



NOVA SCOTIA

**Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 186, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2N2

August 4, 2015

Warden Keith Hunter
President
The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities
1809 Barrington Street, Suite 1106
Halifax, NS B3J 3K8

Dear Warden Hunter:

Thank you for your letter dated July 14, 2015, with regards to the provincial ferry system fee increase. We take your concerns very seriously and appreciate your correspondence.

We understand how important the provincial ferry service is to our communities. Therefore, we considered many alternatives so that we may continue to provide the current level of service.

Currently we recover 11% of the cost to operate the ferries through fares. With the increase we will recover approximately 19% of the cost. We would have preferred to not increase the fares; however, as costs increase and revenues decrease, we needed to reduce the gap to ensure the ferry service remains viable in the future.

Government is looking at ways to lessen the impact of the increase by providing more flexible payment options for the annual passes, as well as some additional fare options for ferry users.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write concerning this important issue.

Sincerely,



Geoff MacLellan
Minister

c: Dan Leopold, Director, Fleet Management