



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION OF MUNICIPALITIES

June 18, 2019

PRESIDENT:

Councillor Waye Mason
Halifax Regional Municipality

Mr. Gary Burrill
Leader, New Democrat Party of Nova Scotia
Suite 601, 5151 George Street
Halifax, NS, B3J 1M5

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Mayor Pam Mood
Town of Yarmouth

IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT:

Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart
County of Colchester

Dear Mr. Burrill:

RE: CLARIFICATION ON CAP ISSUE

REGIONAL CAUCUS CHAIR:

Councillor George MacDonald
Cape Breton Regional Municipality

I am writing to thank you again for granting the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) the opportunity to meet with you, and members of your caucus, to discuss the property tax CAP issue on May 24th.

RURAL CAUCUS CHAIR:

Warden Timothy Habinski
County of Annapolis

NSFM is recognized by the legislature as the sole voice of Nova Scotia's 50 municipalities. We are proud to advocate on their behalf and to work with all parties to find solutions that support Nova Scotians.

TOWN CAUCUS CHAIR:

Mayor Jeff Cantwell
Town of Wolfville

The CAP program is well intentioned. Helping people stay in their homes, or buy their first home, easing the burden of sudden and dramatic increases in assessments and providing predictability are goals NSFM supports. The CAP program, however, does not deliver as intended. We believe there is a better way to achieve these goals that are more equitable, transparent and fair. The proposal we presented includes:

- a spike protection mechanism to protect from sudden increases; and
- low-income protections (now in 47 of 50 municipalities); and
- a slow phaseout, providing a transition over 10 years; and
- revenue-neutrality in implementation, so tax rates go down at the same speed as the CAP comes off.

We appreciate being able to come together on issues of shared importance with your Caucus, and we look forward to the opportunity to visit again. We are also happy to clarify any of these points in further detail.

Sincerely,

{Original signed by}

Councillor Waye Mason
President, NSFM