



NOVASCOTIA

**Community Services  
Office of the Minister**

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JAN 16 2014

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**JAN 13 2015**

The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM)  
Suite 1106, 1809 Barrington Street  
Halifax, NS 83J 3K8

Dear Keith Hunter:

Thank you for your letter of December 18, 2014, with respect to the Minister's Advisory Panel on Accessibility Legislation written on behalf of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities. It is encouraging to know the municipalities are willing to work with the Province to achieve a more accessible Nova Scotia.

You have raised several good points regarding the implementation of future legislation and standards. I have forwarded your letter to the Co-chairs of the Minister's Advisory Panel, so it may be included in the response to the invitation for input on Accessibility Legislation.

The Minister's Advisory Panel began its work in June 2014 and will present a Report and Recommendations about Accessibility Legislation for Nova Scotia to me in February 2015. The Report and Recommendations will be considered as Government drafts legislation. At the present time our Government is hopeful it will introduce Accessibility Legislation for all Nova Scotians to the Legislative Assembly in the fall of 2016.

There will be opportunities in the future for the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities and other interested parties to contribute to the process of developing legislation and standards. The Co-chairs of the Minister's Advisory Panel, Anne MacRae and Joe Rudderham are willing to meet with the Board of Directors of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities to discuss the process, final report and next steps leading to accessibility legislation. Please contact Joe Rudderham at [Joe.Rudderham@novascotia.ca](mailto:Joe.Rudderham@novascotia.ca) to arrange a meeting.

Thank you, again, for your letter.

Respectfully,



Hon. Joanne Bernard, BA, MA  
Minister

cc. Joe Rudderham, Executive Director  
Anne MacRae, Disabled Persons Commission