



10 February 2025

Honourable Kim Masland  
Minister of Emergency Management  
PO Box 2581, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia,  
B3J 3N5

(Delivered via email)

Dear Minister Masland,

**RE: Rural Cellphone Coverage for Emergency Preparedness**

We write you today to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Emergency management and to inform you about the NSFM advocacy position on improving cellular coverage in this province. Our Board of Directors and Public Safety Advisory Committee have been following the phased development of the Innovative Solutions for Cellular Coverage Improvement, which is progressing under the watch of the Minister of Public Works. We are happy to see that a contract to advance Phase 1 has been awarded and that proposals for Phase 2 are being evaluated. The notable public investment, the effort to keep the public informed on progress, and the work being done with telecommunications providers to exceed business as usual all indicate a dedication to increasing cellular coverage for all Nova Scotians.

As progress of the Cellular for Nova Scotia Program continues, it is important to recognize the local insights and contacts that municipalities are uniquely positioned to offer. Municipalities should be engaged as partners at every step of the way to enrich the collaborative nature of this program.

We commend your statement as Minister of Public Works that reliable cellular coverage is a matter of safety. NSFM could not agree more and has recently established Rural Cellphone Coverage for Emergency Preparedness as an advocacy priority. We also commend your predecessor's decision, following Hurricane Fiona, to amend the Emergency Management Act with Bill 198. We urge you to proclaim these amendments as Minister of Emergency Management. These amendments will help ensure that telecommunications providers create emergency response plans annually and are accountable when most necessary.

Again, municipalities possess an abundance of local connections and insights that can inform emergency preparedness and we stand ready to collaborate on this important issue.

Kind Regards,

Mayor Pam Mood  
President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

Juanita Spencer,  
CEO, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

Cc: Hon. Fred Tilley, Minister of Public Works, DM Paul LaFleche, David Benoit (Build NS), DM Sandra McKenzie,  
Hon. John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs.