



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

June 22, 2020

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Town of Yarmouth

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TOWNS CAUCUS CHAIR:

Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Town of Port Hawkesbury

The Honourable Chuck Porter,
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Via email: DMAMIN@novascotia.ca

Dear Minister Porter:

RE: Terms of Reference for Joint Safe Elections Committee

As President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, I am writing you regarding the Joint Safe Elections Committee. As co-chair of the DMAH-organized committee, the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) is working with committee members to finalize the group's Terms of Reference (ToR).

The committee has representation from DMAH, NSFM, the Association of Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia (AMANS) and the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. It is also expected the Municipal Elections Officer will participate.

It was the wish of both NSFM and AMANS that the work of this committee include an analysis of cost to our members in the event of a late-stage cancellation and a recommendation to financially support municipalities to offset those costs.

Feedback from DMAH while drafting the ToR suggests we will be unable to come to an agreement if the aforementioned cost analysis is to be included. In order for us to agree to a ToR for this committee that does not include the analysis of cost, we will require confirmation from you that a separate review conducted by NSFM and AMANS into this matter will be received and given proper consideration.

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As you know, when polled by NSFAM, member respondents voted 68 per cent in favour of postponing the October 17th elections. Safety concerns, the uncertainty of COVID-19 and the impact these will have on holding a democratically run election are of great concern.

However, municipalities are also struggling financially, and any postponement of the election will come at significant cost that they will have to incur a second time when the election is rescheduled.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P Mood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "P" and the name "Mood" written in a similar cursive script.

Mayor Pam Mood,
President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

CC: Nancy MacLellan, Deputy Minister, Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing