

*Municipal Government Act &  
Halifax Regional Municipal Charter -*  
**Mandatory Planning with  
Minimum Planning Requirements**

PRESENTATION TO MDOANS

MAY 2019

# Session Overview/Objectives



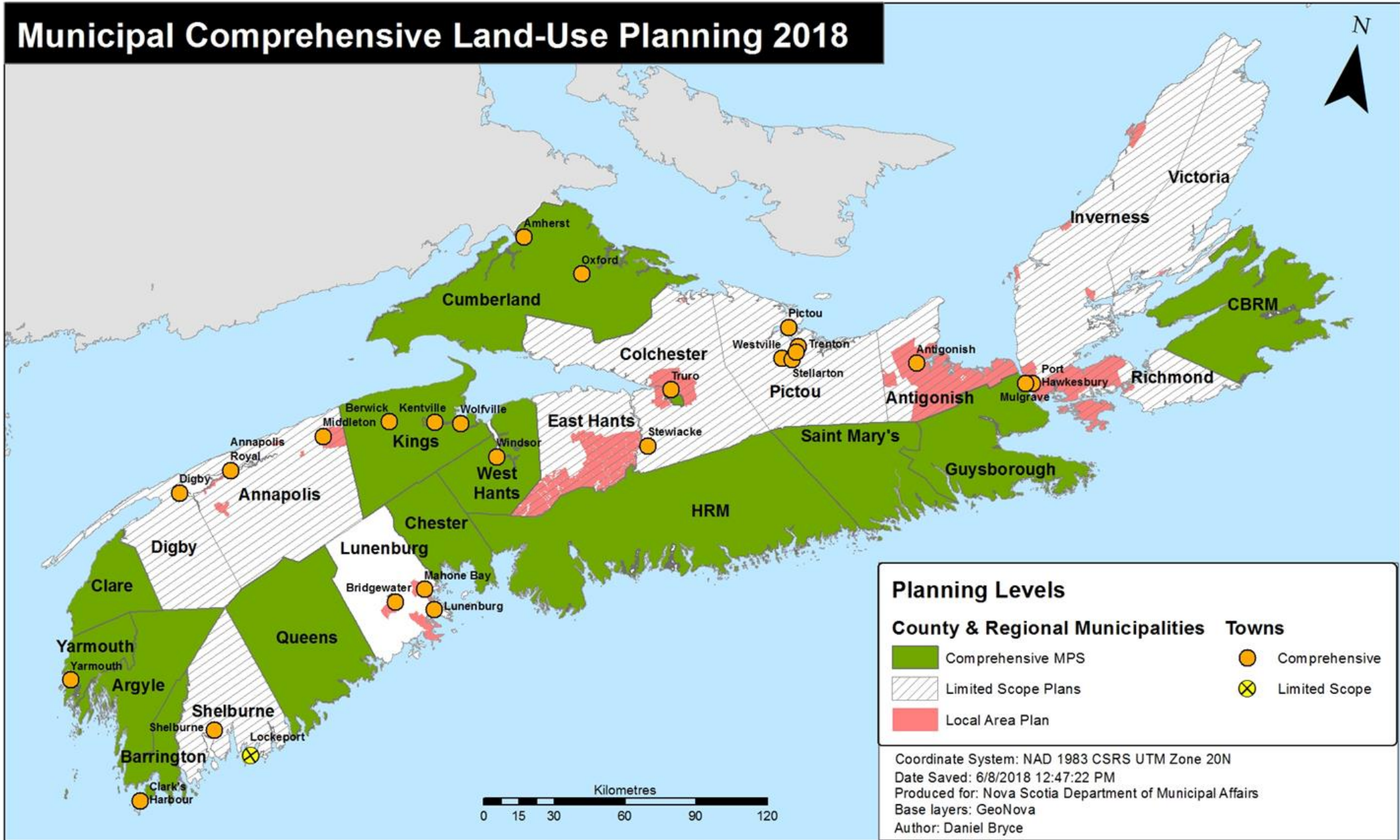
- Why revise the planning framework
- Planning framework revisions - process to date
- Proposed Regulations – overview & your input

# Why Revise the Planning Framework

- Mandatory planning – common across Canada
- Changing public expectations
- Municipal control of its future
- Statements of Provincial Interest

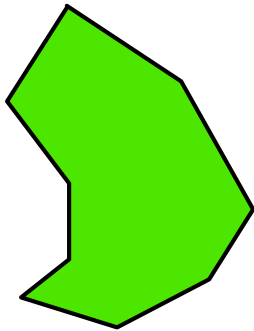


# Municipal Comprehensive Land-Use Planning 2018



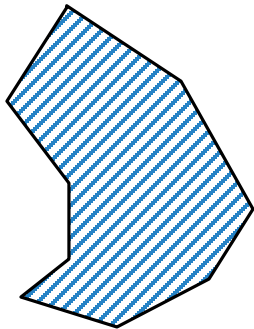
# Definitions of Comprehensiveness

## **Comprehensive** (52% of area of Province)



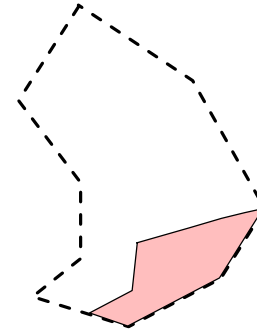
A comprehensive Municipal Planning Strategy is one that covers the entire geographic area of the municipality and address all major topics concerning development, for example: residential, commercial, industrial, recreational, environmental, social and economic. If created after 1998, it is "reasonably consistent" with the Statements of Provincial Interest.

## **Limited Scope** (40% of area of Province)



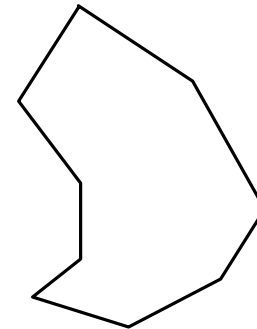
A limited scope Municipal Planning Strategy only deals with one or a few specific land-use issues such as wind turbines, drinking water protection and is predominantly found in rural areas. Does not address all Statements of Provincial Interest.

## **Local Area** (5% of area of Province)



A local area Municipal Planning Strategy is limited to a portion of the municipality and can range from comprehensive to limited scope in terms of content. May or may not address the Statements of Provincial Interest.

## **No MPS** (3% of area of Province)



Means that there is no Municipal Planning Strategy for that geographic area and there are no development controls beyond subdivision. Does not address Statements of Provincial Interest. One municipality in Nova Scotia has no planning over most of its land.

# Municipal Calls for Change



- 2012 Towns Task Force recommendations
- 2015 calls for amendments – MGA review
- 2016 Partnership Framework (Prov/NSFM)
- 2017 Statement of Municipal Concern (NSMF)

## Overall revision process to date

- Summer 2018 – municipal/stakeholder engagement
- Fall 2018 – Bill 58 passed (not proclaimed)
- Winter 2018/2019 – focused engagement
- Spring 2019 – Draft Regulations



## Bill 58 (MGA & HRM Charter amendments)

- Municipality must have MPS(s)/LUB(s) - entire area
- MPS/LUB must meet minimum requirements
- MPS/LUB requires policy on engagement with abutting municipalities



# Implications for existing municipal plans

- Minimum plan content requirements:
  - Comprehensive / Local Area Plans
    - Pre MGA/SPI (1999) – some updating likely required
    - Post MGA/SPI (1999) – likely OK
  - Limited Scope Plans / No MPS
    - Adopt new MPS/LUB consistent with new requirements
- Engagement Policy - abutting municipalities
  - All municipalities must adopt



# Proposed Regulations

- Minimum Planning Regulation
  - under MGA s. 214(4)
  - under HRM Charter s. 229(4)
- Engagement Program Regulation
  - under MGA s. 204A
  - under HRM Charter s 219A



# Minimum Planning Regulations

- Mandatory MPS content (s. 3)
- MPS Review (s. 4)
- Discretionary MPS content (s. 5)



# Mandatory MPS content

- Background and contextual information
- Generalized Future Land Use Map (GFLUM)
- Policy statements – major land use categories
  - residential, commercial, institutional, recreation & open space, resource use (where applicable)

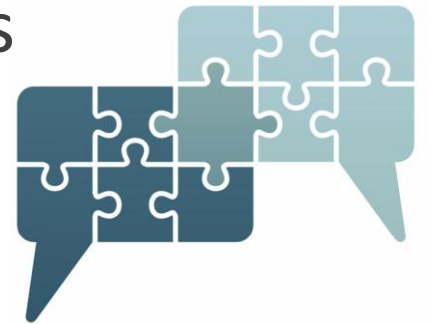


# Discretionary MPS content

- studies prior to development
  - planning tools
  - the natural environment
  - social aspects
  - economic development
  - financial matters
  - additional engagement policies
- 
- infrastructure
  - culture and heritage
  - other general matters

# Engagement Program Requirements (MPS adopted/amended)

- Council solicits comments - abutting municipalities
- Engagement must deal with SPI
- Provide means for council to consider comments
- Engagement complete before first notice of public hearing



# Planning documents mandatory review

- Within 10 years of the later of:
  - MPS adoption (post regulations)
  - MPS last review (post regulations)
  - Regulations effective date



# Roundtable sessions

1. Minimum Planning Regulations
2. Mandatory Engagement Requirements



# next steps



- DMA gathers feedback – municipalities & associations
- Review feedback & finalize the regulations
- Work with Minister to have legislation proclaimed & regulations declared (expected summer/fall 2019)
- Municipalities are given time period to implement (anticipate 3 yrs)

# Questions



**Thank you!**

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