



**NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES**

June 18, 2019

PRESIDENT:

Councillor Waye Mason
Halifax Regional Municipality

Erin Beaudin
Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Wolfville
359 Main Street, Wolfville, NS, B4P 1A1

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Mayor Pam Mood
Town of Yarmouth

IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT:

Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart
County of Colchester

Dear Ms. Beaudin:

RE: NOVA SCOTIANS FOR EQUALIZATION FAIRNESS (NSEF)

REGIONAL CAUCUS CHAIR:

Councillor George MacDonald
Cape Breton Regional Municipality

I write to you in response to your letter of May 29th, 2019. Thank you for bringing the correspondence from NSEF to our attention.

RURAL CAUCUS CHAIR:

Warden Timothy Habinski
County of Annapolis

Equalization was debated at our 2018 Fall Conference and AGM, and NSFM members voted to make this issue part of a resolution on municipal funding. The subject remains a priority for NSFM.

TOWN CAUCUS CHAIR:

Mayor Jeff Cantwell
Town of Wolfville

Our members told us that there was confusion between the provincial and federal equalization programs, so NSFM and the Government of Nova Scotia worked together to rename the provincial equalization program. It is now officially called the *Municipal Financial Capacity Grant*. This renaming is a sign that the government has heard our members' concerns, and that they are willing to work with us to resolve our issues.

As part of the 2018 resolution, our members requested that funding to the grant program be increased, and NSFM continues to work on this request through assertive advocacy. Although funding has not yet been increased, the Province has responded to our request by committing to review the effectiveness of the grant program.

Sincerely,

{Original signed by}

Councillor Waye Mason
President, NSFM