



20 March 2026

Paul LaFleche  
Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs  
8<sup>th</sup> Fl. N., Maritime Centre  
1505 Barrington St.  
Halifax, NS B3J 2K5

(Delivered via email)

**RE: Grant Request for Activities related to Water Conservation**

Deputy Minister LaFleche,

Please accept this letter regarding NSFM's request to the Department of Municipal Affairs for work to support research activities related to water conservation at the municipal level.

Most parts of the province experienced extended periods without rainfall during the summer months of 2025, resulting in drought conditions that were classified as "severe" or "extreme". Drought conditions impacted municipal services like water distribution, drilled well programs, and even opening municipal facilities for the personal needs of residents.

NSFM understands that extreme drought conditions will become increasingly prevalent due to the impacts of climate change, and municipalities have been compelled to adapt by implementing water conservation programs and offering new services for households where wells have dried up. These new pressures on municipal property tax revenues force governments that are already stretched, to do even more. These costs are unpredictable and can detract from other core municipal responsibilities.

NSFM has supported research and analysis on the impacts of drought conditions on municipalities and consulted with our membership to gather feedback and insights regarding municipal responses to drought conditions.

To support progress on this very important municipal issue, NSFM is requesting a grant of **\$33,405** from Municipal Affairs for the 2026/27 fiscal year to complete the following items:

- Establishing an inventory of available municipal water equipment (i.e. water trucks, pumps, monitoring tools, etc.) in an effort to potentially support regional equipment sharing and mutual aid agreements for cooperation during drought conditions.
- Developing example bylaw wording and guidance for municipalities to support implementing a policy that allows the costs of water well improvements to be recovered through property taxes.

- Engaging municipalities to determine how they are implementing water conservation design and explore ways to leverage and empower the adoption of these design innovations.

The breakdown of our request is as follows:

Item	Total
Professional Fees	\$4,000
NSFM Staff Support	\$19,405
Legal Fees for Bylaw Review	\$10,000
	<b>\$33,405</b>

We would appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with Department of Municipal Affairs staff after the project is completed to review the findings of this work.

We hope this grant request meets with your approval. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or would like to discuss this request in more detail.

Regards,



*David Mitchell,*  
*President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities*



*Juanita Spencer,*  
*CEO, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities*