

Department of Municipal Affairs and Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Partnership Framework

Guiding Principles

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

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

The Province of Nova Scotia and NSFM 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. Encourage 'Municipal Modernization' by ensuring the principles of municipal cooperation and regional governance are applied to:
 - a. The modernization of the Municipal Government Act and HRM Charter;
 - b. Regional planning support; and
 - c. Municipal Financial Capacity Grant and other Provincial Grants.
2. Identify options that will support communities across Nova Scotia increase the affordable housing supply.
3. Collaborate on solutions to become an accessible province by 2030.
4. Identify options for an appropriate road network throughout the province to support safety, economic development, and continued viability of communities.
5. Work toward having all communities able to access high-speed internet connections to support economic development, education, and health outcomes.
6. Review any issues associated with the Capped Assessment Program and make recommendations on proposed solutions.
7. As per the mandate letters with Department of Municipal Affairs and Department of Environment and Climate Change, look for ways to collaborate on Extended Producer Responsibility initiatives.
8. The Department will endeavour to work with municipalities to identify resources in order to explore options to support municipalities to address climate change to make their communities more resilient and sustainable.

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 NSFM Executive regularly to discuss the progress of the priorities established in the partnership framework.

The Ministers' Round Table will meet two times per year (schedules permitting), in September and January 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.

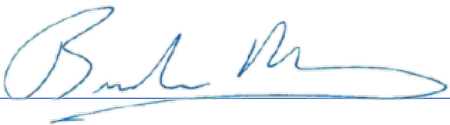
Should issues arise that will impact on the progress of workplans, NSFM and the Province agree to work collaboratively to identify alternatives and solutions.

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

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

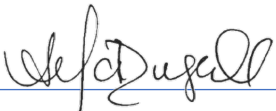
The Province of Nova Scotia and the NSFM understand the resource commitments associated with these projects and commit to delegating personnel resources, where possible, to these projects.

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



Minister of Municipal Affairs, Halifax, Nova Scotia
Honourable Brendan Maguire

Re-signed on behalf of the NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION OF MUNICIPALITIES by:



Acting President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia
Mayor Amanda McDougall

Dated this 16th day of July, 2021