



**Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Office of the Minister**

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PO Box 216, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2M4 • Telephone 902-424-5550 Fax 902-424-0581 • [novascotia.ca](http://novascotia.ca)

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June 26, 2020

Pam Mood  
President – Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities  
VIA EMAIL: [communications@nsfm.ca](mailto:communications@nsfm.ca)

Dear Mayor Mood:

Thank you for your letter of June 22, 2020, wherein you express your wish that the work of the Joint Safe Municipal Elections Working Group (JSME) include an analysis of cost, to your members, of a late-stage cancellation and a recommendation to financially support municipalities to off-set those costs.

Following the direction that elections will take place in October, the JSME is being struck to provide municipalities with the guidance and direction that they need in order to hold elections safely in October. The members of this Working Group will work with our colleagues in public health to explore new and innovative ways for candidates to campaign, and for elections to be administered, during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are happy to undertake this work in conjunction with our partners at the Association of Municipal Administrators, Nova Scotia (AMANS) and the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM). It would be inappropriate to include the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Municipal Elections Officer, or staff, in a discussion about election costs; therefore it is not appropriate to include this in the scope of the JSME.

If AMANS and NSFM wish to do their own review with respect to costs in the event of a cancelled election in October, and want to make a request for financial support from government, I would be happy to discuss this request with my colleagues following receipt of your report.

I look forward to seeing the guidelines that are developed by the JSME, and I am sure that Returning Officers across the Province are also eager to receive this guidance.

I hope that this letter finds you well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Porter".

Chuck Porter  
Minister