



**NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES**

January 12th, 2021

Randy Delorey, M.L.A.

PRESIDENT:

Deputy Mayor Emily Lutz
County of Kings

155 Main Street, Suite 202

Antigonish, Nova Scotia

B2G 2B6

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Mayor Amanda McDougall
Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Delivered via email

IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT:

Mayor Pam Mood
Town of Yarmouth

Dear Mr. Delorey:

REGIONAL CAUCUS CHAIR:

Councillor Wayne Mason
Halifax Regional Municipality

RE: Position on property tax Capped Assessment Program (CAP) and the impacts of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) on municipalities

RURAL CAUCUS CHAIR:

Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
District of Lunenburg

Congratulations on stepping forward and adding your name to the leadership race for the Liberal Party of Nova Scotia. Your commitment to public service and leadership in this province is admirable. Thank you for your contributions.

TOWNS CAUCUS CHAIR:

Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Town of Port Hawkesbury

I am writing to you today on behalf of the NSFM Board of Directors to share with you a little about NSFM and ask your position on two of our top five priorities as voted on by our 49 member municipalities.

I would also like to invite you to meet with our board to discuss how you see the provincial/municipal relationship under your leadership should you be successful on February 6th.

As you know, the NSFM is the voice for Nova Scotia municipalities, representing all 376 municipally elected officials on program and policy matters with the Province. We formally engage with our members to identify action areas that would make the biggest difference to our communities. We share the results of this process with the Province and advocate to bring change that supports our members and those they serve.

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Phase-out of the capped assessment program (CAP) has been a priority item for municipalities for many years. While it was well-intentioned when introduced, the CAP has created significant inequities in the property tax system that unfairly burdens 60% of homeowners/renters, most of whom are disproportionately low-income.

NSFM has brought forward a proposal to phase out the CAP and also support those who need protection from sudden spikes in protection. We have also [published an interactive map](#) of all residential properties in NS where homeowners can view if they are overpaying or underpaying under the current CAP program.

Our proposal can be found on our website located [here](#).

Our second priority is for the Province to implement extended producer responsibility for printed paper and packaging (EPR for PPP), which can be read [here](#).

EPR programs transfer the cost of managing certain waste materials from the customer, who typically pay for the blue bag management through property taxes, to the manufacturer. With many other regions across Canada already having EPR in place, manufacturers generally build the cost of recycling into their retail price. This means customers in Nova Scotia are effectively paying twice for management of these materials.

An EPR program in NS would result in a significant burden being lifted from municipalities. Managing these materials cost them between \$14 and \$17 million per year.

We respectfully ask that you review these proposals as a leadership candidate for the Liberal Party of Nova Scotia. Each of these proposals is the result of significant consultation with our membership, careful analysis, and engagement with other stakeholders.

They represent the optimal possibilities for cooperation between municipalities and the Province, and each would make positive overall differences in our communities.

After you have considered the proposals, we invite you provide us with a statement that we can in turn share with our members to let them know where you stand on NSFM's priorities. It is our hope to make these available to our members on our website by Wednesday, January 20th. If you, or your team, have any questions, NSFM staff would be very happy to hear from you.

If you are available to meet with the Board, please contact our CEO, Juanita Spencer at jspencer@nsfm.ca or 902-999-7699 to coordinate a time.

On behalf of the board, NSFM wishes you the best of luck with your campaign. We look forward to receiving your responses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Lutz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Emily Lutz
President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities