

PNS-62159-Y5C1S5

CRM:0712017

David Mitchell
President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM)
1809 Barrington St., Suite 1500, Halifax, NS B3J 3K8
info@nsfm.ca c/o Amanda McDougall

Dear David Mitchell,

As Executive Director of Geoscience and Mines, I am responding on behalf of the Minister of Natural Resources to your letter of December 1, 2025, regarding Nova Scotia's Critical Minerals Strategy, and municipal perspectives and community concerns related to natural resource development.

Municipal governments play a significant role in supporting informed public dialogue, and we recognize that local elected officials are often the first to hear questions and concerns from residents. Your efforts to convene Mayors, Wardens, and CAOs, and to gather feedback from municipalities across the province, are valuable in helping us understand how critical mineral exploration and development are being perceived at the community level.

As you note, Nova Scotia's approach to critical minerals must balance economic opportunity with environmental protection, public health and safety, and evolving expectations around social licence. Transparency, early engagement, and clear communication are essential to building and maintaining public trust, and these principles will continue to guide our work.

The Department welcomes continued collaboration with NSFM to strengthen information sharing with municipalities and to ensure local officials are equipped with clear, accurate information to support public consultation and community discussions. We are also interested in NSFM's research into Community Benefit Agreement models and other tools that can help communities realize tangible benefits from resource development beyond employment alone.

I would also like to note that I will be attending the NSFM Spring Conference 2026, and I look forward to meeting with you and your members in person. This will be a valuable opportunity to continue our dialogue on how the Critical Minerals Strategy can support both provincial objectives and community level priorities.

Thank you again for your leadership and for NSFM's continued commitment to constructive, collaborative engagement.

Best regards,



Janice Zinck
Executive Director of Geoscience and Mines

c Honourable Kim Masland, Minister of Natural Resources
 Sandra McKenzie, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources