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June 2020

# Draft Solid Waste Management by-law

Context, Highlights & Reasoning

Your input can be provided to any member of the Town Council or to the Development Officer at [developmentofficer@normanwells.com](mailto:developmentofficer@normanwells.com)

# Solid Waste Management is a huge topic for which it is essential to plan and take action.

## Quick facts

**\*SAFETY\*** *Community Safety and Well-being* was established as a Council priority in the 2019 Strategic Plan.

**\*HAZARD\*** The landfill currently contains *hazardous material* and experienced *fires recently*.

**\*CHALLENGE\*** Solid Waste Management is a *global challenge*. It is even more difficult in remote and northern communities due to transportation issues, ground condition, etc.

**\*DATA\*** The Town has identified a *lack of data* over the years on the waste arriving and leaving the landfill.

**\*SIGNAGE\*** The current signage at the landfill is not always respected.

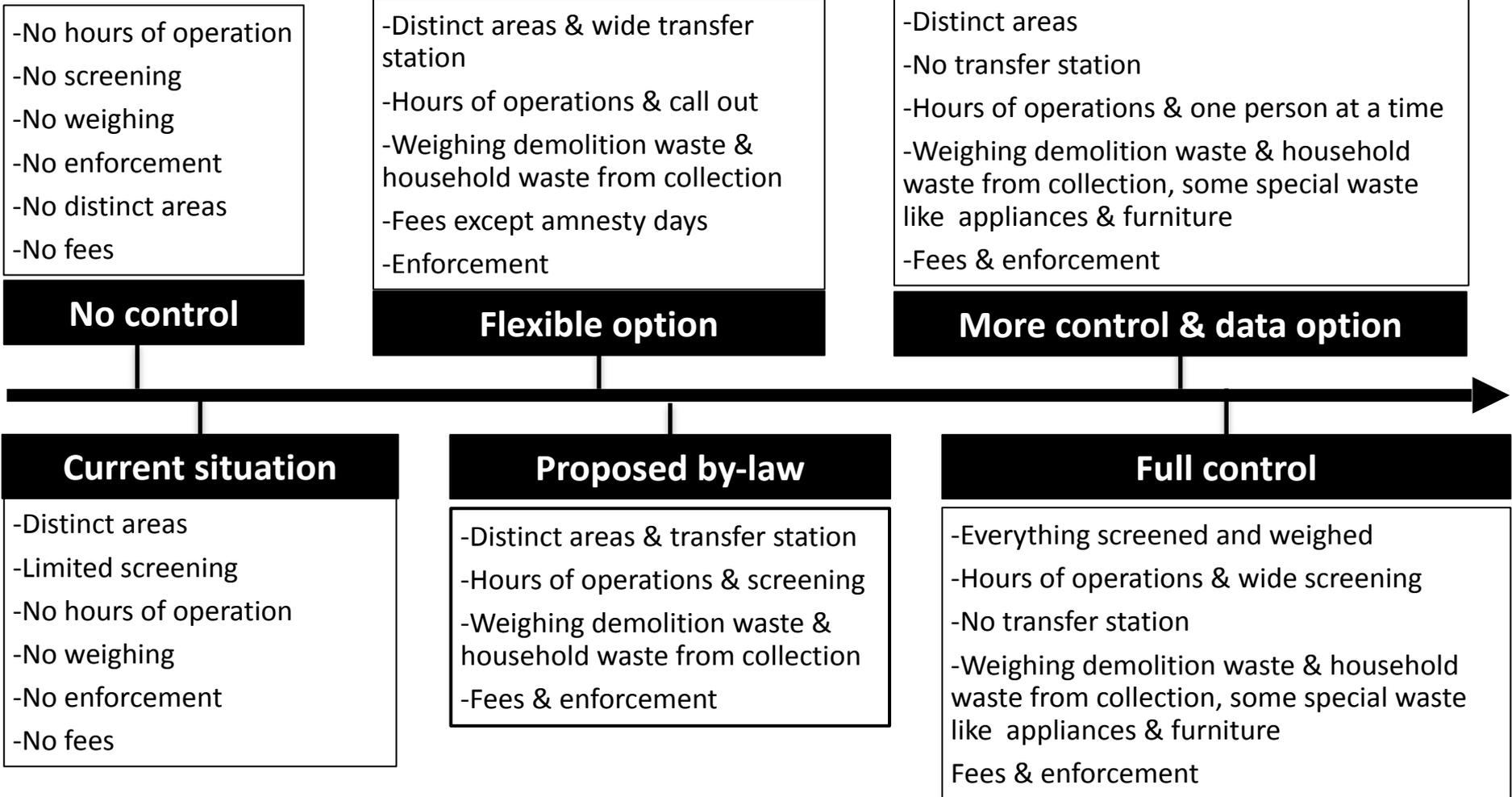
**\*BY-LAW\*** The only current *Town regulation* on the topic is Schedule C of the Service Rates by-law (17-09). It provides the right to charge a fee to non-residents for the use of the landfill and to charge a clean-up fee to anybody who would not respect the standard operating procedures at the landfill.

**\*WATER\*** The Norman Wells solid waste management is regulated at territorial level by the *water license* provided by the Sahtu Land and Water Board.

**\*LIFE EXPECTANCY\*** The Norman Wells landfill is *reaching capacity*. It is time to decide and organize our next move.

**\*FUTURE\*** Norman Wells is currently experiencing an *economy transition*. The Town is expecting the impact on the landfill to be very high over the next few years because many properties need clean-up/maintenance and because industrial waste requires more space and more processing.

*The objective is to find a fair balance between the essential data collection and control at the landfill and the freedom of all users.*



\*The by-law would permit the collection of essential data on the type, size, quantity and weight of the waste being disposed of at the landfill. The data is required to access funding and engineering work. It would also allow us to prevent unacceptable waste for everyone's safety and to increase the landfill's life expectancy which provides more time to plan for the future. However, we are aware that excessive control would only lead to the community expressing its frustration by not respecting the law and the environment and we certainly wish to avoid this situation.

## Key topics

**Landfill operator:** A Town employee would be at the landfill during the hours of operation to screen the waste, validate the tags, supervise & control the disposal & scavenging, provide guidance to the users, enforce when required, etc.

**Hours of operation:** Wednesday to Friday 1:00PM to 5:00PM, Wednesday 5:00PM to 9:00PM & Saturday 12:00PM to 5:00PM. Desire to offer a variety of opening time including after business hours and on the weekend.

**Transfer station:** Bins to be accessible at all times outside of the landfill respectively for household waste, yard waste, limited size steel & scrap metal. Possibility to add another one for electronics (collaboration with the recycling depot). The intention is to provide flexibility to the users and not to attract the wildlife.

**Scale:** The demolition waste, oversized loads (bigger than a regular pick-up truck) and the household waste collected from the blue bins by the Town contractor would have to be weighed at the scale. The demolition waste, oversized loads and the household waste constitute a big quantity of the disposal so it would be a good way to obtain data.

**Demolition:** Through the demolition permit application, the applicant would be requested to segregate, prove hazardous clearance or follow the process for asbestos, pay \$100 per tonne. Depending on the quantity of waste, fees may include push and compacting.

**Wildlife:** The closure of the gates and the electric fence at the landfill would block access to the wildlife. Following the recommendations of the GNWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources for human and animal safety.

**Tags/Fees:** A tag would be required to dispose of special waste at the landfill and would have to be purchased at the Town Office (except for animal carcasses and waste as recommended by ENR). It would identify the person's vehicle & the number of loads (\$10 per load). The landfill operator would verify the tag and use a hole punch to mark the load. In the case of an oversized load, the person would be invoiced \$100 per tonne after the disposal. The tags would permit more data collection & control and the fees' purpose would be to cover operation & maintenance costs. The garbage fee on the utility bill currently covers the garbage collection only. There is no reserve fund for the future of the landfill.

## Key topics (2)

**Special waste:** It would be the generator's responsibility to purchase the tag, segregate and transport the following waste at the landfill as it must not be disposed in the blue bins: animal carcasses except from wildlife; animal waste; appliances; asbestos; bulky waste (more than a truck load); construction waste; furniture; hazardous waste generated by individuals; non-contaminated soil; salvageable waste; scrap steel and metal; tree branches, stumps, roots and logs; vehicles and vehicle parts including tires; yard waste. The intention is to limit the use of special waste and to encourage recycling. Salvaging would still be permitted at the landfill.

**Hazardous waste:** The Norman Wells landfill is only allowed to permanently accept vehicles and asbestos. Any solid waste presenting an actual or potential danger to human health and safety and to the environment (batteries, anti-freeze/glycol, used oil, vehicles, waste fuel, drums, paint, compressed gas cylinders, mercury-containing equipment, ozone-depleting substances, etc.) has to be shipped out at a registered facility. A resident would be allowed to dispose in the temporary hazardous area. A fee between \$200 and \$1000 upon the severity and volume of the waste would be charged as it requires processing or transportation.

**Unaccepted waste:** It would be the generator's responsibility to contact ENR and dispose of the following waste at a registered facility: biomedical waste; hazardous waste generated by businesses & industries excepting asbestos and vehicles; recyclables waste designated for disposal at a recycling depot (electronics); contaminated soil; animal carcasses from wildlife

**Enforcement:** The landfill operator and Public Works Manager would have the authority to enforce the by-law. The by-law enforcement officer would assist. Fines would go from \$100 to \$300 per by-law violation. There would be an appeal process. ENR has authority to enforce the Environmental Protection Act. in the case of unauthorized discharge of contaminant.

Creating a “Solid Waste Management by-law” constitutes one of the multiple milestones towards more environmentally friendly practices both from the individual and the governmental agencies.

Overall project:

- Public consultation - Survey, Events, Facebook, Interviews with identified stakeholders (*On-going*)
- Partnerships/Collaborations with businesses, governments, Sahtu communities, etc. to improve the current system (*On-going*)
- Implementation of a legislation (*Summer 2020*)
- Engineering - Gap analysis & Recommendations (*Summer 2020*)
- Data collection (*Summer 2020 to...*)
- Clean-up of unsightly properties - take responsibilities & show good example (*Summer 2020 to...*)
- Preparation for the future - organized & safe landfill that answers the community's needs (*Summer 2020 to...*)

\*COMMUNITY'S INPUT\*

The needs depend on:

- \*TYPE/QUANTITY OF WASTE TO DEAL WITH\*
- \*ABILITY TO PROCESS ON-SITE/TO SHIP OUT\*
- \*OPTIONS FOR LANDFILL'S LIFE EXPECTANCY\*
- \*OPERATIONAL/REMEDIATION COSTS\*
- \*OPTIONS AT THE END OF LANDFILL'S LIFE\*
- \*OPTIONS FOR HELP/FUNDING\*

Please provide your input.

We must improve our solid waste management.