



## The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities

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May 17, 2013

The Honourable Darrell Dexter, Premier  
Office of the Premier  
PO Box 726  
Halifax, NS B3J 2T3

Premier Dexter:

On behalf of the UNSM Board of Directors, I want to thank you for taking the time to meet with me on May 2 to discuss a number of important municipal issues.

As a follow-up to this meeting, I wanted to highlight a key point of our discussion which is paramount to municipalities across the province.

The UNSM would like to negotiate with the Province another MOU in two parts—one non-financial; the other financial.

Possible items for inclusion in a non-financial MOU include the following:

- Working with the Province as partners to develop a vision for municipal government including identifying challenges and opportunities, a review of roles, responsibilities, funding mechanisms, and legislation including the MGA, Municipal Elections Act and HRM Charter.
- A commitment to implementing recommendations from the Towns Task Force and Fiscal Review
- Developing a policy that ensures any provincial legislation or regulations affecting municipalities be discussed with municipalities from the beginning prior to implementation. These discussions would include detailed financial impacts on municipalities and an implementation schedule to ensure municipalities are able to comply in a reasonable and effective manner.
- Development of an action plan to determine how the above items will be implemented.

Potential elements for discussion in a financial MOU include support for the new federal infrastructure program including a separate fund for wastewater, mandatory contributions to education, corrections and housing, financial resources to support recommendations of the Towns Task Force and Fiscal Review, additional funding for roads, the MAG Office, and a province-wide asset management strategy.

While we recognize the financial MOU will take some time and negotiation to complete, we envision the non-financial MOU as something we could begin working on right away.

The UNSM would greatly appreciate if you could have immediate discussions with Minister MacDonell to determine Provincial support for the non-financial MOU. By indicating your support, UNSM and SNSMR staff could begin drafting the non-financial MOU for the Province to consider with final approval by early Fall 2013.

Again, thank you for taking the time to meet with me.

I look forward to your timely response to our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell Walker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Councillor Russell Walker**  
**UNSM President**

cc: The Honourable John M<sup>ac</sup>Donell, SNSMR Minister  
UNSM Board of Directors