

Your Opinion

Consensus ignoring municipalities

This is the fourth in a series of columns leading up to the October 26 national referendum. This week, I want to talk about the absence from the

tional status, would have pressed for municipal representation in the round of talks and hearings that led up to this *Charlottetown Consensus*. Their failure to do that makes

Hamilton says AMO had brought the issue up to the federal level (Federation of Canadian Municipalities, or FCM) and that FCM was "sent packing to the provinces" because municipalities are "creatures of the provinces" under the current system. There was a full day workshop on the constitution at the AMO conference, where Hamilton says he was "pleased to see the tremendous interest

of people realizing that municipalities have to go beyond their present mandate to govern effectively in the 1990's."

Hamilton says that prior to the October 26 vote, provincial governments would have to agree to any change in the constitution giving municipalities formal recognition as a "fourth order of government" in Canada. There would also have to be an elaborate consultation process (just like the

one we went through in the last three years) to determine what powers should be retained at the provincial and federal levels.

For example, should municipalities have the right to collect income or sales taxes, to phase out the unjust system of property taxes we now have? Should municipalities have complete control over police and housing authorities, and

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**NORTHERN
INSIGHTS**

by Larry Sanders



Charlottetown Consensus of any change in status for the level of government that affects peoples' lives the most: municipalities.

Regular readers of this column will remember this as a sort of hobby horse of mine. I had hoped that MP Iain Angus and Thunder Bay Mayor David Hamilton, both of whom said publicly many times they favored giving municipalities formal constitu-

it unlikely that municipalities will get constitutional status for at least another decade, since "constitutional fatigue" makes further reforms unlikely for at least that long if this deal passes.

Mayor David Hamilton told me in a recent interview he learned at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference in August that AMO was "way ahead of David Hamilton" on this issue.

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES ATTENTION LOCAL WOODS OPERATORS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Ministry of Natural Resources in Nipigon wishes to dispose of approximately 1,600 cords of softwood which has been abandoned on the Auden Management Unit. The Crown charges for this wood have been paid in full and the Ministry will be releasing this wood free of charge to an interested party who can utilize it. The wood, mostly in 8 foot lengths with a small volume of sawlog and tree length material, has been hauled to a central area on all-weather access roads in the Metcalfe Lake area.

The Ministry is requesting proposals from parties who might be interested in utilizing this wood. The proposals should include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following information: How much of the wood can be utilized; For what purpose (for example, fuelwood); Where will the wood be milled; and, a timeframe for removing the wood from the site. A refundable performance security will be required to ensure timely completion of the proposed operation. Location maps of the area are available and a field visit can be arranged.

Please contact Terry Zitnak or Chris Leale, Area Foresters, at 807-887-2120 for specific details.

Proposals must be received at the Ministry of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 970, Nipigon, Ontario, P0T 2J0 by **NOVEMBER 2, 1992**.

Pour les amples renseignements, communiquer 807-887-2120.



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