

April 14^h, 2022

Mayor Amanda McDougall, President
Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
By email to: ammcdougall@cbrm.ns.ca
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SAFE & HEALTHY
SAINE ET SÉCURITAIRE
**YARMOUTH
COUNTY**
Community Health Board



Dear Mayor MacDougall,

In the past 25 months, COVID-19 has shone a light on many issues and inequities in Nova Scotians' daily lives.

One issue that has reached crisis proportions is housing.

Since March 2020, house prices have shot up an average of almost 30 per cent, according to an analysis by Re/Max.

Higher prices can also mean higher property assessments, which can make it difficult for some people to stay in their homes. Higher prices and assessments can also affect the rental market, restricting supply and boosting rents.

We are calling on the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) to reverse their decision to lobby for a removal of the cap on property assessments and are seeking your support.

Safe, affordable, accessible housing is a key social determinant of health. Public engagement sessions conducted by Community Health Boards have identified housing as a top priority in our communities. Members of the public further told us that housing costs and location directly affected their health.

We understand that municipalities are coping with reduced revenues. But we also believe it is vital that residents, especially those in our rural communities, have access to stable, safe and affordable housing.

We believe that preserving the cap on property assessments is a positive step to reaching that shared goal.

Therefore, we ask that municipalities, through the NSFM, work with Community Health Boards to advocate to preserve the cap on property assessments in Nova Scotia.

Sincerely,

Brian Doucet
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Cc: Mayor Pam Mood, Town of Yarmouth
Warden John Cunningham, Municipality of Yarmouth
Warden/Préfet Danny Muise, Municipality of Argyle / Municipalité d'Argyle
Juanita Spence, Chief Executive Officer NSFM