municipality of Murray River.

Once both municipalities have passed the resolution, the process will begin to obtain funding and begin the study process.

For more information, contact:

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For Murray River – Official Trustee Robert Hughes, 902-218-3739