

Resolution 12A

MUNICIPAL CONSULTATION ON INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT (PASSED)

⇒ Halifax Regional Municipality

WHEREAS municipalities are the owners of the majority of Canada's public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS municipalities have been closely involved in federal consultations to inform the new long term infrastructure plan; and

WHEREAS the federal-provincial funding agreements will be developed over the next 6 to 12 months; and

WHEREAS municipalities will have a central role in delivering the infrastructure plan;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOVLED that UNSM write to FCM and the Province to strongly advocate for municipal consultation and a role in the development of the federal-provincial funding agreement.

Background:

In March 2013, the federal government announced the new long term infrastructure plan (LTIP) to renew its infrastructure funding program under one umbrella. This program, a new Building Canada Fund, was developed after a year of consultation with provinces, municipalities and a wide range of stakeholders. The new Building Canada fund focuses on funding public infrastructure that will promote the federal priorities of productivity and economic growth, such as roads, bridges, highways, and transit. Overall the Building Canada Fund will deliver \$53.3 billion over 10 years.

Assuming that funds are allocated using a similar method as the original Build Canada program, it is estimated that the Province of Nova Scotia would be allocated \$370 million over the life of the program. Over the coming months the federal-provincial funding agreements, which will govern how funding flows and identify priority projects, will be negotiated. In order to maximize access to potential infrastructure funds, it is important that municipalities position themselves for success. The Federal plan was developed in close consultation with the Federation of Canadian

municipalities, recognizing the important role municipalities will play in delivering the plan.

As owners of 60% of Canada's infrastructure, municipal priorities must be front and centre as the funding agreements are developed. The same is true at a Provincial level. It is recommended that HRM support UNSM's close involvement in the federal-provincial infrastructure funding discussions to ensure municipal representation.

Response from:
Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

RESPONSE:

The provincial and federal governments are working together to create jobs and boost the economy, while making significant investments that help communities improve their infrastructure. The details of the federal Gas Tax Fund are currently being negotiated. SNSMR staff have consulted extensively with UNSM to ensure municipalities' perspectives are taken into consideration during the development of this federal-provincial funding agreement.

Consultations related to the Building Canada Fund are just underway. Once the program's parameters are announced by the federal government, the Province will consult with municipalities.

Municipalities have a central role in long term infrastructure plans, and SNSMR will continue to work closely with UNSM when developing infrastructure agreements.