



Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities/Department of Municipal Affairs Partnership Framework

Guiding Principles

The Province of Nova Scotia and the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) are committed to achieving a shared vision of healthy and vibrant communities in Nova Scotia.

The Province of Nova Scotia and UNSM recognize that joint engagement in government-decision making processes that impact local governments is critically important to success.

The Province of Nova Scotia and UNSM agree to work collaboratively to address issues of common interest.

This Partnership Framework formalizes our commitment to work together on joint priorities, to enhance communications, and to be accountable for outcomes.

Joint Provincial/Municipal Priorities:

1. Develop a protocol for consultation on legislative and regulatory changes that may impact municipal governments
2. Collaborate on the Joint Municipal Accountability and Transparency committee to develop a standardized regulatory framework for municipal expense policies that includes online reporting
3. Continue to review the Municipal Government Act and HRM Charter and recommend changes to modernize the legislation
4. Review municipal governance models and identify options for structural change that strengthen municipal viability
5. Continue to support the Financial Condition Index as a tool to help municipalities improve their fiscal capacity
6. Provide continued regional planning support including developing minimal planning standards
7. Continue to support the development of the Asset Management System
8. Continue to support the Regional Enterprise Network Model (REN) to enhance economic development throughout the province
9. Continue work on the Fire Services Review

Development of a Strategic Plan

The Province and the UNSM will develop a joint strategic plan that includes a work plan to address priorities (see above). These priorities will also reflect UNSM membership priorities determined at the annual fall conference as well as provincial priorities.

For each of the items identified, a work plan will be developed that includes deliverables, identified responsibilities and timelines.

The Province and the UNSM agree to share information, research and analysis to support the development and implementation of the strategic plan.

Governance and Accountability

The Minister and Deputy Minister of the Department of Municipal Affairs will meet with the UNSM Board regularly to discuss the progress of the priorities established in the joint strategic plan.

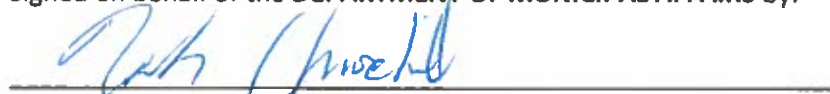
The Ministers' Round Table will meet two times per year to discuss the progress of the priorities established in the joint strategic plan and to identify any emerging issues.

Key Ministers and Deputies will be engaged as required based on their relationship to the strategic plan priorities.

Should issues arise that will impact on the progress of workplans, UNSM and the Province agree to work collaboratively to identify alternatives and solutions.

The strategic plan will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Province and the UNSM and both parties will agree on priorities for the following planning period.

Signed on behalf of the **DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS** by:



Minister of Municipal Affairs, Halifax, Nova Scotia
Honourable Zach Churchill

Signed on behalf of the **UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA MUNICIPALITIES** by:



President of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, Halifax Nova Scotia
Mayor Cecil Clarke

Dated this 1 day of December, 2016