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December 16, 2014

The Honourable Mark Furey  
Minister, Municipal Affairs

Minister Furey:

At the UNSM Board meeting held on December 5, Building Code Coordinator Ted Ross and Fire Marshal Harold Pothier presented the Interim Report of the Working Group on Code Education for Consultation with Stakeholders.

The Board is supportive of the report in principle and is particularly pleased with recommendations that will make it easier for municipalities to access building inspectors.

The Board is pleased that the Interim Report recommends three levels of qualification where the first level would address single and two unit dwelling buildings. The Board also supports allowing municipalities to appoint interns while completing their studies. These recommendations address a UNSM resolution from 2010 that asked the Province to ensure that training opportunities for certified building officials are provided in a manner which will get qualified individuals ready for employment in the most efficient timeframe possible.

By providing qualification exams for each of the three levels and updated courses to assist in passing the exams creates a far more flexible system that may lead to reduced costs for municipalities.

It should be noted that another resolution passed by the UNSM in 2010 requested that the Nova Scotia Building Code Training and Certification Board streamline the process to enable qualified building officials currently working outside of Nova Scotia to become employable in Nova Scotia in as short a timeframe as possible. While introducing qualification exams will help with portability between provinces, the UNSM would still like to see Municipal Affairs work with its provincial counterparts to better recognize credentials between provincial jurisdictions. This will enable municipalities to hire building inspectors in a timely manner.

Please keep the UNSM updated on the status of the report following consultation with all stakeholder groups.

Sincerely,

**Warden Keith Hunter**  
**UNSM President**

cc: UNSM Board of Directors  
Harold Pothier, NS Fire Marshal  
Warden Russell Boucher, County of Antigonish