

Department of Municipal Affairs/Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities 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 joint two-year Strategic Plan that encourages 'Municipal Modernization', i.e. municipal cooperation and regional governance. The first iteration of the joint Strategic Plan shall consist of, but is not limited to, a strategy for regional collaboration through: **
 - a. The modernization of the Municipal Government Act and HRM Charter;
 - b. Regional planning support, including developing minimum planning standards;
 - c. Municipal Equalization and Provincial Grants; and
 - d. The creation of economic development tools.
2. Continue to support the Regional Enterprise Network (REN) Model to enhance economic development throughout the province.
3. Continue to support the development of the Asset Management Strategy.
4. Continue work on the Fire Services Review.
5. Identify options for an appropriate road network throughout the province to support safety, economic development and continued viability of communities.*
6. Work toward having all communities able to access high-speed internet connections to support economic development, education and health outcomes.*
7. Review any issues associated with the Capped Assessment Program and make recommendations on proposed solutions.*
8. Continue to support the implementation of the SHIFT goals, as outlined in the 2018 SHIFT MOU between the UNSM and Department of Seniors, that enable the development of age-friendly communities throughout Nova Scotia. *

* Addition for 2018-2019

Governance and Accountability

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

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 and to identify emerging issues.

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

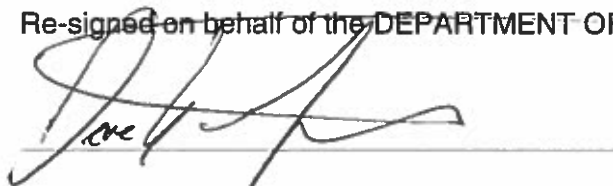
Should issues arise that will impact on the progress of workplans, UNSM and the Province agree to work collaboratively to identify alternatives and solutions.

The Partnership Framework will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Province of Nova Scotia and the UNSM and both parties will agree on priorities for the following planning period.

The Province of Nova Scotia and the UNSM agree to share information, research and analysis, to support the development and implementation of the identified projects.

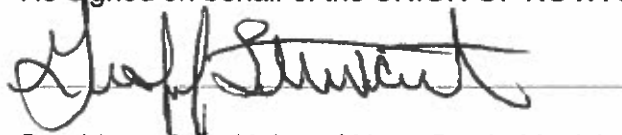
The Province of Nova Scotia and the UNSM understand the resource commitments associated with these projects and commit to delegating personnel resources, where possible, to these projects.

Re-signed on behalf of the DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS by:



Minister of Municipal Affairs, Halifax, Nova Scotia
Honourable Derek Mombourquette

Re-signed on behalf of the UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA MUNICIPALITIES BY:



President of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, Halifax, Nova Scotia
Councillor Geoff Stewart

Dated this 2nd day of May, 2018