



**NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES**

June 18, 2019

The Honourable Stephen McNeil
Premier, Province of Nova Scotia
P.O. Box 726, Halifax, NS B3J 1X5

Dear Premier McNeil:

RE: DEPARTMENTAL CHANGES AND APPOINTMENTS

On behalf of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities' Board of Directors, I would like to express our support for the appointment of Nancy MacLellan as Deputy Minister of the new Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

The membership and Board of NSFM look forward to continuing our productive relationship with staff and leadership as these departments become one, and we look forward to working with Deputy Minister MacLellan in her new role.

Across all municipalities in Nova Scotia you will find NSFM members who are thankful for the privilege and opportunity to serve their fellow-citizens as council representatives. Our mayors, wardens, and councillors know that although we have achieved great things, we still fall short of what we would like to do.

Too many Nova Scotians live at, or below, the poverty line and struggle to make ends meet. A lack of stable, affordable housing is felt from one end of this province to the other. Our municipal elected officials are aware of this fact and are rightly concerned about it.

However, given the recent merger of Municipal Affairs and Housing, it is also understandable that our membership has concerns of possible future downloading of this social service to municipal units. Despite their strong desire to want to help their citizens who are in need, NSFM wants to reiterate that it remains beyond the financial capacity of any local government to pay for this, or other social services, with current revenue sources.

We are aware that some in our membership are interested in engaging in discussions with the province, particularly with regards affordable housing, provided corresponding increases in permanent financial transfers are given to offset any change in responsibility. Should those discussions move forward, NSFM looks forward to being fully engaged.

The Honourable Stephen McNeil

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The merger of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing Nova Scotia is significant, and we look forward to future discussions on how we can work together to support our citizens.

Sincerely,

{Original signed by}

Councillor Waye Mason
President, NSFM