



MEDIA RELEASE

**For immediate release
May 29, 2009**

COUNTY ASK RESIDENTS FOR INPUT REGARDING 20-30 YEAR VISION; THE FIRST STEP IN FEDERAL GAS TAX AGREEMENT

ANNAPOLIS CO. – The public is being invited to share what they feel the County’s vision should be for the next 20-30 years; the first step in fulfilling the requirements of the Federal Gas Tax Agreement (GTA).

The GTA specifies that municipalities must prepare an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP).

“An ICSP is another term for Strategic Plan,” explained Annapolis County Warden Peter Newton. “It is intended to empower communities and regions to address their current and future needs.”

The Plan will recognize the connection between environmental, social, cultural, and economic development within a community and at the regional level. It will focus on integrating these considerations to achieve 20 to 30 year (and beyond) vision of the Annapolis County communities and the region, and provide a strategic plan for the County which will align long-term community goals with strategic investments in community infrastructure. It will address the County’s future financial health, social and cultural well-being, and natural resource use and environmental stewardship.

It was a decision of Council to contract a consulting firm to assist in putting the Plan together, so they solicited proposals for the service. Criteria specified in the evaluative outline included corporate experience and depth; key members of the project team; quality of the proposal; approach and methodology provided; and the cost. Seven proposals were received. The successful candidate was Jacques Whitford Stantec of Halifax.

“When reviewing the proposals that were submitted, we (Council) agreed that Jacques Whitford Stantec had the qualities needed for this project. We are confident they will fulfill their tasks efficiently in a professional manner,” said Warden Newton.

Jacques Whitford Stantec will design and carry out a Public Consultation process, using the Municipality’s Strategic Plan and Priorities as a starting point. They will collect the public’s input and identify related deficiencies in the Strategic Plan and Priority ranking; make comment on the position of the County’s strategic issues, goals and plans with Statements of Provincial Interest; and will draft policies for Council’s review to support the implementation of the ICSP.

“This process will help determine how the County governance can use its influence to better position us with current and future challenges, while maintaining or improving the qualities that make our County such a wonderful place to live and work,” remarked Warden Newton

Over the next four months there will be a series of public meetings and consultations across the County. The first series of public meetings will be held at:

- **Nictaux & District Fire Hall** **Thursday, June 11th, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.**
- **Annapolis Basin Conference Centre** **Friday, June 12th, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.**
(Desmond Piers Building)
- **Lawrencetown Legion** **Saturday, June 13th, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

“Your voice needs to be heard as we embark on this initiative to strengthen the resiliency of the County, and the community services it provides and supports,” said Warden Newton. “Council wants to hear your expectations for the County and your intended vision for your home area in 10, 20, or 30 years.”

Residents who have inquiries regarding the public meetings may contact Laurie Emms, Municipal Services Director, at (902) 584-2188 or acps@ns.sympatico.ca.

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The consulting firm Jacques Whitford Stantec of Halifax has been hired to conduct the Public Consultation process, which will be the foundation of the ICSP. This Plan will be the focus to achieve a 20 to 30 year (and beyond) vision of the Annapolis County communities and the region.

Warden Peter Newton says the voice of the people needs to be heard as County embarks on this initiative to strengthen the resiliency of the County, and the community services it provides and supports.

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