

FEB 27 2019

COR/2019/00701

Mr. Ed Grant, Chair
Eastern Regional Service Board
255 Majors Path, Suite 3
St. John's NL, A1B 4J6

Dear Mr. Grant: 

Thank you for your draft response dated February 20, 2019, to my February 8, 2019 letter in which I provided direction to ERSB with respect to waste management collection services in unincorporated areas. I am pleased to see that ERSB is willing to comply with the direction provided.

With respect to the list identifying roads where you have experienced operational challenges in maintaining collection services year round, I am pleased to confirm that these are indeed un-serviced and should be removed from waste collection service immediately and refunds provided as per your suggested approach.

Further to this, I acknowledge that there has been significant confusion around the definition of an un-serviced road and how it pertains to other publicly owned roads that may be maintained through private arrangements. The Department has engaged our colleagues in Transportation and Works to review policies that they have in place with respect to un-serviced roads in an effort to determine if additional roads should be considered. It is expected that this internal review will be completed in the coming weeks and further guidance and direction will be provided to ERSB.

In regard to the issue related to back fees, the directive as written in my February 8, 2019 letter accurately reflects the fact that the onus is on ERSB to identify and adequately provide invoices to the property owners being serviced. Therefore, the suggestion by ERSB to utilize January 1, 2017 as the initial date of fee collection for all future identified property owners, regardless as to when the property is identified, is not acceptable.

I look forward to continue to engage with your board and staff as we work through this issue as well as the fulsome review of the Provincial Waste Management Strategy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Graham Letto".

GRAHAM LETTO, MHA
District of Labrador West
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment