From: Wesley Petite
To: Charlotte Tavenor
Subject: FW: Important
Date: March 21, 2022 1:18:49 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Mayor's Office <mayor@cbrm.ns.ca>
> **Date:** March 21, 2022 at 09:51:35 ADT
> **To:** Albert Maroun <nsefgroupsydney@gmail.com>, Mayor's Office <mayor@cbrm.ns.ca>, johnlohrmla@gmail.com, premier@novascotia.ca, Ian Nathanson <ian.nathanson@cbpost.com>
> **Cc:** All Council <AllCouncillors@cbrm.ns.ca>, Juanita Spencer <jspencer@nsfm.ca>
> **Subject: RE: Important**
>
> Albert,
>
> You insinuation that I have not responded is boldly incorrect. When previously asked about the MOU by your group I in fact responded to advise we had been waiting in the Province to initiate their consultative process. We have representation from the CBRM serving on an advisory committee formed by NSFM to work through the MOU negotiations lead by the Province, sitting with other well educated and experienced professionals as the Province revaluates the service agreement. I have previously, since being in office, invited your group to speak to council directly and shown respect for the efforts the group has put forward over the past couple decades. Unfortunately that all seems to go unacknowledged by NSEF. Rather, the string of ill seeded letters to the editor demanding I participate in the public mud slinging of the Opinion Page is why I choose not respond to your group as of late. I much prefer respectful and meaningful dialogue.
>
> Also, I will reiterate once more – as President of the NSFM I represent the 49 member municipalities across the province. Not one other municipality has sent a request to support the efforts of the Nova Scotians for Equalization Fairness. NSFM advocates for issues brought forward by our membership, the current resolution of membership pertaining to Municipal funding is as follows:
>
> **Increase Access to Funding for Municipalities**
>
> **WHEREAS** operational costs continue to rise due to factors beyond municipal control, and provincial financial support has not kept pace; and
>
> **WHEREAS** one in five property tax dollars collected by municipalities are transferred to the Province;

WHEREAS the legalization of cannabis is creating a new revenue source for both the federal and provincial governments, yet municipalities are incurring a significant portion of the associated costs

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province freeze mandatory education payments for each municipality at 2017 levels; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Province increase its annual funding for the municipal equalization program by $20 million over three years, beginning in 2019; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of Nova Scotia cost share 50/50 in all municipal projects required to comply with the Accessibility Act, if those projects do not receive other funding, beginning in 2019; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Province provide municipalities with a substantial share of all the related tax revenues being generated through the sale of cannabis.

-Mayor **Mc**Dougall

Amanda McDougall
Mayor of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality

CAPE BRETON
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

From: Albert Maroun <nsefgroupsydney@gmail.com>
Sent: March 18, 2022 11:25 AM
To: Mayor's Office <mayor@cbrm.ns.ca>; johnlohrmla@gmail.com; PREMIER@novascotia.ca; Ian Nathanson <ian.nathanson@cbpost.com>
Subject: Important

Dear Mayor MacDougall.

Your continued silence on the M.O.U. (Memorandum of Understanding) negotiations are very concerning and unacceptable to us and the community. As the nice weather is fast approaching, the NSEF and the community are prepared to protest the Civic Center every day, if needed. Hence the purpose of this email.

A simple reminder that you are an elected official - an

office you selected to run for - and you are in your position today to serve the people of the CBRM who believed your promises and voted for you. Or are you playing the game that most of the previous Mayors, MLAs and MPs have done for the past 30 plus years in the CBRM? Mayor MacDougall, it is time you lived up to your oath of office!

As you may realize by now, we are not going to disappear into the sunset or go silent ever again when it comes to how badly this municipality is being administered. We need to trust our elected officials, but that trust must be earned through your visible representation of this municipality, not silence on such an important issue as the future funding from this federal Equalization program.

You see Mayor MacDougall; we have trusted politicians in the past to do what was right for us and it has not worked in favor of this municipality. Certain people certainly have benefitted in this community while the rest have suffered, and that suffering is continuing today. Now the people are demanding more of a say in how our municipality is governed, which is directly related to the inaction and silence of you and the councillors.

Officials at City Hall have told us on numerous occasions that the MLAs are not effectively doing their job and representing the CBRM in Halifax. That is a fair assessment - but now the CBRM officials are doing the same thing.

When will things change here and when will our elected officials display some integrity and honesty in representing this municipality? When will transparency and accountability finally mean something in this municipality because under your leadership this has gotten worse. You are showing the people of the CBRM that there is a serious deficit democratically.

The simple fact is that these constitutionally enshrined federal Equalization transfers come to Nova Scotia every year - *so its residents are not overtaxed*. But our elected officials have remained silent and let the heavily

overtaxed property and business owners in the CBRM suffer for many years through this injustice, which shows us that you are the problem too.

We have rights under the Canadian Constitution and Charter of Rights and Freedoms that every politician from Cape Breton over the past 30 years has ignored. Certainly, party politics has shown it is no longer – if it ever was – functioning in the interests of all Nova Scotians.

We have watched all governments fiscally overtax and financially underfund this island and rural Nova Scotia. The scam of amalgamation was successful in one thing: taking away our right to fight the provincial government and to be able to stand up for ourselves. Since then, we have seen MLAs, MPs, Mayors, and councillors working in concert with their political party in power against this community. Politicians, however, continue to be compensated extremely well and receive taxpayer-provided large pensions as rewards for working against their own communities. In that, the public needs to look in the mirror for the solution to this problem.

For many years, the government policy has been to develop the Capital Region, and population growth has been largely in that area as well. This translates into more political representation and correspondingly less political representation in rural Nova Scotia and on Cape Breton Island.

Isn't it funny how mayors of the CBRM move away after they are voted out? Most take off to Halifax with their rewards for turning their back on the residents of Cape Breton.

The NSEF is going to have a discussion on Thursday, March 24 about this issue in the full view of the public and we hope you will join us. We thought we would give you the chance to at least reply and possibly prove us wrong. We welcome that at this point.

So, in closing Mayor MacDougall, the community is very interested to be informed about these negotiations for

the new funding agreement with the province. All elected politicians have been contacted but none have shown any interest in sending a reply.

The NSEF is more persistent than other groups and previous advocates for the CBRM. And as you are aware, we will not stop spreading the TRUTH which consists of government information.

And soon the NSEF and the public supporters will be on the Esplanade in front of the Civic Center protesting until you meet with us to discuss the NSEF's participation in the negotiations to fight for our municipality's future funding from the provincial government.

Please respond if you would like to have your say on Thursday with the community and our group.

Regards,

All Board Members of the NSEF