

A faint, light-colored map of Nova Scotia is visible in the background, showing the province's outline and major geographical features like the Bay of Fundy and the Strait of Canso. The map is centered and serves as a backdrop for the text.

UNSM Update to Caucuses

May 2016

Topics Update



- Partnership Agreement
- MLA Breakfast/Advocacy Days
- CAP
- MGA Review
- Fire Services Review
- Extra Officer Program (Formerly Boots on the Street)
- Structure/Forestry Workshops
- Accessibility Legislation
- EPR
- Rural Broadband

Partnership Agreement

- Moving but at a slow pace
- President Clarke meeting with Premier followed by round table between UNSM Executive and Ministers
- Expect movement on CAP and collaboration on provincial regulations
- Financial items challenging – will require further negotiations

MLA Breakfast



- Held April 6 in place of Advocacy Days
- Five ministers and both opposition leaders in attendance
- President Clarke conveyed importance of Partnership Agreement and CAP
- Importance of adopting recommendations of One NS Report

CAP

- Support from all three parties to form working group
- Working group to include politicians from three parties and staff from Municipal Affairs, PVSC, AMANS and UNSM
- Initial focus – review unintended consequences on certain home owners
- Much research to do prior to first meeting
- All parties coming together represents a good first step

MGA Review



- Working group deadline extended to Sept. 30
- Working groups include:
 - Planning, Public Safety, Governance, Programs and Services, and Fiscal
- Each working group to submit report to Review Committee, Steering Committee and then on to councils for further discussion

Fire Services Review

- UNSM partnering with AMANS and DMA
- RFP sent out to hire consultant
- Consultant will facilitate discussion with municipal officials on significant issues and challenges, best practices and possible solutions
- Work will commence in June and end sometime this Fall
- DMA is funding the project

Extra Officer Program

- Provincial Program that pays for RCMP officers
- Department of Justice has approached UNSM to work on a review of the program
- Goal to make it more sustainable
- Provincial budget indicated a reduction in funding but they have indicated unlikely to reduce number of officers

Structure Workshop

- On agenda



Forestry Workshop



- Held at Pictou County Wellness Centre on April 14
- Two outcomes:
 - Working group on forestry taxation
 - Working group on municipal input into management of crown lands

Accessibility Legislation

- Province looking at tabling legislation this Fall
- Committee has been formed with Community Services, Disabled Persons Commission, UNSM, AMANS and PWANS
- Mandate:
 - To develop and implement a municipal education and awareness plan
 - Engagement strategy with municipalities on how outcomes of legislation can be achievable in municipal sector
- Waiting for Province to call first meeting

EPR

- Priorities group awaiting provincial response
- Province indicated it would support full model if it goes forward – other products before paper and packaging – HHW, batteries, additional electronics
- Province looking to ban other materials
 - Textiles, off road tires
- UNSM working more closely with Solid Waste Chairs Committee
- Financial sustainability of the current system identified by Committee as significant

Rural Broadband



- Hosted a presentation at Rural Caucus meeting
 - Department of Business, Region of Queens, County of Annapolis
- Province committed \$6 million in budget
- UNSM will continue to work with municipal units and Province on implementation