



**Municipal Affairs
Office of the Minister**

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JUL 10 2014

Mayor David Corkum
President, Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities
Suite 1106, 1809 Barrington Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3K8

Dear Mayor Corkum,

Under the provisions of the Municipal Government Act the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations (now Municipal Affairs) must provide to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities 12 month notice of any Provincial legislation, regulation or administrative actions that could have the effect of decreasing revenues or increasing the required expenditures of municipalities.

This letter is intended to provide notice of such changes for fiscal year 2015-16. The Department of Municipal Affairs canvassed all other Provincial Departments to seek information on plans for legislative, regulatory and policy changes in the coming fiscal year. The following is a summary of the results of that survey.

Department of Municipal Affairs (DMA)

DMA is currently engaged in a collaborative review of municipal programs and services with UNSM, AMA, and municipalities under the Fiscal Review. One of the goals of this review is to provide recommendations on changes to the suite of municipal programs to improve their effectiveness in meeting the needs of municipalities. DMA anticipate that the recommendations will include changes to several of the programs that if implemented, could result in some municipalities netting less funding overall and some netting more. While decisions have not been made on the recommendations that will be implemented there may be an opportunity for some recommendations to be adopted in fiscal year 2015/2016.

Department of Environment (DOE)

In 14/15 DOE is planning to adjust its Activities Designation Regulations to focus the departments work on high risk activities. Initially, our efforts will see elimination of the need for an Approval for some Watercourse Alterations and replace it with a requirement for notification and compliance with a specified standard. DOE are currently evaluating a similar approach for on-site septic system installations.

Consultation with municipalities regarding these changes is underway or complete. The expected impact to all stakeholders is a more effective and efficient regulatory environment.

DOE is also reviewing its Solid Waste regulations. As these regulations have a direct impact on municipalities, DOE plans to consult directly with municipalities on any proposed changes. The consultation process will help determine what the financial impacts might be on municipalities.

Yours truly,



Mark Furey