

September 22, 2023

The Honourable John Lohr
Department of Municipal Affairs & Housing
PO Box 216
Halifax, NS B3J 2M4
Via Email: dmamin@novascotia.ca

Dear Minister Lohr:

Re: Proposed Service Exchange and Municipal Reform

On behalf of Council, I am writing to echo concerns expressed to you by the Municipality of the County of Kings and the Municipality of East Hants regarding Service Exchange and Municipal Reform. Further, I would like to express our additional comments and concerns raised during the presentation we received on the topic which include:

- Rural municipal technical staff were not involved in the committee discussions related to roads (we feel this is critical to bargaining a roads program).
- Maintenance and future capital replacement for road transfers has not been costed nor has Council had opportunity to adequately consider the implications or budgetary impacts.
- In the past only J-class roads had been discussed and now additional road classes have been added.
- Several components related to the agreement still need to be worked out, such as the infrastructure program and the 2 for 1 credit on road transfers.
- Appendix items committed to be bargained at a future date should be done so as part of the full package, rather than after the fact.

Our Council is very concerned that this will be advanced prematurely to the Legislature. The proposed agreement requires further consultation, with municipal technical staff involved, and should not be brought forth until a full package can be negotiated. We therefore request that the process of Legislative approval be delayed until such time that all parties engage in a more thorough and inclusive negotiation process.

Regards,



Christine Blair
Mayor

- c. Juanita Spencer, Chief Executive Officer, NSFM
Eleanor Roulston, Warden, Municipality of East Hants
Peter Muttart, Mayor, Kings County

