

Resolution 11A

AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT RE TAXATION AND SALE OF MUNICIPALLY OWNED PROPERTIES (PASSED)

⇒ Town of Yarmouth

WHEREAS the UNSM tabled the report of the Towns Task Force in 2012; and

WHEREAS many small towns are getting more and more financially stressed to maintain essential services to their residents because of shrinking tax bases and aging infrastructure; and

WHEREAS survival of many small towns depends on finding new funding sources, equitable sharing with neighbouring municipal units, and innovative ways to deal with brownfields, municipally owned lands and aging, often vacant buildings;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UNSM urge the Nova Scotia government to implement the recommendations of the UNSM Towns Task Force especially those sections within Goal 6 that deal with more flexible taxation of properties and the sale/lease/use of Municipal Properties.

Response from:
Department of Municipal Affairs

RESPONSE:

The Department of Municipal Affairs has worked closely with the UNSM and AMA on implementation subcommittees of the Towns Task Force. Recommendations of those subcommittees was submitted in several stages, most recently in February 2014.

The Department has started negotiating a comprehensive 'Partnership Agreement' with the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) that considers municipalities requests along with provincial initiatives. Opportunities to improve the provincial-municipal relationship, including those recommended in the Towns Task Force report, will be considered in this agreement.