

June 26th, 2019

TO: NSFM Board

FR: Juanita Spencer, CEO, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

RE: NSFM BOARD REPORT, JUNE 21ST, 2019

I am pleased to send you the highlights of NSFM Board Report from our June 21, 2019, meeting. We would be pleased to answer any questions that may arise or hear any comments and/or suggestions.

Also attached is the update on our initiatives report.

1. **Wood Energy Projects:** Staff from the Department of Lands and Forestry delivered a presentation to the NSFM board on wood energy projects in Nova Scotia.
2. **Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing (DMAH) Update:** Staff from DMAH provided the NSFM Board with an update on the merger of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing Nova Scotia, effective June 3rd, 2019.
3. **Short Term Rentals:** The NSFM Board discussed the topic of short-term rentals (Airbnb) and decided that a letter should be written to DMAH emphasizing the importance of land-use planning remaining a municipal responsibility.
4. **Port Hawkesbury Airport:** The NSFM board discussed the topic of the Port Hawkesbury Airport and decided to direct staff to write a letter.
5. **NSFM Bylaw Revisions:** Proposed NSFM bylaw revisions with a digital change log were presented to the Board with a request that board members take the draft back to their municipalities for review and comment.
6. **NSFM Rules and Procedures Document:** A new rules and procedure document was presented and adopted.
7. **Women's Forum and Youth Forum:** The NSFM Board directed staff to investigate the creation of a women's forum and a youth forum for municipal elected officials.
8. **Approval of 2018 Audited Statements:** The 2018 draft audited statements were approved.

Board Initiatives Report – June 2019

NSFM Vision: Effective local government and strong, sustainable communities

NSFM Mission: To enable effective local government for Nova Scotia's communities by facilitating strategic advocacy, education and collaboration

Initiatives

1. CAP

Since February 2019 NSFM has led a steering committee with AMA and PVSC representation to strategically work towards a solution to the CAP issue. We have met with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and his staff on several occasions and have met with many key stakeholders. We have held meetings with policy staffers at the PC and NDP caucus offices, have given a presentation to the NDP caucus, and are preparing to meet with the Liberal, and PC caucuses. We are feeling positive vibes from the province but also know we are operating under a tight timeline. As meetings are planned for the days leading up to the board meeting, a more thorough update will be provided at the meeting.

2. EPR

At the Provincial/Municipal roundtable meeting on the 30th of October the Province asked NSFM to consult Nova Scotian businesses on the EPR proposal being developed in collaboration with the Solid Waste Chairs. NSFM and municipal solid waste staff throughout Nova Scotia received responses for a month and a half, with the consultation period ending on March 15th, 2019. The results of the consultation were collated and added to the EPR proposal produced by the Solid Waste Management Regional Chairs Committee Priorities Working Group. The Priorities Working Group met several times between March and May to develop drafts of the proposal, with the final EPR proposal being presented to the Regional Chairs on May 16th, 2019, where it was approved for submission to Nova Scotia Environment. After some additional finishing touches, the 88-page proposal was delivered to Minister Wilson on June 5th, 2019. The proposal was also sent to all NSFM members, and a CBC story by Michael Gorman covered the release. A spokesperson for the Minister of Environment has stated that the Minister will hold off on making any statements about the EPR proposal until the long-awaited efficiency study, another project of the Solid Waste Management Regional Chairs Working Group, is complete and submitted. NSFM staff expect this report to be complete and submitted by Regional Chairs in July 2019. Updates will follow as they are made available.

3. Roads

At the November conference it was hoped that a new funding agreement for roads would be in place by June 2019. A committee was struck to address this resolution, and a joint municipal-provincial roads committee is now underway. The committee has now finalized its work plan, and tasks have been assigned to committee members, with some work starting to trickle in. More updates will be provided on this as they become available. and any proposals or ideas regarding agreements will be circulated for comment well in advance of any substantive discussion on the topic.

4. Accessibility

Accessibility is one of the most significant issues facing municipalities. In the 2019 budget the Province allotted \$1M for accessibility related issues, and in our press release that followed, we noted that municipalities are looking for a substantially greater amount of financial assistance to help us become compliant with the Provincial accessibility legislation. Municipalities are being asked to ensure their communities are accessible by 2030.

5. NSFMs' Contract to Support the Administration of the Gas Tax Fund

NSFM recently met with staff at DMA as part of our monthly scheduled meetings to discuss our work to support the administration of the Gas Tax Fund (GTF) in Nova Scotia. DMA staff reported that a signed contract for the work to be delivered in 2019-20 is forthcoming (there is a delay in getting the contract to NSFMs due to the recent cabinet shuffle). For the services NSFMs proposes to provide to support municipalities in meeting the requirements of the GTF, including federal communications and asset management requirements, NSFMs is requesting \$125,000 for the 2019-20 fiscal.

6. Asset Management

NSFM continues to support municipalities with asset management planning, as a requirement of the 2014-24 Gas Tax Fund Agreement. On March 31, NSFMs staff delivered a brief presentation at FCM's Annual Conference in Quebec City on the paper developed for its workshops to integrate climate considerations into asset management planning.