



10 February 2026

Honourable David Ritcey
Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage
1741 Brunswick St
Halifax, Nova Scotia

(Delivered via email)

RE: Public Library Funding

Dear Minister Ritcey,

Thank you for your response to our June 5, 2025 letter regarding funding for libraries. We appreciate your acknowledgement of the important role public libraries play in providing access to services for Nova Scotians. We continue to hear from our members about the critical role libraries play in delivering both municipal and provincial services, including hosting vaccine clinics, supervised parenting visits, providing newcomer supports, tax filing assistance, supporting unhoused individuals, and delivering childcare-related programming. The variety of services that libraries deliver for communities across Nova Scotia demonstrates the importance of sustainable and adequate library funding.

Thank you for advising that the 2024 Library Funding Review Committee has identified four funding options. We also acknowledge the Province's bridge funding in 2024–25 and the consideration of additional support for 2025–26. The Province issued 12-months' notice about library funding to municipalities in 2024, though further details about the funding formula or funding amounts have not been shared. Municipalities require this information to not only provide much needed context on how provincial policies are impacting local communities, but to also effectively manage municipal fiscal outlooks in the short and long term.

We recognize the fiscal pressures created by current economic conditions. In times of economic uncertainty, libraries are playing an increasingly vital role in communities. Municipalities have raised concerns to NSFM and the Province about ongoing underfunding, noting that the expired funding formula no longer reflects actual municipal contributions, including capital costs. Our members are calling for a renewed formula that properly recognizes municipal investments and increased provincial funding to meet growing community needs.

In light of your response and the growing concern among our members, NSFM respectfully requests further information on the funding formula for libraries, including anticipated municipal financial impacts. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters further and to engage meaningfully as next steps are determined.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,



David Mitchell
President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities



Juanita Spencer,
CEO, Nova Scotia Federation of
Municipalities

cc: Evan Lanni, NSFM