

Sent by email

November 21, 2024

Dear LSB Chair, Secretary and Board members:

The Ministry of Northern Development is moving forward with the modernization of the *Northern Services Boards Act (NSBA)* in alignment with the *Modernizing Ontario for People and Businesses Act, 2020*. As a result of this modernization and the LSB engagement sessions that took place over Winter 2024, the following changes are being proposed in legislation to be effective August 2025:

- LSB Board term: will be changed from one year to a three-year term
- Fire Protection Services: allow fire protection services outside of the LSB geographical boundaries (to align with the Northern Fire Protection Program requirements)
- Audits: change the requirement of an annual financial audit to an annual financial review engagement
- Closed Meetings: allow LSB Boards to hold closed meetings in certain circumstances (similar to the Municipal Act Open Meeting rules)
- Ombudsman Ontario oversight: authorize the office of Ombudsman Ontario to provide oversight of closed meetings
- Power of Roads: remove the power of roads from the NSBA (currently governed under the Local Roads Board Act)
- Garbage Collection: revise wording for the power of garbage collection to include recycling and composting; and the ability to contract for one or more of the services (instead of requiring all three)
- Ministry of Finance: modify language to align with updated Ministry of Finance requirements for tax bills.

The Ministry of Northern Development has taken steps in response to public and LSB feedback to modernize the NSBA and reducing the administrative burden. If you have any comments with the above, the public can comment through Ontario's Regulatory Registry posting online which can be found at <https://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=49333&language=en>. The posting will be available for comment for 30 days.

Ministry of Northern Development

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Yours sincerely,

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Cc: Key Stakeholders and First Nations adjacent to LSBs