



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION  
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## **Pilot Project to Cut Red Tape on Cape Breton Island**

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A pilot project to cut red tape on Cape Breton Island has outfitted its five municipalities with tailor-made solutions to boost business.

Last year, the municipalities in Cape Breton unanimously supported a pilot project in partnership with the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness to help businesses grow.

The results of their work will make operation and expansion easier for Island businesses, says NSFM CEO Juanita Spencer.

“Red tape reduction can lower costs for businesses, and for government,” she said.

Last year, Halifax Regional Municipality’s efforts to cut unnecessary red tape were rewarded with a Golden Scissors Award from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

Based on HRM’s success, the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness extended its reach to Cape Breton to see how similar efforts could benefit economic development there.

Since costly and duplicative rules restrain business growth, work was done to align regulatory approaches between municipalities and the Province.

Business owners helped uncover several regulatory pain points, and then municipal staff helped create workplans to tackle their top concerns.

They include: offering customer service training for inspectors, streamlining bylaws to facilitate compliance requirements, and creating a one-stop shop for festival and events permits.

Regulatory modernization is an important, but often overlooked, lever for economic development and competitiveness, says Spencer.

“An efficient regulatory environment can enhance productivity in public and private sector and support economic growth.”

The inter-municipal and municipal-provincial partnership in Cape Breton is a good example of municipal modernization, a priority that NSFAM members voted on at the AGM in November.

The Cape Breton municipalities taking part in the pilot project are: **Cape Breton Regional Municipality, Richmond County, Victoria County, Inverness County,** and the **Town of Port Hawkesbury.**

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