



Office of the Warden
46 Municipal Drive, Pictou, Nova Scotia, B0K 1H0
(Tel) 902-485-4311 (fax) 902-485-6475
(Email) Robert.Parker@munpict.ca

August 30, 2023

Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
President Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
Suite 1304, 1809 Barrington Street
Halifax, NS
B3J 3K8

Dear Mayor Chisholm-Beaton:

I am writing on behalf of my Municipal Council concerning the proposed service exchange agreement between the province and municipalities. While there are welcome items contained in the proposal (housing and corrections); there are other items that we be problematic long term for our municipality, mainly the roads proposal.

The current proposal on roads greatly expands the current J Class ("local roads") program that has existed since the 1995 Service Exchange Agreement. If our municipality was to opt-in to the program, it would take approximately 45 km, to eliminate any savings from the corrections and housing offset. This is less than 3 percent of the total kilometrage of local roads in our municipality. This program creates an imbalance for our residents and would saddle the municipality with new liabilities for years to come. Simply this is a download to municipal government and should be taken off the table as these roads are a provincial responsibility and should remain so. They built them, so they should maintain them.

The Council is very concerned with the process and the lack of consultation on the development of the plan. The committee seems to have worked in a vacuum, sharing little about the plans or details of what was being considered. The information that has been shared to date, especially on the roads program, is incomplete. My Council believes that there should have been a process to engage municipalities led by NSFM, where we could have collectively come to a consensus of what should have been included in the overall package. At this point, my Council firmly believes that the roads

component (Part B) at the very least should be moved for future discussions with the membership, and not be included in any package that goes forward.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Parker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".

Robert Parker
Warden