

Town of Grand Bay-Westfield

Mayor's Office

Mayor Grace Losier

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Mayor and Council:

Your request was dealt with at our August 12, 2019 Council meeting resulting in a motion "Refer to the Mayor for a response to city's request". Your document "Municipal Heavy Industry Property Tax Reform - Phase 1" is indeed a compelling position but our Council was unable to completely endorse the City's position without hearing from all of the parties implicated, ensuring we have all of the information necessary to assume a position. That said it was curious that assessment base growth for heavy industry is down 3+% in Saint John during the years 2013-19 when many of us celebrated a +400million dollar investment at one of the industries mentioned and an equal or greater investment at another during this timeframe (?). Certainly in our communities upgrading of residential properties results in increased assessments.

What we would like to share with you however is the fact that Grand Bay-Westfield believes the City has been disadvantaged and swimming uphill with an anchor around it's neck since the amalgamation of 1967 which did not result in the promised growth required to meet the identified goals. That predicted population growth has still not been recognized in the entire CMA! Grand Bay-Westfield for example is made up of 11 founding communities, the third largest town in NB with a population of under 5000 persons and less than 2000 homes contributing to our property tax revenue, presenting us with our own challenges.

Last week Council met with the Minister of ELG and shared our concerns with the burdens you are facing and how important it is that past actions be corrected and acknowledged. While Grand Bay-Westfield is endorsing tax reform we were not comfortable endorsing that it come from "Heavy Industry" without additional information.

Let me close by saying we support our City and are proud to be it's partner in many efforts but believe your fix must come from a broader audience than your suburban neighbours and should include the beneficiaries of the 25% GDP created within your borders.



Grace Losier
Mayor

<http://www.town.grandbay-westfield.nb.ca>