

**Public Meeting on Water –Intake Project for the Town of Gillams
January 19, 2011**

A public meeting and information session regarding the proposed Water-Intake Project for our town was held on January 19, 2011 at the Community Hall in Gillams. Members of Council, an invited panel of guests and about 26 concerned residents were in attendance.

The meeting reviewed the history of the project as well as any projected increases in the cost of the project since it was initiated by Council some 28 months ago. Each invited member of the panel addressed the group and responded to questions posed by town residents.

Present were MHA Terry Loder who spoke briefly about the history of water projects in Gillams and how he had been asked to facilitate the organization of the public meeting. Atlantic Engineering representatives, Don Dicesare, and Ian Osmond discussed specific details of the project and explained the necessary changes to design that have occurred over the last two years. It is their professional opinion that the current design is the most viable for our town, and will require less maintenance as well as reduced chlorination of the water supply. The move to Meadow's Pond from Jackie Tapp's Brook will considerably improve water quality and give us the same water quality as the community of Meadows. While some residents suggested the option of connecting to the present pipe system from Meadows, the engineers deemed this option to be much more problematic and costly than the recommended design.

Chris Blanchard from the Department of Environment reported that the present water supply in Gillams does not meet the Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines while the water from Meadows is well within recommended limits. There should be improvement in the colour of water, and a reduction in the amount of dissolved organic materials and disinfection by-products when we are connected to the new water intake system. There should also be some savings on chlorination and maintenance costs.

Mr. Chris Power from Municipal Affairs outlined the role of his department , as they review final designs and approve all costs associated with the project. They determine whether our debt ratio can support our share, which is currently 10% . The Provincial Government pays 90%. Municipal Affairs also gives municipalities final approval and grants our engineering firm permission to tender projects.

At present we have applied and have been approved for \$100,000 in funding (our 10%) and are waiting for a letter confirming Final Approval from Municipal Affairs. Atlantic Engineering will then be notified that the project can go to tender.

We expect that confirmation of the project in the near future will result in a call to Tender, possibly as early as March, 2011. Council will review our costs based on the final tender amounts. Should our 10% exceed the \$100,000 that has been approved, additional funding applications will have to be filed .

A copy of the design for the Water – Intake is on display at the Town Office, as well as a timeline of events and costs associated with this project thus far.

Mayor Joy Burt