



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

June 3, 2020

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Mayor Pam Mood
Town of Yarmouth

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Deputy Mayor Emily Lutz
County of Kings

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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 Stephen McNeil,
Premier of Nova Scotia
Via email: premier@novascotia.ca

Dear Premier McNeil:

RE: Urgent Request and Invitation to Meet

Prime Minister Trudeau's June 1st announcement of an accelerated payment schedule of the Gas Tax Fund has been met with cautious optimism by NSFM members and our counterparts across the country. It wasn't the early advancement of funds we found encouraging, but rather his acknowledgment that this was just the start of federal support.

The Prime Minister was clear in his remarks on the important role municipalities play in supporting our communities in every corner of this country, and advised that the federal government is there, ready to assist with funding, but that is fully dependent on the work provinces do with municipalities.

I know we can both agree that funding brought to municipalities benefits all of Nova Scotia, especially as we begin to restart the economic engines. To this end, and in response to the Prime Minister's clear directive on working together, we respectfully request a working group be set up immediately to access federal funding opportunities.

NSFM has already begun to work with our members to identify the significant operational shortfalls in unrecoverable revenue due to COVID including, but not limited to, transit, parking and recreation programs.

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Premier Stephen McNeil
Page 2
June 3, 2020

Accelerated gas tax money, while welcomed, brings no new money to the table. Like the \$380 million Provincial Loan Program your government supported, it addresses short term liquidity for our members. It's clear we need to work on alternative funding options to support municipalities to survive. A working group will do that quickly and effectively and provide the Province with what it needs to access that funding.

NSFM has been connecting weekly with all the mayors, wardens and CAOs from Nova Scotia's 49 municipalities since the State of Emergency was called. We recently extended an invitation for you to join one of these calls through DMAH.

While we recognize your time is extremely limited, particularly during COVID-19, we are also extending an invitation for you to speak with our board on several key issues, including funding streams, unrecoverable losses, Provincial Loan Program, Gas Tax Fund, and the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

Now is the time for Nova Scotians to have the confidence that their governments - all three levels - are working together to bring them through this crisis. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P Mood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mayor Pam Mood,
President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

CC: The Honourable Chuck Porter, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
The Honourable Karen Casey, Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance
Tim Houston, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party
Gary Burrill, Leader of NDP