



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

NSFM Responds to Safe Restart Agreement

FOR RELEASE SEPTEMBER 16 – Today, the provincial government announced funding allocations through the federal, provincial, and territorial *Safe Restart Agreement*.

The **Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM)** played a big role in highlighting COVID-19's direct impact on municipalities in Nova Scotia over the spring and summer.

NSFM's **COVID-19 Lost Revenues Report** was done with assistance from our members, the **Association of Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia** and **FCM** and released June 18.

It outlines that the province's State of Emergency required many Nova Scotians to stay home, forcing municipalities' non-tax revenue streams to almost entirely dry up.

COVID-19 also forced unexpected additional expenses for municipalities, including \$3.31 million to supply personal protective equipment (PPE) and Plexiglas service kiosks, and other health and safety measures.

The total expected shortfall for fiscal 2020-21 is \$66.5 million. Transit losses alone amount to \$23 million.

Without Safe Restart, those losses would have to be picked up by the taxpayer. That would mean an average 7.1% hike to residential tax rates in next year's budgets – an increase that would have had significant negative impact on the province's recovery.

The Safe Restart Agreement earmarks \$67.5 million to help municipalities address lower revenue from transit and taxes, as well as increased costs associated with COVID-19 infection prevention measures.

"Today's Safe Restart Agreement brings much-needed relief for municipalities who have been on the front lines of COVID-19," says **NSFM President Pam Mood**.

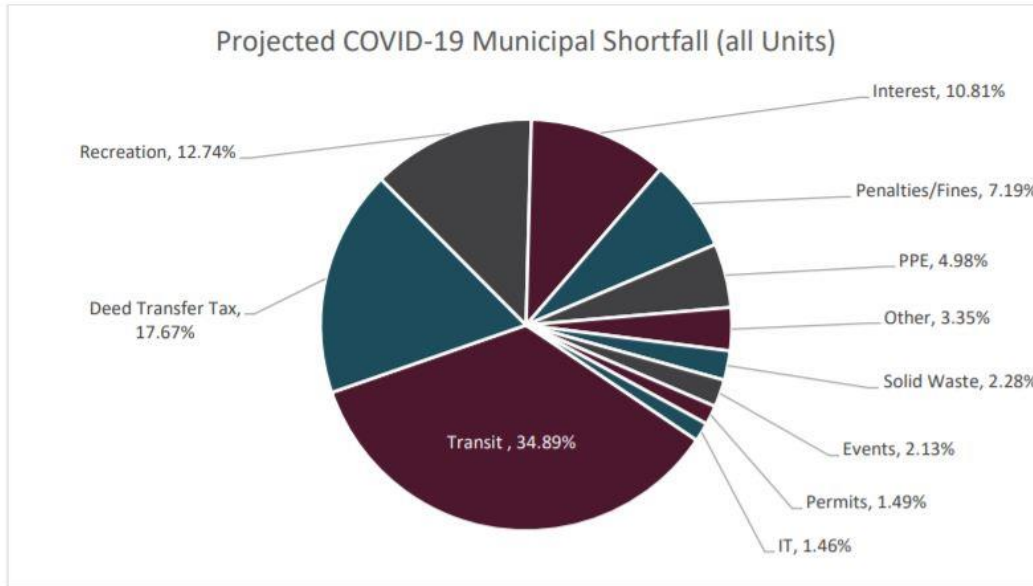
"Without an ability to access additional sources of revenue, or run a deficit, this funding will ensure Nova Scotia municipalities are in a solid financial position going ahead in 2020-21."

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This chart and table are pulled from NSFM's COVID-19 Lost Revenue report, available at: <https://www.nsfm.ca/1586-nsfm-covid-19-lost-revenue-report/file.html>)



Transit	\$23,184,740	Solid Waste	\$1,516,200
Deed Transfer Tax	\$11,743,732	Events	\$1,416,567
Recreation	\$8,464,679	Permits	\$990,622
Interest	\$7,183,438	IT/Comms	\$968,786
Penalties/Fines	\$4,775,640	Did not categorize	\$578,500
PPE	\$3,311,403	Did not report (est.)	\$101,570
Other	\$2,223,806	Total	\$66,459,684