



**NOVA SCOTIA
FEDERATION OF
MUNICIPALITIES**

September 6, 2023

PRESIDENT:

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Town of Port Hawkesbury

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Lunenburg

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Halifax Regional Municipality

RURAL CAUCUS CHAIR:

Warden Bruce Morrison
Victoria County

TOWN CAUCUS CHAIR:

Mayor Lennie White
Town of Westville

Mayor Pam Mood
Town of Yarmouth
400 Main Street
Yarmouth, NS
B5A 1G2

(Sent Via Email)

Dear Mayor Mood

Re: Mass Casualty Commission Report

Thank you for your correspondence sent on July 26, 2023. The Mass Casualty Commission Report is indeed a significant factor in the broader conversation on policing service in Nova Scotia.

In its recommendations, the MCC set out a number of purposeful challenges in pursuit of a higher standard of public safety. Although the assessment of these challenges and how to best accomplish them is still ongoing, it is advantageous that some of the MCC recommendations point to longstanding concerns among the NSFM membership. This provides a strong basis for engagement on these matters with both the federal and provincial government.

The MCC recommended that both provincial and municipal governments ensure that RCMP Advisory Boards meet regularly, are fully appointed, and are sufficiently trained and funded. With our recent survey on policing service, NSFM is currently learning about members' experiences with Advisory Boards and where provincially-appointed positions are vacant. NSFM will engage in conversations around mandated training and funding, if they arise, to ensure that such mandates are feasible for members.

The MCC also recommended that the federal and provincial government provide financial support to rural and remote communities to ensure that an adequate complement of police officers and support staff is available in those communities. NSFM is following up on this recommendation in our contribution to the current consultation on contract policing with Public Safety Canada and have recognized this as an issue to be brought up with the provincial government.

The MCC also called upon the RCMP to facilitate municipal and community input on the selection of Detachment Commanders with early notification of this selection process. We are echoing this recommendation in our current engagement in Public Safety Canada's current consultation on contract policing.

NSFM is also aware that the MCC has recommended that municipalities establish Community Safety and Well-Being Plans and Domestic Dispute Bystander Training, in addition to the other public safety work they already do. NSFM is ready to help our members accomplish these goals by distributing best practices and calling on other orders of government to provide necessary resources and support.

Both the federal and provincial orders of government have begun taking the initial steps set out in the MCC recommendations and we believe that more progress is to follow. On May 31st, the federal and provincial government appointed former justice Linda Lee Oland as the Chair of the Mutual Accountability Body that will monitor the implementation of MCC recommendations. The appointment of committee members is underway with a recommended deadline of September 1, 2023. The MCC also recommended that the provincial government establish a Multi-sectoral Council that will advise on further improvements to policing in Nova Scotia by September 30th, 2023. The council is recommended by the MCC to make recommendations that can be implemented before the 2032 expiration of the Provincial Police Services Agreement.

As I hope this letter makes clear, NSFM is focused on the actionable takeaways from this historic tragedy. The MCC recommendations draw a path toward the common goal of a high standard of public safety in Nova Scotia. Along with engaged members like your council, NSFM will continue to play a role in pursuing this goal on behalf of all municipalities.

Kind regards,



Juanita Spencer
CEO, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities