

# RURAL COMMUNITIES COUNCIL

## Positions Statements

**Topic: Municipal Governance**  
Winter 2021



### Equity for all

**“The Rural Communities Council recognizes and supports the need for collaborative dialogue about the varied needs of rural islanders to achieve equality within rural municipalities.** Understanding our rural past and present by including Indigenous History and First Nations, while incorporating the legacy of early settlers and modern-era newcomers, will support collaborative leadership. Achieving **equality** will involve looking at our future differently than our past and rural municipalities can take the lead, if we empower and encourage them to do so.”



### Land Use Planning

**“The Rural Communities Council seeks to support government in the need for land use planning for current and future needs of rural islanders and includes the recognition of the need to change our approach to be both forward-looking and strategic.** This involves consideration of not only individual land-owner priorities, but also community-based needs and goals, to balance the competing interests from many sectors and segments of the population. More public engagement is needed to understand the choices we can make for long-term sustainability.”



### Information

**“The Rural Communities Council seeks to be a trusted source of information for rural islanders by ensuring that local governance roles are clearly understood, supported and enabled by their community residents, elected municipal leaders and local municipal staff.** This involves fact-based conversations that favour outcomes and common ground over differences as the foundation for community building. Council members seek opportunities to collaborate with rural municipalities, municipal staff and elected officials and would welcome opportunities to promote shared understanding, common goals and collaborative approaches to problem solving



*(opportunities exist for new and less-heard voices to play a strong catalyst role in ensuring effective and inclusive engagement).”*

### Knowledge

**“The Rural Communities Council encourages rural islanders to become informed citizens for the future of our communities and supports the provincial government efforts to coordinate rural governance.** The challenges ahead for rural PEI’s infrastructure and services involve partnerships and planning that will rely on change management skills, effective resourcing and engagement expertise to enable robust consultation processes between local and provincial government. The Council endorses the efforts of those civic-minded groups, individuals and organizations to reimagine how the community is organized, managed and empowered.”



Much has been achieved to chart our future on the island and the Department of Fisheries and Communities is committed to providing engaging and informative resources for municipal and rural governments to design their own destiny as distinct, local, and proud islanders, whether by birth or choice”.

*Bob Creed,  
Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Communities*

Municipal and rural governments are the backbone of rural island culture and we applaud the Rural Communities Council for their leadership and calls for collaboration on the future of rural islanders. Within the Department of Fisheries and Communities, we are proud to continue the conversation with them and on their behalf.

*Hon. Jamie Fox,  
Minister of Fisheries and Communities*

Rural Communities Council Co-Chairs endorse the Government of Prince Edward Island efforts to ensure high-quality local service delivery, strategic planning support, governance training and assistance to municipal governments supporting Islanders living and working in rural municipalities in PEI.

*Co-Chair Elmer MacDonald  
and Co-Chair Gerry Gallant.*