

COUNCIL ADVOCACY POLICY

Subject: Advocacy

Ref: Council

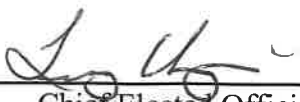
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Date Approved: July 25, 2023 Motion No: 275/27/05/23

Replaces: 447/22/11/22

The County of Northern Lights Council believes that advocacy with other orders of government Regionally, Provincially and Federally will assist in improving various aspects of the operations of the County.

This includes, but is not limited to, financial sustainability, economic prosperity, and environmental stewardship, all fundamentally important to the County.



Chief Elected Official



Chief Administrative Officer

Policy Purpose:

The County recognizes that political advocacy and lobbying at many levels may have mutually beneficial advantages for more than one order of government at the same time. This holds true for the region, the province, and federally. It is through this advocacy that the County stands the chance to benefit in a variety of ways.

Policy Scope:

This policy applies to the lobbying of all orders of government and may change from time to time depending on the circumstances that face the County. Focus shall be the Region, the Province and the Federal government, usually in that order.

There may be additional advocacy support or leadership needed by the County to assist other elected bodies such as the School Boards or other municipalities and such advocacy measures may need to be included in the plan from time to time.

Policy Objective:

To ensure Council has a united voice and to outline how Administration is to support Council achieving its advocacy objectives.

General Policy Guidelines:

1. Administration shall bring this policy forward to Council annually at their Strategic Planning session to gather input plus redraft the plan for council's consideration for approval.
2. If an emergent matter is necessary (such as a disaster), the matter may be considered separately, and this policy updated as necessary.
3. Upon approval, this policy shall be posted on the County website.
4. If a confidential matter is to be considered as an advocacy matter, a separate non-public plan may be prepared if appropriate and not be made public.

Policy Renewal:

This policy shall be renewed annually by February 28 of each year, prior to each spring annual RMA convention.

Issues	Description	Strategies	Actions	Responsibility	Comments
<u>Advocacy Item #1</u> Fiscal Issue	Grant Funding Infrastructure Water Drainage Bridge Funding	Inform Minister of concerns Lobby through RMA	1. Letter to Minister 2. Meet appropriate Ministers at RMA	Council	
<u>Advocacy Item #2</u> Fiscal Issue	Unpaid taxes (oil and gas) and Orphan Well Funding	Inform Minister of \$\$ impact Lobby through RMA	1. Letter to Minister	Reeve	
<u>Advocacy Issue #3</u> Legal Claim	Arbitration issue	Keep Minister informed	1. Letter to Minister 2. Arrange meetings	1. Reeve 2. DPW	Funds received and Provincial support provided. See #8
<u>Advocacy Issue #4</u> BC Hydro	BC Hydro/Site C Dam Flooding Concerns	Inform province of concerns Ensure BC Hydro has plans for mitigation	1. Letters to BC Hydro 2. Letters to Province 3. Discussion at Zone meetings	1. Council has delegated to Councillor Reese	Plans and maps have been received, need to ensure they are made public once adopted.

<u>Advocacy Issue #5</u> Species at Risk	Support NWSAR	Continue on NWSAR and providing funding to them	1. Sub regional plan draft	1. Reeve and Councillor Halabisky	
<u>Advocacy Issue #6</u> Health Care	Shortage of health care workers	1. Advocate for more rural doctors and nurses. 2. Continue with Attraction and Recruitment Committees 3. Work with RhPAP	1. Continue participating on Health Care Attraction and Retention Committees 2. Continue work with RhPAP	1. All of Council	Currently work with three committees (Peace River, Manning, Grimshaw)
<u>Advocacy Issue #7</u> Northern Railway	Need for efficient and effective railway for all industries	Work with regional Community Rail Advocacy Alliance (CRAA)	1. Work with the newly formed regional (CRAA) Community Rail Advocacy Alliance	1. Reeve	
<u>Advocacy Issue #8</u> Engineering Accountability	Need for rating system for engineering groups to be used across all municipalities	Work with RMA	1. Resolution to be presented at Fall zone and November convention	1. Council	