



**Municipal Affairs  
Office of the Minister**

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March 30, 2021

Mayor Amanda McDougall  
VIA EMAIL: [mayor@cbrm.ns.ca](mailto:mayor@cbrm.ns.ca)

Dear Mayor McDougall:

I want to extend my congratulations on your appointment to President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM). I also would like to thank the NSFM Board for their ongoing support of Bill 47: An Act Respecting Accessibility, as noted in your March 24, 2021, NSFM Board motion. In the summer of 2020, municipalities were consulted on this bill by way of survey, a consultation booklet, five virtual sessions, and the ability for our stakeholders to write in to the department to communicate their positions. Based on these consultations the department felt that it could go forward with the Bill as presented. As you are aware, Law Amendments on Bill 47 will commence tomorrow, March 31, 2021.

As partners, I would like to take this time to provide some clarity regarding a few concerns that have been raised by some of your membership. The intent of the Bill is to enable municipalities, if they so choose, to provide funding incentives to private business for the purposes of accessibility initiatives. I want to assure you that the Province remains committed to our goal of making Nova Scotia accessible by 2030. The Bill is not a measure to download provincial responsibility to municipalities.

As you are aware, municipalities are expected to have their Accessibility Plans completed by April 2022. Bill 47 will ensure that as we move forward with those plans, municipalities are empowered to make unencumbered decisions regarding accessibility initiatives. Presently, without this amendment municipalities would not have the authority to assist businesses within their communities.

It is my hope that you will forward this letter on to your membership to address the concerns that I have heard.

Sincerely,

Brendan Maguire  
Minister

c Deputy Minister Justin Huston, Municipal Affairs  
Associate Deputy Minister Mark Peck, Municipal Affairs  
Ms. Juanita Spencer, CEO NSFM