



NOVA SCOTIA  
FEDERATION OF  
MUNICIPALITIES

November 25, 2022

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Town of Port Hawkesbury

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Town of Westville

Hon. Greg Morrow  
Minister, Department of Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries  
1741 Brunswick St,  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 3X8  
(Sent Via Email)

**RE: Proposed Changes to the Agriculture Weed Control Act**

Dear Minister Morrow,

I want to thank the Department of Agriculture for the letter sent by your Executive Director on September 13, 2022, consulting us on proposed changes to the Agricultural Weed Control Act (the Act). I want to further thank your staff for their prompt and informative responses to questions sent by NSFM staff.

On behalf of NSFM, I must express concern with the financial implications of these changes for the municipalities of Nova Scotia. The proposed clarification of the responsibility for control and cost of destruction of noxious weeds will make municipalities responsible for such costs on municipal property. We've been informed that cost factors will include location of an outbreak, size of the outbreak, and control or removal method, among others. We are unable to support these changes without knowing more about what costs could arise and how costs can be recovered.

I request that the proposed changes to the Act be accompanied by new regulations outlining financial assistance and reimbursement for municipalities for agricultural weeds as enabled subsections by 2A(h) and 20(d) of the Act. We would also like subsection 3(2) of the Act to be maintained so that municipalities can be assured that they will have input on weeds designated as noxious.

As responsibilities pertaining to the Agricultural Weed Control Act are established in the Service Exchange Agreement, discussion on this matter may be best held as part of the renegotiation and consultation on the new Service Exchange Agreement.

Kind regards,

*Brenda Chisholm-B*

*Brenda Chisholm-Beaton*  
President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

cc. Deputy Minister, Loretta Robichaud