



**NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES**

May 11, 2020

PRESIDENT:

Mayor Pam Mood
Town of Yarmouth

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Deputy Mayor Emily Lutz
County of Kings

IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT:

Councillor Waye Mason
Halifax Regional Municipality

REGIONAL CAUCUS CHAIR:

Councillor Clarence Prince
Cape Breton Regional Municipality

RURAL CAUCUS CHAIR:

Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart
County of Colchester

TOWNS CAUCUS CHAIR:

Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Town of Port Hawkesbury

The Honourable Mary Ng
Minister of Small Business and Export Promotion
House of Commons

Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

Delivered via email

Dear Minister Ng:

RE: COVID-19 and Municipal Elected Representatives

I write to you on behalf of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) Board of Directors. Since our creation by legislation in 1906, our organization has served as the voice of Nova Scotia's municipalities. We represent all 376 elected officials that govern our 49 municipal units.

We are very pleased that municipal elected representatives are now eligible for the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA). Thanks to your action, Export Development Canada is now working with banking channel partners to update the reach of CEBA to include provincial, territorial, municipal and Indigenous political office holders.

Many municipal elected representatives in Nova Scotia are small business owners and being eligible for CEBA will be a great support for them. We would like to point out, however, that municipal elected representatives should also be eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB).

The average compensation for a councillor in a Nova Scotian town is \$16,750 per year and \$20,500 in a rural municipality. This places most of our members above the CERB inclusion threshold of \$1,000 per month, yet COVID-19 leaves many in a position where they have little or no other income outside of their compensation as elected representatives. As a result, some have contemplated leaving their elected posts in order to claim CERB.

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After accounting for hours spent, many councillors in small Nova Scotian towns and rural areas make less than minimum wage. Our municipal leaders work tirelessly to serve and better their communities. They strive and make sacrifices to participate in the local level of government, and they incur many incidental costs in doing so.

In recognition of these contributions and sacrifices, we ask that those municipal elected representatives receiving less compensation than the 12-month, 1-person low income cut-off (LICO) of \$25,920 be eligible to claim CERB, and that this be made retroactive to the start of March, 2020. This would enable them to more effectively continue their service to their communities during this pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Mood', written in a cursive style.

Mayor Pam Mood

President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

cc: The Honourable Jaime Battiste, M.P.

The Honourable Kody Blois, M.P.

The Honourable Chris d'Entremont, M.P.

The Honourable Andy Fillmore, M.P.

The Honourable Darren Fisher, M.P.

The Honourable Sean Fraser, M.P.

The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, P.C., M.P., Minister of Families, Children, and Social Development

The Honourable Bernadette Jordan, P.C., M.P., Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard

The Honourable Mike Kelloway, M.P.

The Honourable Bill Morneau, P.C., M.P., Minister of Finance

The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, P.C., M.P., Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion

The Honourable Geoff Regan, M.P.

The Honourable Darrell Samson, M.P.

The Honourable Deb Schulte, P.C., M.P., Minister of Seniors

The Honourable Filomena Tassi, P.C., M.P., Minister of Labour

The Honourable Lenore Zann, M.P.