



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

July 14, 2020

The Honourable Stephen McNeil
Premier, Province of Nova Scotia
P.O. Box 726, Halifax, NS B3J 1X5

Delivered via email

PRESIDENT:

Mayor Pam Mood
Town of Yarmouth

Dear Premier McNeil:

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Deputy Mayor Emily Lutz
County of Kings

RE: Amendment to March 22nd DMAH Ministerial Order

NSFM is writing to formally request that the Province make an urgent amendment to a March 22nd Ministerial Order by Minister Porter directing municipalities and villages to discontinue holding their meetings in person, instead only allowing virtual meetings by video or telephone, while the State of Emergency remains in effect.

IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT:

Councillor Waye Mason
Halifax Regional Municipality

NSFM had the opportunity to discuss this with Minister Porter on June 24th and has had subsequent meetings with Deputy Minister MacLellan and staff to discuss the matter.

REGIONAL CAUCUS CHAIR:

Councillor Clarence Prince
Cape Breton Regional Municipality

NSFM asks that an amendment be made to allow for in-person meetings provided council chambers and meeting rooms can adhere to health protocols set out by Nova Scotia's Chief Medical Officer under the Health Protection Act. Virtual meetings would remain mandatory for those council chambers and meeting spaces that are unable to meet said protocols.

RURAL CAUCUS CHAIR:

Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart
County of Colchester

We already know that not all our members can safely meet protocols and that measures to protect the public from COVID-19 are likely to remain in place for months, if not longer. Given this, we are also requesting that the government bring forward legislation this fall that would allow municipalities to conduct virtual meetings when the State of Emergency is lifted.

TOWNS CAUCUS CHAIR:

Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Town of Port Hawkesbury

Our request is in keeping with an amendment already granted on July 9th to companies, corporations, co-operatives, societies, and others conducting shareholder and member meetings.

Nova Scotians are looking to government at all levels to lead our province in recovery. It is important our members be allowed to reconvene in-person meetings, where possible, helping our communities adjust to our new normal in a safe and effective manner.

We look forward to receiving an urgent and favourable response.

Sincerely,

Mayor Pam Mood
President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

CC: Minister Chuck Porter, Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

