



**NOVA SCOTIA
FEDERATION OF
MUNICIPALITIES**

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Town of Westville

30 August 2023

Deputy Minister Paul Lafleche
Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing
1505 Barrington Street, Halifax, NS
B3J 2M4
(Sent Via Email)

Deputy Minister LaFleche

I am writing today on behalf of the board of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities regarding the recent request for you to meet with the Cape Breton Regional Municipality to discuss their concerns with the proposed Service Exchange Agreement that have been the subject of several consultation sessions during the month of August.

Several of our Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities board members, myself included, as well as our CEO Juanita Spencer, met today (August 30, 2023) with several members of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality - both elected and staff - to allow for a thorough discussion of the impacts so our Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities members can gain a fulsome understanding. We plan to take what was shared today back to our full board next week for discussion and next steps.

In today's meeting with the Cape Breton Regional Municipality representatives, they shared their concerns that the Deputy Minister would not be attending their requested meeting with the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing. It is their perspective that it would be critical to have the Deputy Minister attend this meeting and we - as the board of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities - agree.

The Cape Breton Regional Municipality is the largest municipality amidst the proposed Service Exchange Agreement proponents - and by merit of its size - also the most unique in its geography and financial challenges and needs. It would be paramount for the Deputy Minister to take the opportunity to meet with the elected members and staff of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality - as we have today - to allow for in-depth conversations regarding the impact of the proposed Service Exchange Agreement to the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

In the words of philanthropist Oprah Winfrey, "Great communication starts with connection." We sincerely encourage you to take the time to connect with the Cape Breton Regional Municipality as having the most fulsome understanding of any challenge is the best foundation for determining future solutions. If you can't connect with them tomorrow we implore you do so at the next soonest opportunity as time is of the essence.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Brenda Chisholm-B

*Brenda Chisholm Beaton
Mayor, Town of Port Hawkesbury
President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities*