



April 27, 2026

Honourable Kim Masland
Minister of Emergency Management
PO Box 2581
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B3J 3N5

Dear Minister Masland,

(Delivered via email)

RE: Rural Cellphone Coverage for Emergency Preparedness

Thank you for your correspondence sent on October 30th, 2025, regarding rural cellular coverage. We are happy to see the substantial investment in the Cellular for Nova Scotia Program that was initiated during your time as Minister of Public Works. NSFM members continue to express concerns about cellular connectivity, most recently demonstrated in a March 24, 2026, open letter from Victoria County. We invite you or a member of your team to update our Public Safety Advisory Committee as this work progresses to complement information on the Cellular for Nova Scotia website.

There remains a need for telecommunications companies to be made responsible for emergency preparedness so that Nova Scotians can always call 911 and receive emergency alerts and instructions when needed. NSFM continues to hear from members who are concerned with public safety issues arising from inadequate and unreliable cellular coverage. Therefore, we primarily write you today to reiterate our call for telecommunication providers to be designated as critical service providers.

Amendments to the Emergency Management Act passed in the legislature in 2022 were intended to obligate all telecommunications providers to submit emergency preparedness plans on an annual basis and make all efforts possible to maintain service during the increasingly frequent and severe storms or other emergencies. If regulations under section 7 of the Emergency Preparedness and Nova Scotia Guard Act establish these emergency preparedness responsibilities in an equally impactful manner, we agree with the approach that you explained in your October 30th letter and call for the proclamation of this section of the Emergency Preparedness and Nova Scotia Guard Act.

We respectfully request an update on plans for these regulations, what consultation has taken place so far, and if telecommunication providers will be designated as critical service providers with specific emergency preparedness responsibilities. As CEO and President, we invite you to meet with us to discuss the path ahead, and also invite a member of your team to provide updates to our advisory committee.

Kind Regards,

Mayor David Mitchell
President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

Juanita Spencer
CEO, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

Cc: Deputy Minister Sandra McKenzie, Minister John A MacDonald