

Size of Council Survey Results

**Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
Council Meeting
September 23, 2014**

Recommendation

- That the Boundary Review Committee recommends to Council that based on the results of the survey and the information provided and feedback received at the public meetings that the number of councillors be set to eight (8) plus a mayor.

Size of Council Survey

- 11,162 households (via Canada Post bulk mail)
- Survey Package included:
 - Two copies of the survey (22,324 sent out)
 - a business reply envelope
 - Cover letter from Interim CAO
- On-line Survey
 - Live: July 28 to Sept. 2
- 4 cash prizes to encourage participation
- 16,730 eligible voters (2012)

Public Meetings

- 2 Public meetings
- 34 members of the public attended
- 7 Councillors at each meeting
- Meeting Questions:
 - boundary review process
 - what the Municipality does
 - how decisions are made by Council
 - Costs of Councillors
- Public opinion was not gathered at the public meetings.

Council Size Survey

Council Size Survey Deadline for completing survey: September 1, 2014

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

This survey can be completed on-line at: www.modj.ca/survey

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| The Responder is: | YES | NO |
|---|-----|-----|
| a) 18 years or older, | ___ | ___ |
| b) a Canadian citizen, and | ___ | ___ |
| c) a resident of the District of Lunenburg for the last 3 months and continues to reside there. | ___ | ___ |

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The Municipality currently has 12 Councillors plus a Mayor. Each Councillor currently represents approximately 1,394 electors (2012). Currently the average for like municipalities is 1,659. Every municipality is required to review the size of Council this year. If the size of Council was reflective of effective decision making and communities of interest such as fire department boundaries, school districts and flow of traffic to service centres:

| A) Do you support a change in the number of Councillors? | YES | NO |
|--|-----|-----|
| ___ | ___ | ___ |

B) What size of Council do you support? [check one]

| | |
|-----|--|
| ___ | 6 Councillors plus a Mayor |
| ___ | 8 Councillors plus a Mayor |
| ___ | 10 Councillors plus a Mayor |
| ___ | 12 Councillors plus a Mayor (Status Quo) |
| ___ | 14 Councillors plus a Mayor |
| ___ | Other ___ plus a Mayor |

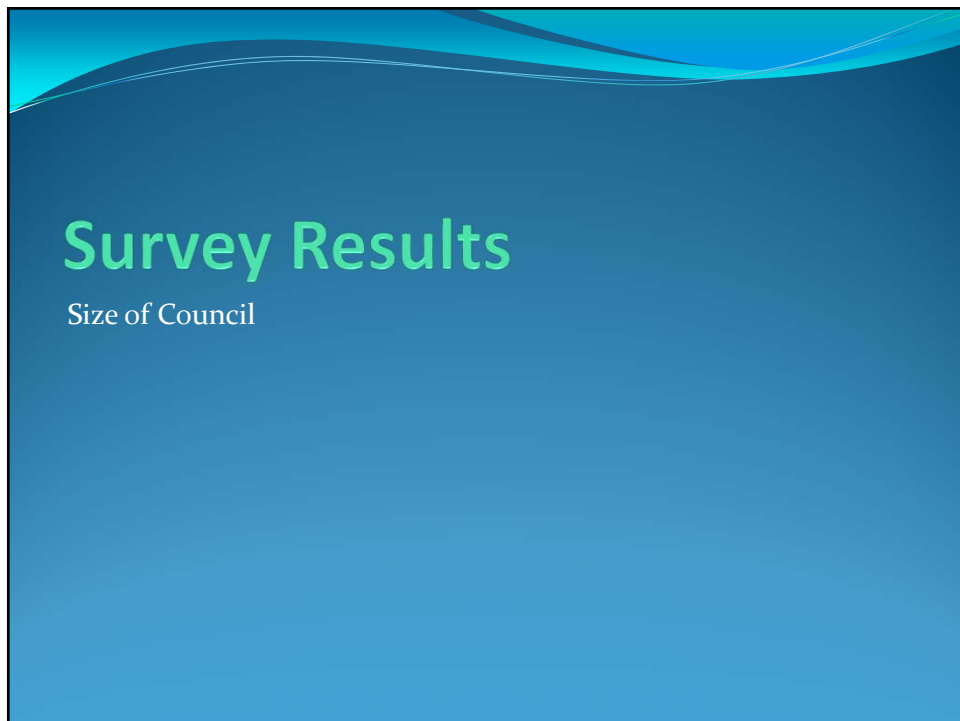
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Confidentiality: Please note that individual survey results will remain confidential. The name and civic address information below will only be used to verify who returned a survey, after which the name, civic address, and contact information will be removed from the survey and used for the prize draw.

Please Print

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Contact # or e-mail _____

Civic # _____ Street Name _____ Community Name _____



Survey Results (Questions 1 and 3)

- 2190 Surveys returned.
 - 122 surveys were removed from the results and prize draw
 - 59 responders in question 1, identified as not being eligible voters in MODL.
 - 39 responders identified as being eligible voters but listed a community outside of MODL.
 - 24 responders left question 1 blank or had submitted a duplicate survey.
 - 2068 eligible responses were received.

Question 2A:

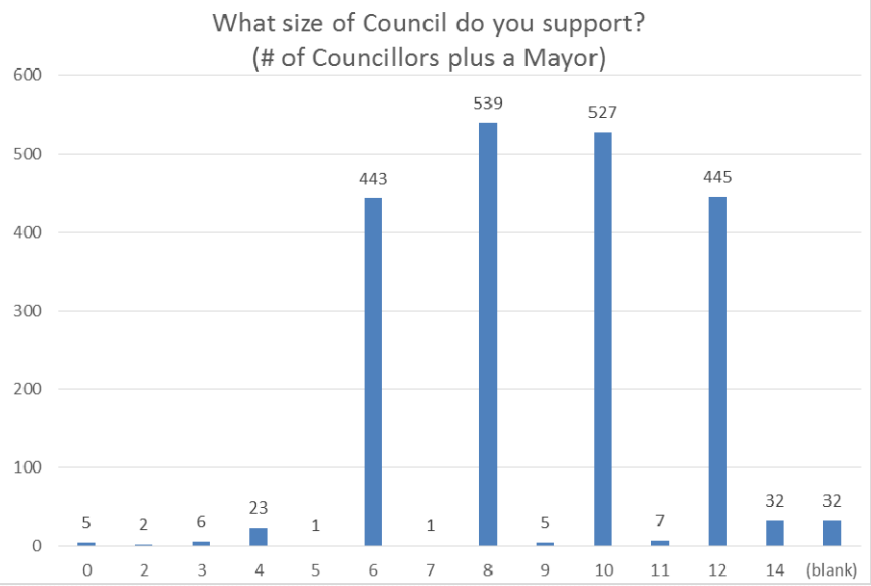
- Do you support a change in the number of Councillors?
 - Yes: 1601 (77%)
 - No: 432 (21%)
 - Blank: 35 (2%)
- over 3/4^{ths} (77%) indicated they support a change in the number of Councillors.

Question 2B:

- What size of Council do you support?

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| • Less Councillors | 75.4% |
| • Status Quo | 21.5% |
| • More Councillors | 1.5% |
| • Blank | 1.5% |

Question 2B:



Question 2B:

- What size of Council do you support?
 - The top four responses were:
 - 8 Councillors 26.06%
 - 10 Councillors 25.48%
 - 12 Councillors 21.57%
 - 6 Councillors 21.42%
 - All other responses represent 5.47%

Question 2B:

- What size of Council do you support?
 - Mean (average): 9.1
 - Median (centre value): 8
 - Mode (most frequent): 8
 - Central response is focused in the range of 8 to 10 Councillors plus a mayor
 - 51.5% of responders indicating either 8 or 10 Councillors.

Average number of electors per Councillor

| Municipality | Avg. # of electors per Councillor |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Kings Co. | 3,073 |
| Colchester | 2,332 |
| Inverness County | 1,996 |
| Lunenburg, District | 1,394 |
| Annapolis County | 1,243 |
| Pictou Co. | 1,195 |
| East Hants | 1,173 |
| Cumberland | 1,145 |
| Antigonish County | 1,116 |

- 8 Councillors = 2091 electors/Councillor & ranked 3rd
- 10 Councillors = 1673 electors/Councillor and ranked 4th

MODL has the 3rd largest population

| Municipality | Population 2011 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Kings Co. | 47,579 |
| Colchester | 36,644 |
| Lunenburg, District | 25,118 |
| East Hants | 23,195 |
| Pictou Co. | 21,885 |
| Annapolis County | 17,578 |
| Cumberland | 15,486 |
| Antigonish County | 15,296 |
| Inverness County | 14,575 |

Currently MODL has the 4th highest population / Councillor

| Municipality | Avg. Population per Councillor |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Kings Co. | 4,325 |
| Colchester | 3,331 |
| Inverness County | 2,429 |
| Lunenburg, District | 2,093 |
| East Hants | 1,784 |
| Annapolis County | 1,598 |
| Pictou Co. | 1,563 |
| Cumberland | 1,549 |
| Antigonish County | 1,530 |

- 8 Councillors = avg population of 3,140 persons/Councillor and ranked 3rd
- 10 Councillors = avg population of 2,512 persons/Councillor and ranked 3rd

MODL is the 8th largest in area

| Municipality | Km Sq |
|---------------------|----------|
| Cumberland | 4,223.83 |
| Inverness County | 3,814.93 |
| Colchester | 3,569.10 |
| Annapolis County | 3,174.12 |
| Pictou Co. | 2,796.60 |
| Kings Co. | 2,093.45 |
| East Hants | 1,786.47 |
| Lunenburg, District | 1,759.14 |
| Antigonish County | 1,449.95 |

Currently MODL has the 7th largest average area per Councillor

| Municipality | Avg Area per Councillor |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Inverness County | 635.82 |
| Cumberland | 422.38 |
| Colchester | 324.46 |
| Annapolis County | 288.56 |
| Pictou Co. | 199.76 |
| Kings Co. | 190.31 |
| Lunenburg, District | 146.60 |
| Antigonish County | 145.00 |
| East Hants | 137.42 |

- 8 Councillors = avg area of 219.9 km² per Councillor and ranked 5th
- 10 Councillors = avg area of 175.9 km² per Councillor and ranked 7th

Next Steps

- Council to set the desired size of Council, then:
 - 1) The Boundary Review Committee to work with Staff to draft district boundary options;
 - 2) Public consultation on proposed district boundaries;
 - 3) Council to tentatively set district boundaries
 - 4) Public hearing conducted on the tentative district boundaries
 - 5) Council to set Council district boundaries and submits application to NSUARB.

Conclusion

- 75.4% want a reduction in the size of Council.
- 9.1 Average desired number of Councillors.
- 8 most frequent response
- 51.5% of the response was either 8 or 10
 - 8 Councillors plus a Mayor with 26.06% followed by
 - 10 Councillors (25.48%)