



Lesser Slave Watershed Council
2018 Annual General Meeting – June 7, 2018

Proposed By Law Amendments

Background

At the May 10, 2018 Board of Directors meeting, the Board passed a motion to amend society by law #9 to remove the Commercial Fishermen seat from the Board.

In 2015 the Government of Alberta closed the commercial fishery in Alberta. In 2016 at the LSWC's AGM, membership voted to keep the Commercial Fishermen board seat until a court dispute had been settled around the closure of the Commercial Fishery.

As of now, Commercial Fishing is no longer a permitted activity on Alberta Lakes, and there are no active license holders. The Provincial Government is focused on managing Albert's lakes for recreation, which brings millions of dollars into our local economy annually. This bylaw change is in no way reflecting the Boards view of commercial fishing rather solely ensuring our Board seats are representative of stakeholders in the watershed.

The Lesser Slave WPAC strives to be inclusive of all sectors in the watershed. Anglers and fishermen are represented on our Board via the recreation and tourism seat. When folks think about recreation at the lake fishing is often the first thing that comes to mind.

Former Commercial Fishermen are encouraged to participate on the board via available board seats up for election including”:

- Tourism and Recreation and Alternate (2 Years)
- Member at large alternate (1 year)

Many people around the table can be considered fishermen or anglers and this sector is represented around the table through the collective.

As a provincially recognized Water for Life partner, it is the responsibility of the Board of Directors and membership, to ensure that the seats around our table best reflect activities and sectors who are active in the watershed. We are accountable to our membership and to run the organization according to Society By Laws following proper governance protocol.

Proposed Amendment to the 2016 LSWC Society By Laws:

The proposed by law change is an amendment to by law #9, to remove the commercial Fishermen position from the list of organizations/sectors represented on the Board of Directors.

9. The Board shall consist of one representative for each of the following organizations/sectors:

- M.D. of Lesser Slave River
- Big Lakes County
- Town of High Prairie
- Town of Slave Lake
- First Nations:
 - Sucker Creek
 - Driftpile
 - Kapaweno
 - Sawridge
 - Swan River
- Métis Settlements
 - Peavine
 - East Prairie
- Agriculture Sector
- ~~Commercial Fishermen~~
- Cottage Owners/Country Residential
- Non-Government Organization's
- Forest Industry Sector
- Tourism and Recreation
- Oil and Gas Industry Sector
- Alberta Environment and Parks
- Citizen-at-Large
- Trappers

The current membership present at the AGM will vote on whether to pass the proposed change or not.