

August 29, 2018

**TO: Mayors, Wardens, Clerks, All Units**

**CC: UNSM Membership**

**FR: Geoff Stewart, President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities**

**RE: NSFM BOARD REPORT AUGUST 24, 2018**

I am pleased to send you the highlights of NSFM Board Report from our August 24, 2018, meeting. We ask that you include this report on your Council Agenda. We would be pleased to answer any questions that may arise or hear any comments and/or suggestions.

Also attached is the update on our initiatives report.

**Minister Chuck Porter met with the Board and committed to working with NSFM and municipalities.**

1. **Code of Conduct:** The Board heard a presentation from the Association of Municipal Administrators, Mr. David Atchison, Policy Analyst/Project Coordinator, AMANS and Michael Dolter, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Truro. Discussion ensued and the Board was in agreement that AMANS continue to work with NSFM and produce a discussion paper with options. The discussion paper will be sent to the councils for feedback. The Board also noted this issue is important and needs to be addressed.
2. **Extension of PVSC Board Appointments:** The Board agreed to PVSC's request to extend the appointments of Mr. Michael Dolter, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Truro, and Ms. Jane Fraser, Director of Corporate and Customer Service, Halifax Regional Municipality for up to one year.
3. **Fire Services Phase I Report:** The Board approve the Transition Plan, Terms of Reference and Workplan as proposed by the Joint Municipal Fire Services Committee Phase I.
4. **Harassment Policy for NSFM:** The Board approved the NSFM Harassment Policy, which will be in force for all NSFM Events, Workshops and Conferences. [A copy of the Policy is located on the NSFM Website.](#)
5. **Approval of 2017 Audited Financial Statements:** The Board approved the 2017 Audited Financial Statements.
6. **Advocacy Policy:** The Board agreed to undertake Advocacy Days this fall, tentatively setting aside the week of September 24<sup>th</sup> to meet with members of the Legislature. Staff will contact each Caucus Chair to discuss the best way to arrange meetings with the MLAs.

**UPDATE ON: One-Third Tax Exemption:** The NSFm received a reply from Minister Morneau's office. Click [here](#) to view the letter from President Stewart to Minister Morneau and the response from Minister Morneau's office.



NOVA SCOTIA  
FEDERATION OF  
MUNICIPALITIES

Phone: (902) 423-8331

Fax: (902) 425-5592

[www.nsfm.ca](http://www.nsfm.ca)

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**NSFM Vision:** Effective local government and strong, sustainable communities

**NSFM Mission:** To enable effective local government for Nova Scotia’s communities by facilitating strategic advocacy, education and collaboration

## Initiatives

### 1. Partnership Framework

#### Description/Update

The workshop on Physician recruitment was held June 19<sup>th</sup>, and the presentation materials are available on the NSFM website. Staff are continuing to work with the Health Authority. A toolkit for municipalities is being developed.

NSFM President has written to Municipal Affairs encouraging the review of equalization to begin as soon as possible.

A workshop on internet is being planned for October 11. NSFM members will hear more about the provincial and federal initiatives, about municipal initiatives and the ways municipalities can support internet initiatives.

A joint committee on roads is being formed and NSFM members are being invited to serve on the committee.

Staff are working with the NS Real Estate Association on the CAP issue. NSFM will meet with them, the NS Home Builders Association, the Atlantic Mortgage Brokers Association, the Real Estate Lawyers of Nova Scotia and the Real Estate Appraisers of Nova Scotia to explore possible solutions. If agreement can be reached on possible solutions, a joint request will be made to the province to consider the solutions and work with us to implement one. In the meantime, the groups will be working with NSFM to better educate the public on the implications of the program.

The province has been holding consultations on minimum planning standards, and municipal spending authority.

The Joint Fire Services Committee Phase I is nearing completing of its work and is submitting its report. Once submitted, the report will be released to members. The committee is recommending an ongoing committee to act on the recommendations. In the interim to the establishment of this new committee, the existing members of the Phase I committee will begin work on the recommendations.

NSFM and the Departments of Seniors, Community Services and Municipal Affairs have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to support the SHIFT strategy. A Steering Committee to oversee the work is being formed. NSFM members will be invited to serve on this committee.

## **2. Cannabis Legalization**

NSFM continues to raise the need for new revenues for municipalities to address the implications of the legalization of cannabis.

The Joint Municipal Provincial Cannabis Committee met July 17. The province provided additional information on the legalization of cannabis, which has been forwarded to members. Following the latest meeting, NSFM Board wrote to the Ministers of Justice and Municipal Affairs again expressing concerns about the financial ability of municipalities to respond.

The UNSM/AMA Municipal Cannabis Working Group has been meeting to discuss the implications to NS municipalities. Training in preparation for legalization and implications for the workplace is being planned. Discussions continue on the implications for planning, bylaws etc.

## **3. Asset Management**

NSFM continues to support municipalities with asset management planning, as a requirement of the 2014-24 Gas Tax Fund Agreement. In mid-June, NSFM received word that FCM approved our funding proposal to the Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP) to deliver workshops to help municipalities incorporate climate risks into their asset management planning practices. NSFM will work with a local group – ClimAction Services – to develop two workshops, which will take place in late November. The workshops will aim to enhance local asset management practices by providing municipalities with the capacity to include climate considerations into their long-term infrastructure planning, so they can take necessary steps to proactively adapt their assets to climate risks.

NSFM continues to work on two online resources with funds received from MAMP: 1) an online course for elected officials on the basics of asset management (which is the final stages of development) and 2) an online learning module based on the Province of Nova's asset management pilot project's standard operation procedures for data collection and condition assessments for linear assets. NSFM expects that both courses will be completed in late October.

## **4. Upcoming Events**

- AMANS' "Leading in the Municipal Sector" Relationships, Decision Making and Innovation Workshop", September 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, New Glasgow, NS
- AIM Network's 2018 Atlantic Asset Management Conference, September 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Moncton, NB
- Atlantic Mayors' Congress, October 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, St. John's, NL