

## NEWS RELEASE

For interviews or more information, contact:

**Mayor Dave Corkum**  
**UNSM President**  
Phone: 902-680-6125  
Email: dcorkum@kentville.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **UNSM Welcomes New Municipal Affairs Department**

**Halifax, March 7, 2014:** The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities welcomes Premier McNeil's announcement of a stand-alone municipal affairs department starting April 1, 2014. "This is something we asked for in our pre-election letter to the parties", stated UNSM President Mayor David Corkum. "Given the number of issues facing our municipalities, I was pleased that the Premier and Minister Furey were quick to follow through. This clearly demonstrates their willingness and commitment to address municipal concerns in a series manner", Corkum further stated.

The foundations underpinning municipalities are changing. Economic and demographic forces over a number of years, along with increasing regulatory requirements are making it difficult for municipalities. The Ivany Commission called for all levels of government and communities to work together and to make bold decisions. The government's announcement today will help municipalities move forward in the best interest of all Nova Scotians.

The UNSM is working with the Province on a number of important files including the Towns Task Force, Fiscal Review, Municipal Indicators, and reviews of the Municipal Government Act and Municipal Elections Act. All of these initiatives will have impacts on municipalities. Having a stand-alone department dedicated to municipal affairs will undoubtedly create a more efficient and smoother process to complete these initiatives.

The UNSM looks forward to continuing our strong working relationship with the Premier, Minister Furey and staff from Municipal Affairs to strengthen our communities.

*The UNSM is a non-profit organization that has represented the Provincial interests of municipal governments across Nova Scotia since 1906. Total membership is 412 elected officials representing all 54 municipalities.*