NOVA SCOTIA
FEDERATION OF
MUNICIPALITIES

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01 Dec 2025

Hon. Kim Masland
Minister of Natural Resources
Department of Natural Resources & Renewables
3rd Floor, Founders Square
1701 Hollis St.
Halifax, NS B3J 2T9

(Delivered via email)

Dear Minister Masland,

As the provincial government continues to unfold its Critical Minerals Strategy, NSFM would like to connect with the Department of Natural Resources on ways local government can align its objectives for community and economic development.

Earlier this year, in response to the government's request for support with natural resource development, the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) held a meeting of Mayors, Wardens, and CAOs to discuss related issues. We subsequently received nearly a dozen letters of support from our members, asking us to facilitate information-sharing between the province and municipalities on critical mineral development and energy transition.

In the months that followed, NSFM staff reviewed the provincial Critical Minerals Strategy document, initiated research on case studies of Canadian communities that are integrated with the mining industry, reviewed the provincial bid for uranium exploration, and continued to engage with our members on what they were hearing from residents.

We believe in your government's commitment to environmental protection and know that successful proponents engaged in any resource development will have to demonstrate how they will ensure the health and safety of residents and mitigate negative impacts on the environment. We support the federal and provincial vison for a more self-reliant Canada and Nova Scotia, knowing that natural resource development is a part of economic and community development.

We also know that social license continues to evolve in complexity. Nova Scotians have seen significant tax dollars go to proponents the government supported for natural resource development projects, and then significant tax dollars awarded to groups negatively impacted by the actions or inactions of those proponents. More than any time in history, residents are aware of these and other factors that contribute to feelings of ambiguity around development.

Local government officials are the first in line to hear from residents who have questions and concerns about projects in their communities. We would like to suggest that the provincial government can help equip locally elected officials with useful information for public consultation.

Additionally, municipalities in Nova Scotia would benefit from understanding how energy and natural resource development can contribute to community building beyond potential employment gains. NSFM is currently researching Community Benefit agreement models and would like provincial feedback on these, and other tools, that municipalities can harness to ensure an equitable distribution of gains from local projects.

We look forward to connecting with you and staff in your department and extend the invitation to speak with our members on the local benefits of your Critical Minerals Strategy.

Kind Regards,

David Mitchell,
President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities