

February 15, 2023

Brenda Chisholm-Beaton  
[Info@nsfm.ca](mailto:Info@nsfm.ca)

Dear President Chisholm-Beaton:

Thank you for your letter of January 17, 2023, with respect to the costs to municipalities and the delay in the 12-month notification to municipalities of the regulatory changes for construction and demolition debris management. The Minister requested that I respond on his behalf.

I appreciate that municipal and provincial staff continue to work together toward a common goal of environmentally responsible waste management in Nova Scotia. We have heard concerns from municipalities about the changes to how C&D debris is managed in Nova Scotia. We received valuable feedback from municipalities during our recent engagement on the C&D guidelines and we are in the process of finalizing a “What We Heard” document that will outline the feedback received and how we responded to it. I also understand from provincial solid waste staff that there have been conversations at the Solid Waste Regional Chairs Committee as recently as last Friday, January 27.

I want to specifically speak to the two concerns that you raise in your letter: the late arrival of the required 12-month notification by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and costs for municipalities to adapt to the changes in C&D management.

It is acknowledged that the 12-month notification release was delayed, and this has been taken into consideration through proposed phasing of timelines for implementing the treated wood disposal ban and other changes to C&D management in Nova Scotia such that no tangible costs will be incurred by municipalities prior to July 2024. For example, while the ban on treated wood is effective July 5, 2023, for the first year, C&D debris management facilities will only be required to educate residents and commercial haulers of the disposal ban. The municipalities will have until July 5, 2024, to determine how to modify their operations to accommodate the disposal ban.

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We have also made other changes to the proposed updated C&D guidelines and worked on a phased approach to how requirements are implemented within approvals in order to minimize financial impact to municipalities. I would like to suggest that when the "What We Heard" document is finalized in the coming weeks, we present it to NSFM and the Association of Municipal Administrators and provide an opportunity to further discuss the concerns that have been raised and how they might be addressed. I will reach out to you in the meantime to confirm that you agree with this approach and to respond to any immediate questions and concerns that you have.

Sincerely,



Andrew Murphy

Executive Director, Sustainability and Applied Science

c: Honourable Timothy Halman, Minister, Environment and Climate Change  
Honourable John Lohr, Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing  
John MacKinnon, President, Association of Municipal Administrators  
Lora MacEachern, K.C., Deputy Minister, Environment and Climate Change  
Paul LaFleche, Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing