

Village of Andrew Inspection

Reasons for Decision
of the
Minister of Municipal Affairs
Honourable Ric McIver

February 28, 2024

1. For the reasons below, I have issued directives to the Village of Andrew in Ministerial Order No. MSD:008/24.
2. On April 27, 2023, the previous Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Honourable Rebecca Schulz, signed Ministerial Order No. MSD:036/23, ordering an inspection of the management, administration, and operations of the Village of Andrew, and appointed Shari-Anne Doolaege as Inspector.
3. The Inspector conducted the inspection over the period of April 27, 2023, through October 25, 2023.
4. October 25, 2023, the Inspector submitted the Inspector's report to both the Village of Andrew council and to me, in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act*.
5. On October 25, 2023, the Inspector and the Executive Director of Municipal Capacity and Sustainability, Municipal Services Division, presented the findings of the inspection report to the Village of Andrew Mayor, Council, and interim Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). At that meeting, village officials were informed that they may provide a response to the findings of the inspection report to the Inspector should there be any factual errors within the report.
6. On November 15, 2023, the Inspector submitted a final copy of the Inspector's report to the Minister.
7. On November 22, 2023, the Executive Director of Municipal Capacity and Sustainability, Municipal Services Division, presented proposed directives I was considering in response to the Inspector's report. The Village of Andrew Council and interim CAO were advised at the meeting that they may provide a response to the inspection report and proposed directives by January 3, 2024. Council and the interim CAO were also advised they may share the Inspector's report and proposed directives with legal counsel, if desired, to support the preparation of their response.
8. I received a written response to the Inspector's report and proposed directives dated December 27, 2023. This response does not dispute any of the findings or recommendations contained in the Inspector's report. Rather, the response from council expresses thanks for the municipal inspection and generally indicates the intention of the village to address the concerns and recommendations identified within the Inspector's report and the proposed directives.

9. I note the Inspector's approach to gathering and reviewing information in the conduct of the inspection, as disclosed in the Inspector's report. I am confident the Inspector included all the information Ms. Doolaege believed was relevant to the inspection within the report.
10. Based on the Inspector's report and having considered the written response by council, I consider that the Village of Andrew is managed in an irregular, improper, and improvident manner.
11. For the reasons noted above, I consider in these circumstances that the formal directives issued by Ministerial Order are appropriate and will be beneficial to support the Village of Andrew in effective decision-making, working collaboratively and respectfully with colleagues, providing open and transparent information to residents, and ensuring procedural matters are handled in accordance with legislative requirements.