



## The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities

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September 5, 2014

The Honourable Mark Furey  
Minister  
Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations  
P.O. Box 216  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 2M4

Dear Minister Furey:

On behalf of the UNSM Board, I am writing concerning the 12 month notice letter we received dated July 10. While the letter identifies possible negative impacts, it is too general for a municipality to assess the financial impact of proposed changes. This has been the typical practice of the Province over the last several years. We have received a number of comments from our members noting the letter is not helpful.

As you are aware, section 519 in the *Municipal Government Act* states:

***519 (1) The Minister shall notify the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities at least one year prior to the effective date of any legislation, regulation or administrative action undertaken by or on behalf of the Government of the Province that would have the effect of decreasing the revenue received by municipalities in Nova Scotia or increasing the required expenditures of municipalities in Nova Scotia.***

The Board recalls the intent of the legislation was to provide information that would assist municipalities in preparing their budgets. Without specific quantified changes identified, the notice does not serve this purpose. Furthermore, the Board noted most municipalities would have passed their 2014/15 budgets without an ability to plan for possible changes. In looking forward to preparing their 2015/16 budgets commencing in the fall, the lack of specifics makes it challenging for municipalities to accurately plan.

The Board requests that this issue be recognized and addressed by all provincial departments. In particular, it is expected the Department of Environment, or any other department, will honour the one year notice should announcements be made on initiatives that will negatively impact on municipalities. Moreover, any announcement should clearly provide adequate information so that municipalities understand the financial implications for their budgets. Municipalities should have at least one year to budget, and perhaps even longer if the financial impact is significant.



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We appreciate your attention in this matter, and look forward to productive discussions on this and other matters.

I would suggest that this issue be added to the agenda for the upcoming UNSM-Provincial Round Table on September 24.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Corkum". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light grey circular watermark that contains the text "David Corkum".

Mayor David Corkum  
President, UNSM

DC/tv

cc: The Honourable Randy Delorey, Minister, Department of Environment