

Resolution 8A

PROVINCIAL-MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE WORKING GROUP **PASSED**

⇒ Halifax Regional Municipality

WHEREAS the Province of Nova Scotia is conducting a review of its solid waste regulations; and

WHEREAS municipalities are largely responsible for the operation of solid waste systems in Nova Scotia; and

WHEREAS any changes to regulations will have a significant impact on municipal operating costs; and

WHEREAS the Province has committed to consulting with municipalities on any proposed changes to regulations; and

WHEREAS an intergovernmental working group would allow for beneficial information sharing and input from all partners, and potentially set a benchmark for province-wide operating standards;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UNSM request that a working group be established through the NS Solid Waste Management Regional Chairs committee to inform the solid waste regulation review, with representatives from the NS Department of Environment; NS Municipal Affairs; municipal solid waste managers and directors; the NS Solid Waste Management Regional Coordinators; and UNSM; and that part of the mandate of this working group will be to seek additional provincial funding support.

BACKGROUND:

The NS Department of Environment is reviewing its solid waste regulations. As these regulations have a direct impact on municipal operations, the Minister of Municipal Affairs sent a letter to UNSM on July 10, providing 12 months' notice of potential financial impact on municipalities, as is required under the *Municipal Government Act*. As the review is still underway, the actual changes are not yet known. The Minister stated that the Department of Environment plans to consult with municipalities on proposed changes.

Solid waste is a significant item in HRM's annual operating budget (\$34 million in 2014-15). Provincial regulations are a major driver of solid waste costs for all municipalities. In order to work towards a coordinated and efficient approach to solid waste management services in Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Solid Waste Managers & Directors Committee (NSSWMD) has brought together municipal

solid waste managers and directors, representing 99% of Nova Scotian municipalities. HRM is represented on this committee.

The NSSWMD has proposed that a working group be formed to assist in evolving the solid waste regime based on identifying system wide efficiencies to support the Provincial revision of solid waste regulations.

The proposed group would include membership from:

- Department of Environment staff
- Municipal Affairs staff
- Representatives from solid waste managers and directors
- NS Solid Waste Resource Management Regional Chairs Committee
- UNSM

This working group would allow municipalities to participate directly in the review of solid waste regulations. It would also be an opportunity to set a benchmark for operating standards across Nova Scotia, and focus on ensuring both fiscal and environmental sustainability of solid waste operations. Given the significant impact this provincial review of regulations will have on municipalities, it is recommended that Council send the above resolution to UNSM's Annual Conference for endorsement.

Response from:
Department of Environment

RESPONSE:

A Provincial-Municipal Solid Waste Working Group was established by Solid Waste Resource Management Regional Chairs to provide input into the proposed regulatory framework. Nova Scotia Environment, along with the key stakeholders identified in UNSM Resolution 8A, have participated in the working group and support amendment of solid waste regulations.