



**Attorney General
Justice
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 7, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2L6 • Telephone 902 424-4044 Fax 902 424-0510 • novascotia.ca

FEB 05 2020

Pam Mood, President of NSFM
Mike Dolter, President of AMANS
1809 Barrington St, Suite 1304
Halifax NS B3J 3K8

Dear Ms. Mood and Mr. Dolter,

Re: ACCESSIBLE WASHROOMS IN RESTAURANTS

Thank you for your letter dated 16 December 2019 regarding the restorative process for accessible washrooms in restaurants. Our Premier, the Hon. Stephen McNeil has asked me to respond on his behalf.

As you have suggested, the participation, and the ongoing involvement, of the NSFM and AMANS is very important to this work. Thank you for your time and commitment in helping us address barriers to accessibility for Nova Scotians.

As you are aware the third phase (*Planning and Action*) of the restorative process was completed recently with the development of an implementation plan. The fourth phase of the restorative process, *Follow-Up and Support*, will begin soon.

All of the concerns raised in your letter (the requirement for accurate data, potential costs associated with compliance, timelines for compliance, funding sources, communication and skilled labour) were also raised through the restorative process. It is our hope that the solutions to address these challenges, contemplated through the restorative process and embedded in the implementation plan, will achieve in a coherent way, our intention and shared goal of restaurant accessibility compliance.

During the fourth stage of the restorative process we will continue to engage all of the parties who participated in the earlier stages of the process, including NSFM and AMANS. The flexible nature of the restorative process will allow us to respond and adapt to emerging challenges or implications that might not have been anticipated in the earlier stages of the process.

Please know that the concerns you have identified, especially around timing and communication, will be an important lens through which we begin to animate the implementation plan in phase four of the restorative process. We will continue to rely on your support, ongoing participation in the restorative process, and your expertise in supporting an accessible Nova Scotia. It is our aim

for business to have full access to the growing disabilities consumers market, which the Conference Board of Canada estimates to be \$165B annually and to grow to \$316B by 2030. Nova Scotia has the highest proportion of disability in Canada; according to Stats Canada 30.4% of our citizens have a disability, compared to a national average of 22%.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts. I look forward to working with NSFAM, AMANS and its membership as we implement the necessary changes to create an accessible Nova Scotia.

Yours truly,



Mark Furey

cc. The Honourable Stephen McNeil, Premier

The Honourable Chuck Porter, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Honourable Gordon Wilson, Minister of Environment