



05 March 2026

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

(Delivered via email)

**RE: Invitation to Participate in Call with Mayors,
Wardens, and CAOs**

Dear Minister Ritcey,

The Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities would like to extend an invitation to you and your staff to participate in a virtual meeting with Mayors, Wardens, and CAOs to discuss the implications of the 2026/27 provincial budget on local cultural, artistic, museum and library programming and funding.

Local museums are cultural touchstones that serve an inherent purpose for everyone in our communities. These institutions have not only served generations of Nova Scotians through various educational and recreational programming, but they also tell the stories and history of their communities, strengthening the connection between Nova Scotians and the place they live. Our members have concerns about the impacts museum and cultural program reductions will have on their communities and questions about what will happen with these properties and sites going forward.

Our members have previously expressed 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. Although the level of operating and capital funding for libraries will remain unchanged in 2026/27, the current level of funding no longer reflects actual municipal contributions, and it is anticipated that reductions to other cultural and social programs will exacerbate the substantial pressures that are already being placed on public libraries and their staff.

Our membership is hoping to engage in a collaborative discussion with your department to provide their perspectives on this matter and navigate a path forward considering our province's current financial outlook, and we would very much appreciate your participation. We can certainly connect with your staff to find a convenient date that works for your schedule.

Thank you - 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