

# Councillor wants IRAC out of city affairs

Last Updated: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 | 10:28 AM AT [Comments14](#)[Recommend5](#)  
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A Charlottetown city councillor says the province's regulatory commission has no place in the city's business.

Coun. David MacDonald was reacting to last week's decision by the Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission that overturned a council vote not to allow rezoning of the Idlewheels Trailer Park. The owner plans to make way for apartment buildings.

"I don't think IRAC should have anything to do with the City of Charlottetown," MacDonald told CBC News Monday.

"IRAC was originally set up to deal with those areas of the province where they didn't have resources to have access to professional planners and planning staff."

Council had ruled against the developer but the developer went to IRAC, which overruled the city.

MacDonald said the provincial government should step in and take away IRAC's responsibility for planning decisions made by Charlottetown council. If the province won't do that, MacDonald said it may come down to a court fight.

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[MyView77](#) wrote:Posted 2009/03/11

at 3:07 PM ET1) IRAC may have kept Islanders from paying extravagant Rent but that's ALL!  
 2) As far as Utilities, Water & Sewer, Maritime Electric Hikes IRAC has proven it's a useless expense to tax payers! IRAC has no jurisdiction on the price of Gas however they do have authority to reject ME's increase requests on our Electric Service. Our Electric has increased at least once every year over the past five if not twice in a year! What did IRAC do for us? NOTHING. ME wanted 9.75 this time around they said but they really only needed 5.3. IRAC knew that and gave it to them! AGAIN! If you think IRAC is not working with our GOV your sadly mistaken. One of their Chief Members was the Former Head of the Liberal Party! SoDo tell me please about all the good IRAC does for Islanders and their Communities? IRAC just approved an increase of over 100% in Borden's Water & Sewer Rates! FAIR?  
 3) The trailer park might be situated on private land but so is my house! I need a permit to even build a Baby Barn! HOWEVER some here are apparently uninformed. The City rejected the Owner's Apt. Bldg. because his land is ZONED RESIDENTIAL. Apartment Blgs are ZONED COMMERCIAL!  
 I don't know of any land owner ever allowed to put a Commercial Bldg. on Residential Property in our City! Therefore City Council is doing it's job. IRAC on the otherhand has no JURISDICTION over City Property Laws!

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[John David](#) wrote:Posted 2009/03/11

at 10:33 AM ETAnyone who thinks IRAC should be kept I would justsay to them look at your next electric bill.

Here we are in a Global Depression with some of the lowest world oil prices in decades they can justify a electricity hike based on world oil prices.

Plus they can justify raising gasoline price one week when the world price of oil fell over 15%.

IRAC has long outlived it's usefulness and now is nothing more than retirement home from political flunkies. It isn't like you need any an qualifications to sit on the IRAC board other than being a political flunky for the Governing Party.

IRAC yes at one time was needed but just like hemorrhoid medication once the pain is gone you stopped the treatment.

Same is true with PEI and the world times have changed lets start living in today and dealing with our problems instead of relying on a bunch of over paid under qualified political flunkies.

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[MikeDunn](#) wrote:Posted 2009/03/11

at 1:41 AM ET1 find the line of argument that we ought to leave decisions such as this to elected members of society, rather than non-elected ones to be suspect. After all, we don't elect our judiciary. IRAC is responsible to the Legislative Assembly through its enabling legislation and further to the courts via the power of judicial review.

Furthermore, IRAC exercises very important powers on the Island. As everyone knows we're a small place and land and resources are scarce. We have a higher than average elderly population here on PEI and we need to protect those people. IRAC prevents them from being taken advantage of though unfair rate increases in utilities and rent. As much as we all like to grumble about how useless IRAC is one ought to keep in mind the good that it does for the community.

The trailer park is situated on private land and I fully support the landowners right to redevelop that land as he/she sees fit. If that means turning it into apartment complexes then that's fine. It ought to be his right as a Canadian citizen to do what he wills with his property, within reasonable limits of course. I don't think that him wanting to increase the value of his land and to provide living arrangements for members of the community as a bad thing.

Were the city to go to court over this issue, I'm not sure that they'd win. It'd be a very difficult case, that might only serve to embitter the province and the city. I'm confident that this will get resolved in the right and proper manner in the end though. The system has been designed well and we should be proud of what we have built here on PEI.

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[PEImusicman](#) wrote:Posted 2009/03/10

at 6:12 PM ETI moved away from the Island for near 30 years, and when I returned and heard of IRAC and seen how they deal with the average person on PEI, I was shocked. They may have been needed at one time on this Island, I can't say, but from what I've seen since returning in 1997, they are a very big expence that to me is a waste of money. Why do we vote and hire Mayors, and councillors if some appointed, high paid group can over rule them at will. I say get rid of them and let us live like the rest of the country. I just think it's unreal that Islanders can't look after themselves, and need a mother hen looking over us. Well we don't need them. Let the Mayor and Councillors do their jobs. Kutos tp Dave MacDonald

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[BillMeLater](#) wrote:Posted 2009/03/10

at 4:14 PM ETWell if was the leader of the PC party, i would make it priority next election to get rid of IRAC. That would get alot of votes for them. I think anyway

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