



**Municipal Affairs
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 216, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2M4 • Telephone 902 424-5550 Fax 902 424-0581 • novascotia.ca

March 24, 2026

Your Worship David Mitchell
Mayor, Town of Bridgewater &
President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
Via Email: david.mitchell@bridgewater.ca

– and –

Juanita Spencer
Chief Executive Officer
Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
Via Email: jspencer@nsfm.ca

Dear Mayor David Mitchell and Juanita Spencer:

I am writing to thank you for your letter of March 5, 2026, addressed to Honourable Dave Ritcey, Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage, outlining your members' perspectives on the 2026-27 budget. Minister Ritcey and I appreciate your invitation to meet.

Minister Dave Ritcey, Deputy Ministers Paul LaFleche and Christopher Shore, Associate Deputy Minister (ADM) Valerie Pottie Bunge and I will be available to meet with you for a preliminary discussion regarding this budget. Please reach out to our Senior Executive Administrative Coordinator, Marilyn Devlin, to arrange a mutually convenient time. Marilyn can be reached at Marilyn.Devlin@novascotia.ca.

As requested, I, along with Deputies LaFleche and Shore and ADM Pottie Bunge, will also be happy to participate in a meeting with Mayors, Wardens and CAOs. ADM Valerie Pottie Bunge will work with Juanita to coordinate a suitable date and time for this meeting.

Thank you again for your correspondence. I look forward to our continued collaboration.

Yours truly,

Honourable John A. MacDonald
Minister of Municipal Affairs

c: Honourable David Ritcey, Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
Christopher Shore, Deputy Minister, Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
Paul LaFleche, Deputy Minister, Department of Municipal Affairs
Valerie Pottie Bunge, Associate Deputy Minister, Department of Municipal Affairs