**POLICY #2014-11-28**

**MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROGRAM**

**PREPARATION OF PLANNING DOCUMENTS**

**WIND TURBINES**

In accordance with Section 204 (1) of the Municipal Government Act, being Chapter 18 of the Revised Statutes of Nova Scotia, 1998, the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou hereby enacts a policy with respect to a public participation program for the proposed Wind Energy Planning Strategy and Related By-Laws.

## PREAMBLE

The Municipal Government Act (MGA) requires that when considering the amendment, review or replacement of a Municipal Planning Strategy a Council must seek the input of its citizens, property owners, and other interested persons.

The process of receiving this input is referred to as public participation. The MGA requires that Council adopt a specific motion identifying the means by which the necessary public input will be obtained.

Council may adopt a unique public participation resolution each time it undertakes an amendment to the MPS or it may adopt a general resolution, which identifies a program, which will be implemented whenever an amendment process is initiated.

## PURPOSE

To outline the use of a public participation program when considering amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law for the Municipality of the County of Pictou.

# POLICY

1. This policy is for the purpose of the preparation and adoption of a Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law and any subsequent amendments thereto to regulate the development of wind turbines.
2. The Council shall not require the Planning Advisory Committee to conduct a public participation program for an amendment of the land-use bylaw; if
3. The amendment to the land-use bylaw is undertaken in accordance with the planning strategy; or
4. The amendment does not require a concurrent amendment to the Municipal Planning Strategy;
5. The Planning Advisory Committee shall conduct the Public Participation Program but the presentation of information and the receiving of comments shall be the responsibility of planning staff.
6. As the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law will apply to a substantial portion, if not all, of the Municipality at least one public information session shall be held in a number of communities as selected by the Planning Advisory Committee.
7. The Planning Advisory Committee may deem additional sessions necessary.
8. Notification of the meeting and request for public input shall be circulated in the local paper within a 30-day period of the meeting. In addition, notices shall be posted in local businesses.

7. Other means of advertising may be approved by the Planning Advisory Committee.