



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Stable, Balanced Budget Good News for Nova Scotia Municipalities

Halifax, March 26, 2019 –The Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) supports the Nova Scotia government’s balanced budget. While little new direct funding was provided for municipalities, the government is addressing many of the issues facing local governments and their communities.

The government reaffirmed its support of connecting Nova Scotians through its \$193 million investment in broadband. They also continue to commit to building many long-term infrastructure projects that connect our province.

NSFM Vice President, Pam Mood, said, “This budget addresses many of the concerns municipalities hear from our residents but are not necessarily part of our municipal mandate. There is a welcome \$10.2 million for affordable housing and significant investment in healthcare. While \$4 million was put into new doctor residency seats at Dalhousie, only a mere \$200,000 was directed to support doctor recruitment.”

Municipalities are expected to incur significant costs when new accessibility legislation is implemented. Local governments will be looking for substantial increases in next year’s budget to help them meet new standards.

Direct support for municipalities was spread throughout the budget. \$578,000 went to a Municipal Innovation Program that supports municipalities who want to find ways to work together. There was also an additional \$7.3 million in green infrastructure funding as part of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. Community transportation projects also received an additional \$7.2 million, and the Boots on the Street program was fully funded at \$16.8 million.

“While municipalities would have liked to receive more in direct funding, every penny matters. Municipal governments are closest to the people and all funding directly affects their communities and their residents”, says Mood.

NSFM continues to advocate on behalf of our members for our five annual resolutions: reform of the CAP, Extended Producer Responsibility for consumer packaging, new sources for municipal funding, modernization of municipal governance, and a new funding model for roads.

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.