



**Municipal Affairs
Office of the Minister**

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April 22, 2026

Dear Mayors, Wardens and Village Chairs:

I am writing to provide an overview of the legislative amendments approved this spring in the House of Assembly that relate to municipal governance. These changes were a part of Bill 212 ([c001.pdf](#)). We are sharing this information to ensure Council has clarity on the intent and scope of these changes, as well as next steps.

Amendments to the *Municipal Government Act* and *Halifax Regional Charter Act*:

- Clarify the oversight relationship between councils and Chief Administrative Officers, affirming council's discretion to exclude the CAOs from meetings related to CAO performance (effective immediately).
- Enable councils to delegate CAO performance oversight to a committee (effective immediately).
- Clarify council's authority in approving CAO participation in external organizations and delegating responsibilities during CAO absences (effective immediately).
- Introduce mandatory onboarding training for newly elected councillors to support strong governance and informed decision-making. Will become effective after details are established in regulations.

These amendments are intended to strengthen municipal governance and support councils in their leadership and accountability roles.

We appreciate the support that you have shared for these changes either directly, through your MLA or through your associations. If council has questions or would like additional clarification, your municipal advisors would be pleased to assist.

In the coming months, the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) will be seeking your input on what mandatory training for newly elected councillors will look like in Nova Scotia. Our intention is that councillors feel equipped to fulfill their important responsibilities, how to work effectively with their colleagues and the staff of the municipality, and how to best deliver on the priorities of their constituents, the municipality and our beautiful province. Regulations will establish the minimum standards for mandatory training, such as the types of training, the timelines for completion, and key responsibilities. We will look to you to shape these requirements, through the work of NSFM.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

Yours truly,

Honourable John A. MacDonald
Minister of Municipal Affairs

c: CAOs (please share with your councillors)
Village Clerks
Juanita Spencer, CEO, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
Jeff Sunderland, Executive Director, Association of Municipal Administrators Nova Scotia