



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION  
OF MUNICIPALITIES

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**PRESIDENT:**

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County of Kings

**VICE-PRESIDENT:**

Mayor Amanda McDougall  
Cape Breton Regional Municipality

**IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT:**

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Town of Yarmouth

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Halifax Regional Municipality

**RURAL CAUCUS CHAIR:**

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District of Lunenburg

**TOWNS CAUCUS CHAIR:**

Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton  
Town of Port Hawkesbury

The Honourable Chuck Porter  
Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing  
P.O. Box 216, Halifax, NS  
B3J 2M6

Delivered via email

Dear Minister Porter:

**RE: Participation on the Nova Scotia Affordable Housing Commission**

On Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, NSFM members watched with keen attention as you announced the creation of the Nova Scotia Affordable Housing Commission. I am writing you today to formally request that NSFM be added to the Commission as a participant.

Our members take the issue of access to affordable housing very seriously, and eagerly await opportunities to partner with the Province on improving the stock of affordable housing in Nova Scotia.

At our recent AGM and caucus meetings, our members told us that they expected NSFM to be a part of the Commission, and that they were surprised that we were not included.

According to the news release, the Commission is to: "Work with experts to make recommendations about affordable housing strategies and actions." In the words of the co-chair, it will bring together "Stakeholders with a wide variety of perspectives and experiences on this important issue."

The lack of access to affordable housing is felt most acutely on the local level, and our members have a wealth of perspectives and experiences on this issue. As the voice of Nova Scotia's municipalities, NSFM believes we have invaluable input we could contribute to the Commission.

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It is my understanding that you spoke with NSFM Past President, Pam Mood, regarding your desire to keep this as a stakeholder working group. We respectfully suggest that by appointing Juanita Spencer, NSFM CEO, that your objective will still be met and that we will have the representation we are requesting. I ask you to work with me in finding a way to make this happen.

Sincerely,



Emily Lutz  
President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

CC: Catherine Berliner, Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Karen Brodeur, Cooperative Housing Federation of Canada  
Kelly Denty, Halifax Regional Municipality  
Fred Deveaux, Cape Breton Community Housing Association  
Mike Dolter, Association of Municipal Administrators Nova Scotia  
Jim Graham, Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia  
Alex Halef, Urban Development Institute  
Jeremy Jackson, Investment Property Owners Association of Nova Scotia  
Joy Knight, Department of Community Services  
Gordon Laing, Southwest Properties  
Michelle MacFarlane, Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services  
Chief Sidney Peters, Tawaak Housing Association  
Ren Thomas, Dalhousie University