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Policy & Strategy Committee Meeting AGENDA

Tuesday, September 20, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

Council Chambers, 10 Allée Champlain Drive Cookville NS

And Via Audio & Video Teleconference

- 1. Call to Order**
- 1.1 Mi'kma'ki Territorial Acknowledgement
- 2. Announcements, Acknowledgements, Recognition**
- 2.1 Proclamation – Right to Know Week, September 26 to October 2, 2022
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Approval of Minutes of June 21, 2022 (as circulated)**
- 5. Business Arising from Minutes - Nil**
- 6. Presentations**
- 6.1 Accessibility Quarterly Update April to June 2022 9:15 a.m. 1-10
Ellen Johnson, Accessibility Coordinator
- 6.2 Basic Guaranteed Income, Wayne Mason and Mandy Kay-Raining Bird 10:15 a.m. 11-18
- 7. Referral from Council**
- 8. Staff Reports**
- 8.1 Finance Department**
- 8.1.1 Proposed New Policy MODL 095 – Asset Retirement Obligations 19-26
- 9. Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters**
- 9.1 Water Supplies/Programs/Distribution Post for Water Supplies (Counc. Bell) 27-28
- 10. Added Items**
- 11. In Camera - Nil**
- 12. Next Meeting – October 18, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.**
- 13. Adjournment**



Accessibility in Lunenburg County

Ellen Johnson, Accessibility Coordinator
September 20, 2022

Accessibility in Lunenburg County

- Provincial Context
- Municipal Context
- Progress
- Next Steps

Provincial Context

- The Accessibility Act : Adopted in 2017 with the overall goal of creating and accessible Nova Scotia by 2030.
- 30% of Nova Scotians aged 15+ have at least one disability (Canadian average is 22.3%)
- Accessibility is a Human Right

Municipal Context

PPSB Obligation	Status
Establish Accessibility Advisory Committee	Complete
Create Accessibility Plan	Complete
Update Accessibility Plan every 3 years	Due 2024

Progress

Standard area	Estimated enactment	Our Action Planning
Built Environment	2023-2024	In progress
Education	2024	N/A
Employment	2025	Draft Complete
Goods and Services		Draft Complete
Information and Communications	2026, 2027, 2028	Draft Complete
Transportation		In Progress

Progress: Planning

- 2 Reasons to use the working group process:
 - Identify Actions
 - Build Capacity
- Overall Goal is to incorporate accessibility into everyday work practices

Progress: Implementation and Evaluation

- Researching Training
- LCAAC
- RAAFIA
- MERL
- Supporting Staff:
 - Digital/Document Accessibility
 - Prompts to include/ask about accessibility
 - Mason's Beach

Progress: Community Connections

- RAAFIA
- Community Links
- Accessibility Directorate
- Networking with other Accessibility Leads
- Individual community contacts

Next Steps

- Continue specific action plans/Support Implementation
- Establish LCAAC Processes & Support Committee
- Arrange Training
- General staff support
- RAAFIA & MERL

Questions or Comments?



**Basic Income Guarantee (BIG)
& Municipalities**

Presented to the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
September 20, 2022
Waye Mason, Halifax Councillor &
Elizabeth (Mandy) Kay-Raining Bird, Basic Income Advocate

Basic Income Nova Scotia
(BIG-NS)

BASIC INCOME NOW
Atlantic Canada

Coalition Canada
basic income
revenu de base

1

Municipal Basic Income Support

<p>Past</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2015: City of Kingston, resolution<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Followed by 40 other Ontario Municipalities• 2018: Halifax included 2 action items (1.5, 3.4) for a BIG in its Poverty Solutions report	<p>Current</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upcoming, Sep 19, 2022: Moncton Municipality, resolution vote• Sep 14, 2022: Union of BC Municipalities resolution (EB14, p 41)• Aug 26, 2022: Discussion, Atlantic Mayors' Congress• Jan 2022: City of Victoria resolution• April 2022: Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) (resolution #37)• June 2022: The Halifax Regional Municipality resolution• Support of many Atlantic Province mayors and Councillors
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Basic Income Guarantee Definition

A direct payment from government to ensure that everyone has a sufficient income to meet their basic needs, participate in society and live with dignity, regardless of work status.



Basic Income Nova Scotia
(BIG-NS)



Coalition Canada
basic income
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Basic Income Nova Scotia
(BIG-NS)



BIG Principles



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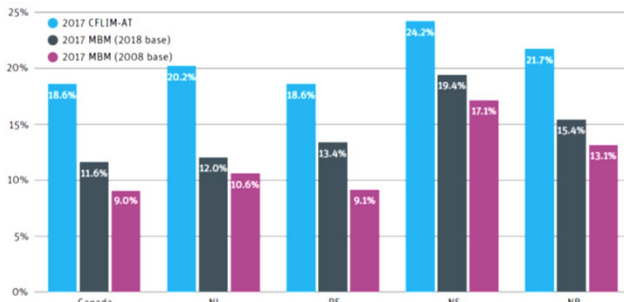
- **An essential component of a broad safety net.** Replaces income assistance (welfare) but not other vital social programs.
- **Universally Accessible.** Everyone who needs it gets it.
- **Unconditional.** Subject only to income and residency requirements.
- **Sufficient.** Set at a livable level, above the poverty line, enhanced for those with disabilities, and indexed to the cost of living.
- **Responsive to changing circumstances.** Simple to access. Delivered monthly or biweekly. Reduced gradually with increasing taxable income.
- **Respectful of autonomy.** No demeaning or stigmatizing oversight. Payable to individuals to be used at their sole discretion.
- **Respectful of Indigenous self-determination.** Respects the rights of Indigenous people to determine whether a basic income is delivered in their communities and, if so, what form it will take and how it will be implemented.

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Why? Because poverty rates are high, especially for the most vulnerable

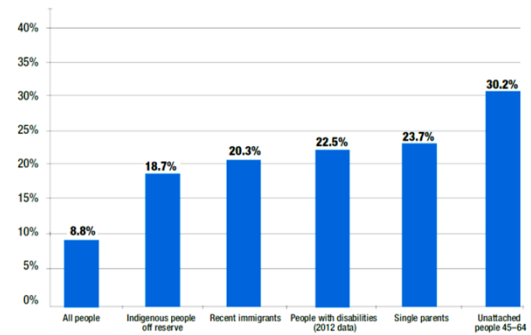
24% of Nova Scotian children live below LIM

FIGURE 2 2017 Child Poverty Rates, Canada and Atlantic Provinces, Market Basket Measure (2018-base and 2008 base) and Census Family Low Income Measure, After-tax



[CCPA, 2021 Cost of Poverty in the Atlantic Provinces](#)

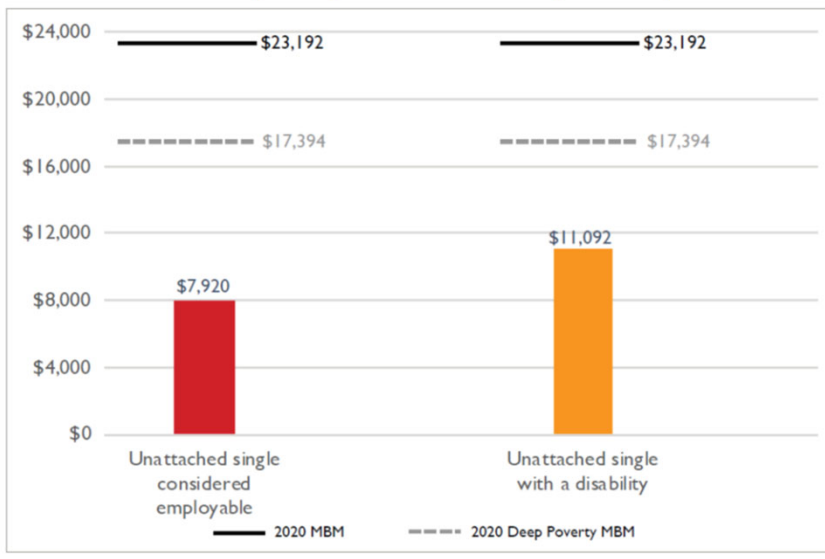
Figure 7: Low-Income Rates of Vulnerable Groups, Total Population, 2014 (Low Income Cut-Offs – After Tax, Base Year 1992)



[Stats Canada, 2016](#) Towards a poverty reduction strategy

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Welfare incomes and poverty thresholds for single adults, 2020



Because Income Assistance (welfare) is Insufficient

Nova Scotia

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Why? Because income is the most important Social Determinant of Health

Poverty is “...the best predictor of early illness, early hospitalizations, longer hospital stays and earlier death. It is a reliable predictor of substance abuse, food insecurity, poor education outcomes, and for some, trouble with the law.”

Segal, H. (2016). [Discussion paper on Ontario pilot project](#)

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Why? Because Poverty is Expensive! In dollars and human potential

TABLE 2 Total Cost of Poverty, Percent of GDP and Cost per person, Atlantic Provinces, 2017

Province	Total Cost (thousands)	Percent of GDP	Cost per person
NB	\$1,338,045.84	3.71	\$1,744.86
NS	\$2,034,821.03	4.76	\$2,140.38
PEI	\$272,572.10	4.10	\$1,810.32
NL	\$959,284.07	2.90	\$1,814.88

[CCPA, 2021 Cost of Poverty in the Atlantic Provinces](#)

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BIG would save money, bolster the economy, & improve people's well-being

Reduce health care costs: ↓ 8.5% (Forget, 2011)

Reduce violent & property crimes: ↓ 17.5% (Calnitsky et al., 2020)

Reduce stress & increase trust in government (Finland pilot, 2021)

“The CCB generated economic activity almost twice the size of the CCB payments themselves”

Less oversight → more people find permanent work

Calnitsky et al. (2020); [CANCEA \(2019\)](#); Forget (2011, 2018); Ferdosi et al. (2020), Ontario Basic Income pilot; Kangas et al. (2019); Verlaet et al. (2020)

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Case for Basic Income for Municipalities

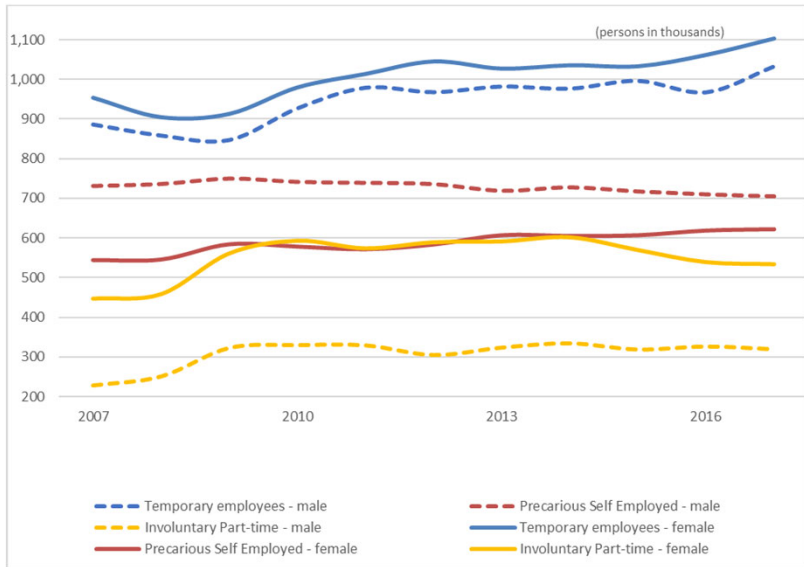
1. Municipalities are struggling to keep up with the downloaded responsibility of providing essential public and social supports
2. Basic income can alleviate pressures on municipalities to address poverty
3. Basic income builds communities



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Why? Because 24% of jobs are precarious (2016 data)

- Temporary (—)
- Part-time
- Self-employed
- Variable hours
- Not unionized
- Few rights & protections
- Paycheck to paycheck
- The working poor



Ioprespub, 2018 <https://hillnotes.ca/2018/11/21/precarious-employment-in-canada-an-overview/>
 Boggs et al., 2018 *Uncertain Jobs, Certain Impacts: Employment Precarity in Niagara*. PEPSO

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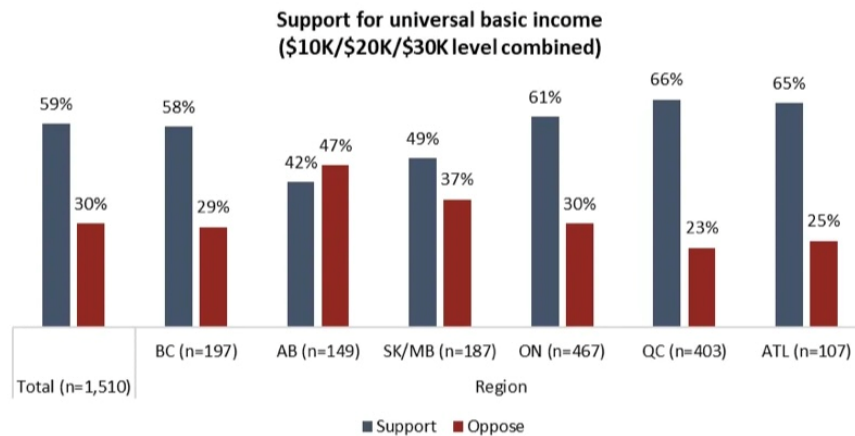

Basic income will help people maintain and nurture their lives, employed & self-employed, and encourage their participation, and value their unpaid work




Research shows employment rates are impacted minimally (e.g., Forget, 2011)

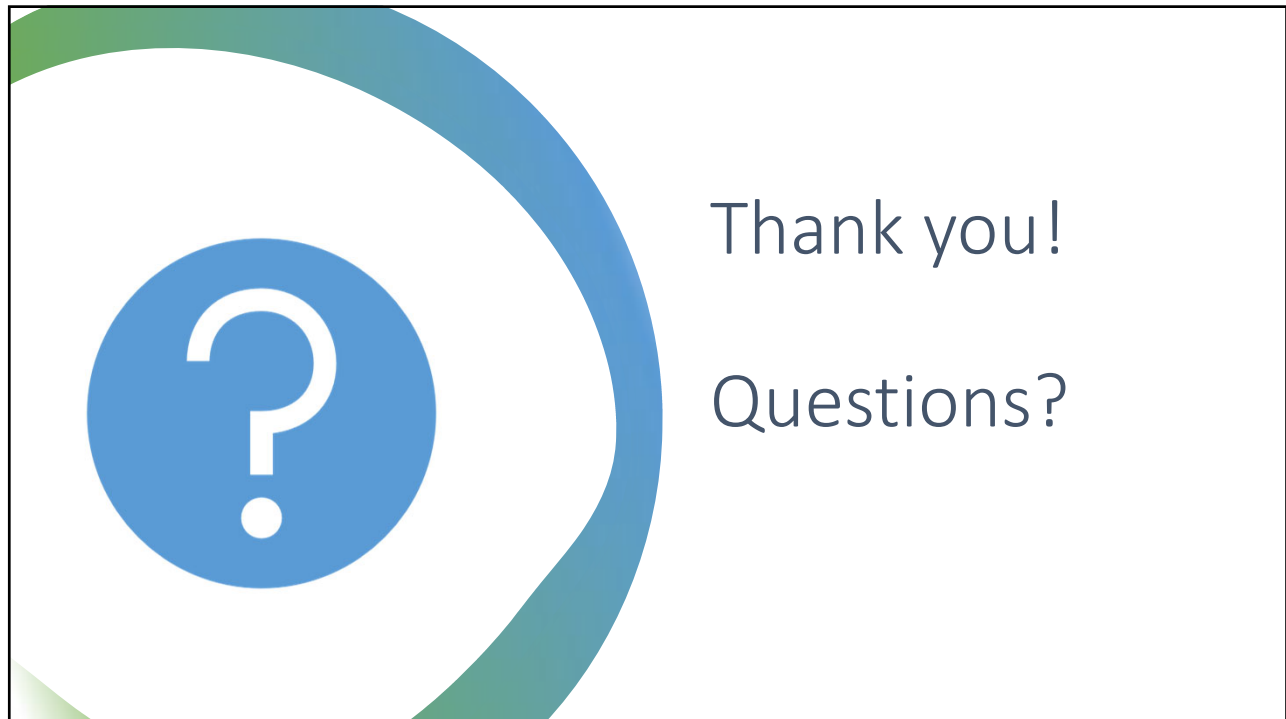
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Why? Because 65% of Atlantic Canadians support a basic income



Jan. 2021, Angus Reid Poll <https://cultmtl.com/2021/01/3-in-5-canadians-supports-universal-basic-income-canada-as-high-as-30k-year-quebec/>

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Useful Websites

- BIG-NS
 - <https://www.big-ns.org/>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/basicincomeNS/>
- Coalition Canada Basic Income
 - <https://basicincomecoalition.ca/en/>
- Case for a Basic Income series
 - <https://basicincomecoalition.ca/en/actions/case-for-basic-income/>
- FAQs
 - <https://basicincomecoalition.ca/en/actions/basic-income-week/the-bi-we-want/faq/>
 - <https://basicincomecanada.org/faq/>
- Green Resilience Project
 - <https://greenresilience.ca/>
- Basic Income Canada Network
 - <https://www.basicincomecanada.org/>
- Basic Income Canada Youth Network
 - <https://www.basicincomeyouth.ca/>
- Basic Income Now
 - <https://www.basicincomenow.ca/>
- UBI-Works
 - <https://www.ubiworks.ca/>
- Stanford Basic Income Lab
 - <https://basicincome.stanford.edu/>



Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Request for Decision

Report to: Policy and Strategy Committee

Submitted by: Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance

Date: September 20, 2022

Re: New Policy – Asset Retirement Obligations Policy 095

Recommendation

That the Policy and Strategy Committee recommend that Municipal Council approve the proposed MODL Policy 095 Asset Retirement Obligations and hereby gives seven (7) days' notice of its intention to approve the proposed amendments to MODL Policy 095 at the September 27, 2022 Council meeting.

Executive summary

The Public Sector Accounting Board has approved a new accounting standard PS3280 for all government entities called Asset Retirement Obligations (ARO). The standard must be applied by all public sector entities who prepare their financial statements under PSAB, including all Canadian municipalities. This new standard is effective for all financial statements with a fiscal year ending after April 1, 2022.

PS3280 requires that all assets are scoped to make a determination on whether a legal obligation exists when the asset is eventually retired (i.e., permanently removed from service). Once that obligation is determined, a liability must be set up and accounted for over the expected life of the asset. Repairs and maintenance costs are not included in this scope. The most common obligations include buildings that may contain asbestos, landfills, underground fuel storage tanks, and sewage and water treatment facilities.

The first step is to create a policy as a guideline for implementation of the new standard.

Once the policy is approved, Finance and Engineering staff will work together to implement the new standard.

Discussion

The Municipality is required to implement PS 3280. A policy will ensure that the standard is applied consistently. The enclosed policy was drafted based on a sample policy and meets the requirements of the standard.

The biggest areas of impact include buildings with asbestos, hazardous wastes, underground fuel storage tank removal, septic tanks, wastewater and sewage treatment facilities, and landfills. MODL will most likely see asbestos removal as its biggest obligation – there are no longer any underground fuel storage tanks at municipally owned facilities, and there are no plans to permanently close any wastewater treatment facilities, however environmental permits may require consideration.

Budget implications

Many of existing municipal assets have already been evaluated by the Engineering Department and/or consultants; those reports will be key in making a determination of ARO's. To date, there are reports on Centre School and the Riverport school site. The Riverport site is already cleaned to an environmental standard. Buildings at the MARC and Wile's Lake will most likely need to be assessed. A budget of up to \$50,000 may be required to perform these assessments.

Work plan

The project will be led by the Director of Finance with help from the Engineering and Public Works Department as well as consultants that may need to assess the amount of asbestos that may be contained in buildings at Wile's Lake and the MARC.

Alternatives

It is best practice to have a policy so the accounting standard can be consistently applied and easily audited. The alternative is to not develop a policy. Staff would then have to rely on internal procedures for implementation.

Conclusion

Staff recommend that Policy 095 Asset Retirement Obligations be recommended to Municipal Council for approval.

Report Preparation	
Department	Finance
Report Prepared by	Elana Wentzell
Report Approved by	
Date Reviewed by C.A.O.	

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Policy Details	
Name	Asset Retirement Obligations Policy
Number	095
Legislative Authority	Public Sector Accounting Board, Handbook, section PS 3280
Effective Date	September 20, 2022

1 PURPOSE

- (1) The objective of this Policy is to stipulate the accounting treatment for asset retirement obligations (ARO) so that users of the financial report can discern information about these assets, and their end-of-life obligations. The principal issues in accounting for ARO's is the recognition and measurement of these obligations.

2 DEFINITIONS

- (1) **Accretion expense** is the increase in the carrying amount of a liability for asset retirement obligations due to the passage of time.
- (2) **Asset retirement activities** include all activities related to an asset retirement obligation. These may include, but are not limited to:
 - a) decommissioning or dismantling a tangible capital asset that was acquired, constructed, developed, or leased;
 - b) remediation of contamination of a tangible capital asset created by its normal use;
 - c) post-retirement activities such as monitoring; and constructing other tangible capital assets to perform post-retirement activities.
- (3) **Asset retirement cost** is the estimated amount required to retire a tangible capital asset.
- (4) **Asset retirement obligation** is a legal obligation associated with the retirement of a tangible capital asset.
- (5) **Retirement of a tangible capital asset** is the permanent removal of a tangible capital asset from service. This term encompasses sale, abandonment, or disposal in some other manner but not its temporary idling.
- (6) **Tangible Capital Assets** are non-financial assets, which have physical substance and which:

- a) are held for use in the production or supply of goods and services, for rental to others, for administrative purposes or for the development, construction, maintenance or repair of other tangible capital assets;
- b) have economic useful lives extending beyond an accounting period;
- c) are used on a continuing basis;
- d) are not intended for sale in the ordinary course of operations.

See Tangible Capital Assets Policy 047 for more information.

3 APPLICATIONS

- (1) This Policy applies to all departments, branches, boards and agencies falling within the reporting entity of the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (MODL), that possess asset retirement obligations including:
 - a) Assets with legal title held by MODL
 - b) Assets controlled by MODL
 - c) Assets that have not been capitalized or recorded as a tangible capital asset for financial statement purposes
- (2) Existing laws and regulations require public sector entities to take specific actions to retire certain tangible capital assets at the end of their useful lives. This includes activities such as removal of asbestos, retirement of landfills. Other obligations to retire tangible capital assets may arise from contracts or court judgments, or lease arrangements.
- (3) The legal obligation, including obligations created by promises made without formal consideration, associated with retirement of tangible capital assets controlled by MODL, will be recognized as liability in the books of MODL, in accordance with PS3280 which MODL will be adopting starting April 1, 2022.
- (4) Asset retirement obligations result from acquisition, construction, development or normal use of the asset. These obligations are predictable, likely to occur and unavoidable. Asset retirement obligations are separate and distinct from contaminated site liabilities. The liability for contaminated sites is normally resulting from unexpected contamination exceeding the environmental standards. Asset retirement obligations are not necessarily associated with contamination.

4 PROCEDURES

(1) Recognition

- a) A liability should be recognized when, as at the financial reporting date:

- i there is a legal obligation to incur retirement costs in relation to a tangible capital asset;
 - ii the past transaction or event giving rise to the liability has occurred;
 - iii it is expected that future economic benefits will be given up; and
 - iv a reasonable estimate of the amount can be made.
- b) A liability for an asset retirement obligation cannot be recognized unless all the criteria above are satisfied.
- c) The estimate of the liability would be based on requirements in existing agreements, contracts, legislation or legally enforceable obligations, and technology expected to be used in asset retirement activities.
- d) The estimate of a liability should include costs directly attributable to asset retirement activities. Costs would include post-retirement operation, maintenance and monitoring that are an integral part of the retirement of the tangible capital asset.
- e) Directly attributable costs would include, but are not limited to, payroll and benefits, equipment and facilities, materials, legal and other professional fees, and overhead costs directly attributable to the asset retirement activity.
- f) Upon initial recognition of a liability for an asset retirement obligation, MODL will recognize an asset retirement cost by increasing the carrying amount of the related tangible capital asset (or a component thereof) by the same amount as the liability. Where the obligation relates to an asset which is no longer in service, and not providing economic benefit, or to an item not recorded by MODL as an asset, the obligation is expensed upon recognition.
- g) The capitalization thresholds applicable to the different asset categories will also be applied to the asset retirement obligations to be recognized within each of those asset categories.

(2) **Subsequent Measurement**

- a) The asset retirement costs will be allocated to accretion expense in a rational and systemic manner (straight-line method) over the useful life of the tangible capital asset or a component of the asset.
- b) On an annual basis, the existing asset retirement obligations will be assessed for any changes in expected cost, term to retirement, or any other changes that may

impact the estimated obligation. In addition, any new obligations identified will also be assessed.

(3) Presentation and Disclosure

- a) The liability for asset retirement obligations will be disclosed.

5 RESPONSIBILITIES

(1) Departments

Departments are required to:

- a) Communicate with Finance on retirement obligations, and any changes in asset condition or retirement timelines.
- b) Assist in the preparation of cost estimates for retirement obligations.
- c) Inform Finance of any legal or contractual obligations at inception of any such obligation.

(2) Finance

Finance is responsible for the development of and adherence to policies for the accounting and reporting of asset retirement obligations in accordance with Public Sector Accounting Board section 3280. This includes responsibility for:

- a) Reporting asset retirement obligations in the financial statements of MODL and other statutory financial documents
- b) Monitoring the application of this Policy
- c) Managing processes within the accounting system
- d) Investigating issues and working with asset owners to resolve issues.

Appendix A

Decision Tree – Scope of applicability

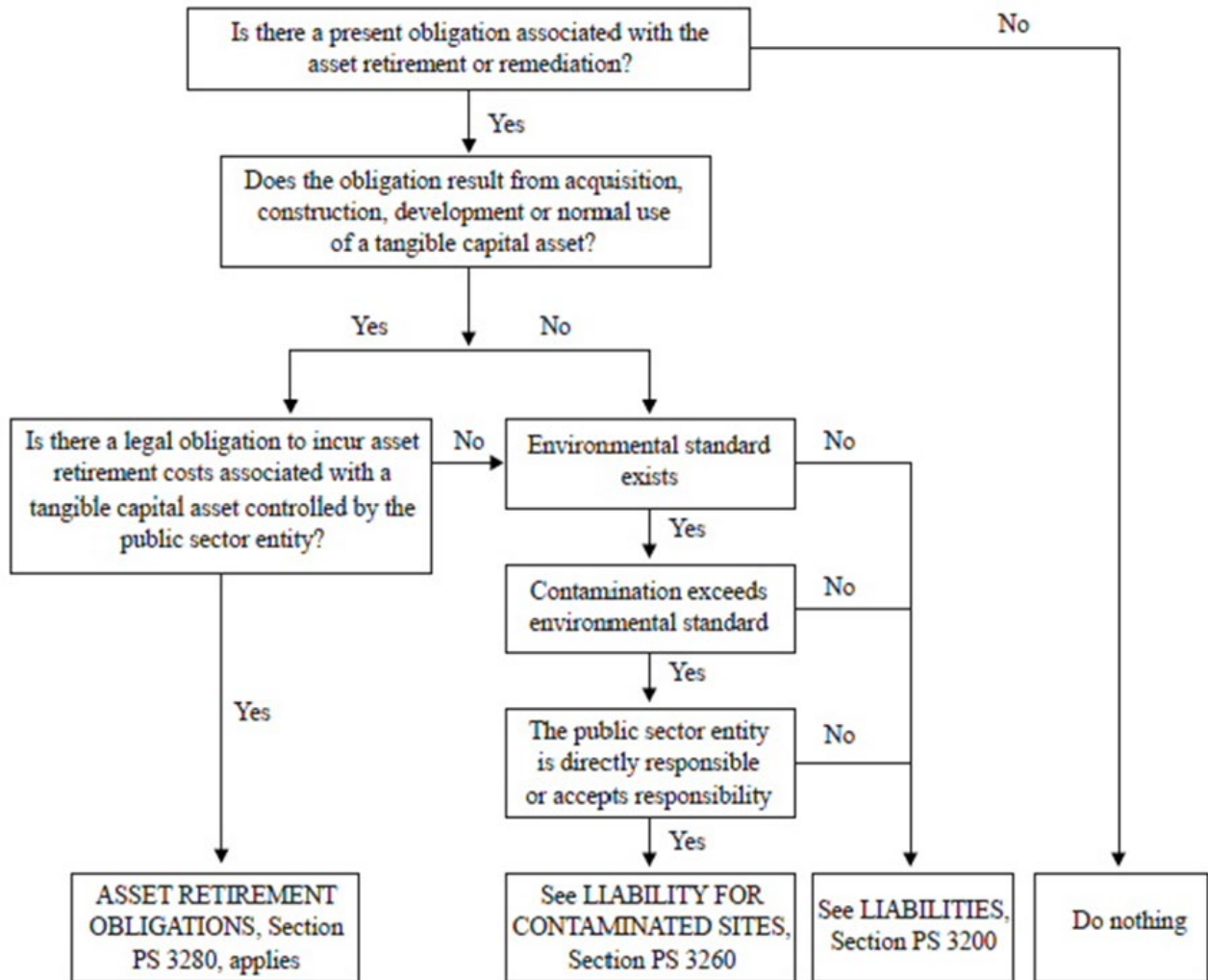


Figure 1 Decision Tree from PS3280 for determination of Asset Retirement Obligations

Policy Adoption	
Date of Original Passage	
Date of Notice of Intent to Amend/Repeal	September XX 2022
Date of Council Approval	September XX 2022
Date of Effective Date	April 1, 2023
I certify that this Policy 095 was adopted by Municipal Council as indicated above.	
Signature of Municipal Clerk	Date

Version	Amendment Description	Approval Date
Original V1		
V2		

Request for Agenda Items under Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters

TO: Chief Administrative Officer
 FROM: Councillor Martin Bell
 DATE: September 13th 2022

1. Agenda Item

Water supplies / programs / distribution post for water supplies

2. On what agenda do you want the item placed?

Policy and Strategy Committee

3. Do you have written material to circulate with the agenda? Yes No

If you do, please attach it to this form. If you do not, please explain.

Attach photo for discussion. May want to include parts of the email attached.

4. What is its relevance to Council or the committee?

We currently have a water assistance program but there are other steps we could take to make it better.

5. What outcome(s) are you seeking?

Making it easier for the general public to participate in MODL water programs. We are getting dryer summers with less rainfall as Climate Change effects this area as other areas as well.

Councillor's Signature

09-13-2022
Date

Approval for agenda: Yes No

Reason for Denial:

Mayor or Chair of Committee

Date



1 1/2" outlet



2 1/2" outlet

hose

Should include garden house outlet

Could include 4" high-vol fire department outlet