



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION  
OF MUNICIPALITIES

## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **NSFM Applauds Proposed Changes Giving Municipalities More Autonomy in Spending Powers**

**Halifax, March 5, 2019** - The Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) is applauding today's announcement by the Government of Nova Scotia to grant the province's 50 municipalities greater autonomy on how they can expend money. The new powers will be given through changes to the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* and the Halifax Charter.

"Every municipality in Nova Scotia has differing priorities. The current legislation is very prescriptive and does not necessarily allow municipal units to address the needs of their communities. We see today's announcement as a significant step forward in giving municipalities the tools they need to react quickly and in the best interests of their citizens," says Waye Mason, President of the NSFM.

NSFM and its members were consulted by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and his team over the summer.

Mason says, "It is always a good day when we can praise government on its collaborative approach to making new policy and when we can see the efforts of our consultations reflected in it".

Changes to the *Act* were initially considered to enable municipalities to invest in broadband initiatives, an issue that was identified as a top priority for NSFM and its members in 2016. Many areas of the province remain un-serviced or underserved by broadband making it difficult to attract and retain people and businesses to rural regions. It negatively impacts economic development, education and health outcomes.

*Better Government. Stronger Communities.*

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*About NSFM: The Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) has been the collective voice for municipal governments across the province since 1906. With 379 members comprising Mayors, Wardens and councillors, NSFM represents the interests of municipalities on policy and program matters that fall within provincial jurisdiction. Members include all 50 of Nova Scotia's municipalities.*

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