



**Municipal Affairs
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 216, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2M4 • Telephone 902-424-5550 Fax 902-424-0581 • novascotia.ca

July 12, 2021

Amanda McDougall
Acting President – NSFM
VIA EMAIL: info@nsfm.ca

Mike Dolter
President – AMANS
VIA EMAIL : c/o jwentzell@amans.ca

Dear Acting President McDougall and President Dolter:

The Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) and Association of Municipal Administrators (AMA) are essential partners in the work being done to support municipalities. Municipalities are the governments closest to those in their community and understanding the municipal perspective on issues in Nova Scotia is essential to our province's success. Thank you for taking the time to provide us with the municipal perspective on the recently released report by the Nova Scotia Affordable Housing Commission.

As you articulated in your letter, you have concerns related to the capacity of municipalities to advance affordable housing solutions in Nova Scotia. We are listening to you. In light of these concerns, we believe it would be best if the Province leads the coordination of the housing needs assessments in communities across Nova Scotia. To ensure the Province understands the unique needs of municipalities we commit to engaging with the NSFM and AMA regarding a strategy and approach to completing these needs assessments.

We recognize that the recently released Housing Commission recommendations have significant impact on municipalities. We would like to assure you that it is the full intention of the Province to engage with the NSFM and AMA as we begin developing a workplan for the review and potential implementation of the Housing Commission recommendations which impact municipalities. To accomplish this work, we would like to invite the NSFM and AMA to participate in a working group that will be reviewing the Housing Commission recommendations. This working group would consist of NSFM and AMA representatives, along with senior officials from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Department of Infrastructure and Housing. We propose an initial meeting be held in the coming weeks to review the recommendations that have an impact on municipalities and discuss a mutually agreeable approach to advance the recommendations. In these discussions, we feel it would also be beneficial to discuss a go forward plan regarding consultation with your membership on affordable housing matters.

We would like to thank you for taking the time to bring forward the views of your members regarding the Commission's report. We look forward to hearing from you on your participation as an equal partner in charting a path forward for affordable housing in Nova Scotia.

Sincerely,

Brendan Maguire
Minister Municipal Affairs

Geoff MacLellan
Minister Infrastructure & Housing