



**Municipal Affairs
Office of the Minister**

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February 10, 2026

Mayors, Wardens and Village Chairs
Sent Via Email

Dear Mayors, Wardens and Chairs:

RE: Invitation to Participate in Fire Modernization Planning Session on February 17, 2026

Last year, the Government of Nova Scotia invested significant time, along with firefighters and municipal fire/emergency management personnel, to understand how to effectively modernize fire services and create a safe, sustainable, and responsive system for Nova Scotians.

The results of the Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia's (FSANS) report revealed that the complexity of Nova Scotia's fire safety and services has led to significant long-standing governance, administration, training, certification, capacity, and resource challenges. Fragmentation and lack of role clarity for diverse fire service entities and municipalities have led to cost-ineffective, inconsistent, uncoordinated, and inequitable fire service provision to Nova Scotians particularly those living in rural areas.

With recommendations in hand from the Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia's (FSANS) Report of the Governance Review of Fire and Associated Services (September 2025) and the Value-for-money Audit of the Nova Scotia Firefighters School (August 2025), we are reconnecting with municipal elected officials to understand the implications of recommended next steps for municipalities and to gather your input on an implementation roadmap.

On behalf of the Department of Municipal Affairs and the Department of Emergency Management, we would like to invite all municipal elected officials and their Chief Administrative Officers to a virtual discussion on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Following introductions from Ministers MacDonald (Municipal Affairs) and Masland (Emergency Management) and Greg Jones (President, FSANS) the discussion will be facilitated by the project consultant, Transitional Solutions.

Please register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VirtualPlanningSession> by Friday, February 13, 2026. Meeting details will be provided following confirmation of your attendance.

We are grateful for your contributions to previous consultation initiatives led by FSANS. At the core of our efforts to modernize fire services is a commitment to ensuring that Nova Scotians are adequately protected from fire safety risks through access to high-quality fire services no matter where they live. We look forward to discussing how to achieve this goal together when we meet on February 17th.

Your participation is critical to our efforts to modernize the fire service system for the benefit of all Nova Scotians.

Sincerely,



Honourable John A. MacDonald
Minister of Municipal Affairs

Honourable Kim Masland
Minister of Emergency Management

- c. Municipal Chief Administrative Officers
Municipal Councilors
Juanita Spencer, CEO, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM)
Victoria Brooks, President, Association of Municipal Administrators (AMANS)
Greg Jones, President, Fire Services Association of Nova Scotia
Paul LaFleche, Executive Deputy Minister, Department of Municipal Affairs
Sandra McKenzie, Deputy Minister, Department of Emergency Management
Valerie Pottie Bunge, Associate Deputy Minister, Department of Municipal Affairs
Doug McKenzie, NS Office of the Fire Marshal