

Resolution 7C

WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING (PASSED)

⇒ Halifax Regional Municipality

WHEREAS wastewater system upgrades are necessary to comply with new federal regulations; and

WHEREAS these upgrades pose a significant financial risk to Nova Scotian municipalities; and

WHEREAS no dedicated funding program exists to assist municipalities in meeting the cost of the upgrades; and

WHEREAS in April 2013, the Atlantic Mayors' Congress passed a resolution calling on the federal and provincial governments to establish a dedicated fund, outside of the long term infrastructure plan, to assist municipalities in meeting the new wastewater regulations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UNSM support the Atlantic Mayors Congress resolution asking the Federal and Provincial governments to provide a dedicated fund to assist municipalities in meeting the new federal wastewater regulations; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the UNSM ask the Province for its commitment to establish this fund, and work with UNSM members to gain Federal commitment.

Background:

Upgrades to wastewater systems are some of the most pressing and expensive needs facing Nova Scotian municipalities in the short and medium term. With a significant infrastructure deficit and new federal regulations, substantial upgrades must be made to wastewater systems across the province. With some of the oldest infrastructure in Canada, many Nova Scotian municipalities are facing costs of hundreds of millions of dollars to upgrade their wastewater systems, if no cost-shared strategy is identified. For example, Halifax Water has estimated the cost to renew wastewater infrastructure and comply with federal regulations at \$1.34 billion (net present value) over thirty years.

In June 2013 Council approved water and wastewater as a top priority for

funding under the new federal long term infrastructure plan. Municipalities support the aims of the 2009 Wastewater Strategy. However the lack of any dedicated federal funding is a significant issue for municipalities.

In 2012, UNSM passed a resolution asking the Province to advocate for a dedicated funding stream within the long term infrastructure plan that will address the costs of wastewater system upgrades. The Province supported this and raised the issue with the federal government. The new federal infrastructure plan does include a funding stream that can be used for wastewater systems (the \$10 billion Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Fund); but wastewater is only one of a number of eligible projects in the fund, which is for both municipal and provincial projects.

In April 2013 the Atlantic Mayors' Congress passed a resolution calling on the federal and provincial governments to establish a dedicated fund, outside of the long term infrastructure plan, to assist municipalities in meeting the new wastewater regulations. The AMC introduced the same resolution at the FCM Annual Conference in June, where it also passed with overwhelming support. Given the importance of this issue to Nova Scotian municipalities, it was recommended that HRM forward the AMC resolution to the UNSM annual conference for endorsement, and request the Provincial government support its intent.

Response from:

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

RESPONSE:

We understand the burden of CCME and have made our position clear to the federal government. Based on early cost estimates, it is apparent that the costs to achieve compliance with these proposed regulations, for many Nova Scotia municipalities, will exceed their ability to finance if no support is available from the federal and provincial governments. We will continue to ensure that wastewater is a priority issue and pursue mutually beneficial solutions with all of our partners.