

SNSMR, AMA and UNSM Joint Seminar

November 4th, 2003

Inter-municipal Cooperation
Report



Study Initiative

- Minister Angus MacIsaac, SNSMR at the Nov. 2002 UNSM committed to participate with UNSM in promoting greater voluntary cooperation between municipalities
- Don Smeltzer hired to conduct study and prepare report
- Goal to maximize resources and enhance service delivery in municipal government



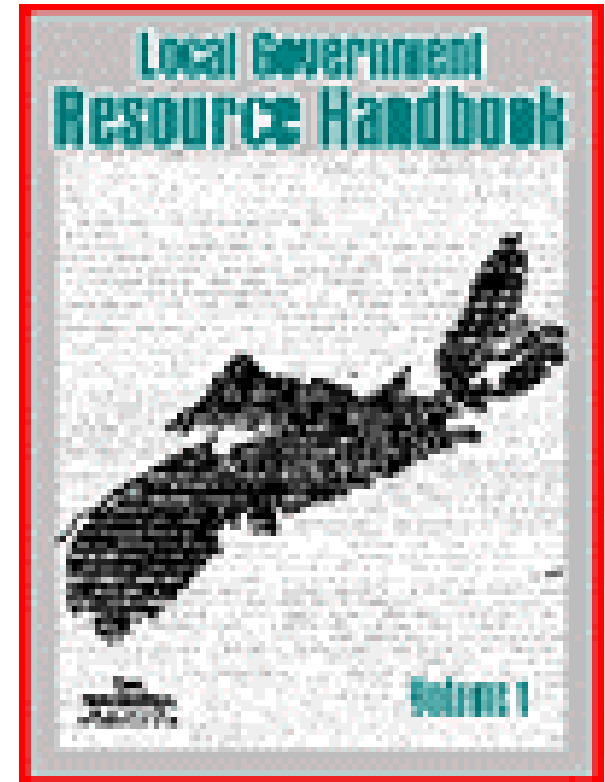
Study program

- Research of North America examples
- Nova Scotia on-line survey
 - 54 out of 55 municipalities responded
 - 14 out of 21 villages responded
- Focus group with municipal leaders, senior management and Councillors



Report

- “Intermunicipal Cooperation” Section 2.3 of the Local Government Resource Handbook
- Report to be distributed and on SNSMR website



Types of cooperative initiatives

- Water and sewage systems
- Solid waste management
- Emergency services
- Electricity provision
- Transit
- Personal and property protection
- Equipment sharing
- Road maintenance
- Sharing of technical expertise



What is a partnership?

- Defined as a relationship based upon mutual understanding and trust that is entered into between municipalities, private sector, or community group
- MGA Section 60
- Agreements can be formal or informal
- In partnerships, partners assume certain legal responsibilities



Benefits

1. Sharing of roles and responsibilities
2. Contributions of human, financial, technological or material and structural resources, from each participant
3. Sharing of risks, control and benefits
4. Added value in products and services



Guidelines: Step 1

- Prepare a list of current or previous cooperative arrangements
- Review positive and negative aspects of each arrangement and how it could have been improved
- Determine if it was the most efficient and cost effective way for your municipality to solve the problem



Guidelines: Step 2

- Develop an inventory of resources that could be shared with another municipality
- Include:
 - Human resources
 - Facilities
 - Equipment
 - Programs



Guidelines: Step 3

- Determine which of your municipalities might be potential partners
- List pros and cons, possible issues and preferable arrangement in establishing a cooperative
- Determine if potential partners have political authority, motivation and resources to become involved



Guidelines: Step 4

- Research, what have others done
- Prepare proposal with anticipated benefits
- Approach potential partners with proposal outlining pros and cons
- Set meeting



Guidelines: Step 5

- Define problem, need or opportunity
- Identify all stakeholders
- Communication plan
- Contingency planning
- Negotiations



Guidelines: Step 6

- Chain of authority and management
- Procedures for decision making
- Communications system
- Determine rights of ownership
- Conditions for admission or withdrawal
- Cost/benefit review of proposal
- Draft agreement review



Evaluation

Three main areas in any post project evaluation:

- Conceptually
- Financially
- Administratively



Appendices

- A. Inter-Municipal Survey Questions
- B. Best Practices Web Sites
- C. Examples of Inter-Municipal Agreements
- D. SNSMR Contract List



Conclusion

- Report provides a step by step process on developing inter-municipal cooperation and partnerships
- SNSMR willing to provide advice and assistance in planning inter-municipal agreements

