



**NOVA SCOTIA
FEDERATION OF
MUNICIPALITIES**

PRESIDENT:

Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton
Town of Port Hawkesbury

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Municipality of the District of
Lunenburg

IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT:

Mayor Amanda McDougall
Cape Breton Regional
Municipality

REGIONAL CAUCUS CHAIR:

Councillor Paul Russell
Halifax Regional Municipality

RURAL CAUCUS CHAIR:

Warden Bruce Morrison
Victoria County

TOWN CAUCUS CHAIR:

Mayor Lennie White
Town of Westville

April 3, 2023

Deputy Minister Candace Thomas
Department of Justice
1690 Hollis Street
Halifax, NS
B3J 2L6

(sent via email)

Dear Deputy Minister Thomas,

Re: Municipal Policing Services and Contract Policing

I write you today amidst a number of significant announcements related to policing services in Nova Scotia. Last week, municipalities supported by RCMP detachments received letters outlining increased costs for policing services. These letters arrived on the same day that Nova Scotians were confronted with the findings and recommendations of the Mass Casualty Commission. With these significant developments occurring within the context of an already complicated and challenging public service, I am contacting the Department of Justice to explore how we can better work together in the interest of public safety.

We heard last week that the federal government has decided that contract partners must pay the outstanding retroactive pay amounts based on regular cost-share formulas. I would like to learn more about how the Department of Justice will be handling these costs.

The current consultation on contract policing being facilitated by Public Safety Canada provides a valuable opportunity to explore the challenges and opportunities of policing service. The Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) has cultivated a collaborative relationship with the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing. We are hopeful that we can cultivate a similar relationship with your department as this will allow us to address challenges and seize opportunities as best we can.

In closing, I ask, 1) how will the Department of Justice be responding to the invoice for retroactive pay amounts and will PPSA partners be required to pay a portion of this amount and 2) how can NSFM and the Department of Justice participate in Public Safety Canada's consultation on contract policing?

I look forward to receiving your reply.

Kind regards

Juanita Spencer
CEO, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities