

OUR MISSION

The UNSM is the collective voice
of municipal government
in Nova Scotia

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) is Pleased Canada and Nova Scotia have Reached an Agreement on Infrastructure Funding

Bridgetown, August 16, 2016: UNSM President Cecil Clarke, Mayor of Cape Breton Regional Municipality was present at the announcement today. "This announcement is significant," he said, "as it means municipalities will have access to critical funding to invest in our communities. Municipal infrastructure in Nova Scotia is often old, deteriorating and in need of upgrades to meet the requirements not only of today, but for the future as well.

Today's announcements mean that under Phase 1 of Canada's 10 year plan, *Investing in Canada*, almost \$240 million will be spent in Nova Scotia to repair and upgrade existing water, wastewater and public transit systems. For water and wastewater projects, the federal government will contribute 50% of the eligible costs, and the province and municipalities will each contribute 25%. For public transit projects, the federal and municipal governments will each contribute 50%. In total the federal government is investing \$115.5 million, the province of Nova Scotia \$43 million, and municipalities \$81.2 million.

President Clarke added: "The property tax is the primary source of revenue for municipalities and is stretched to the limit in most parts of the province. Infrastructure investment will ensure the infrastructure foundation is sufficient to support economic growth and community needs. Without the financial support of the senior levels of government, municipal property owners would be unduly burdened."

Both UNSM and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities have been pursuing an enhanced partnership with the federal and provincial governments. This announcement is evidence the seniors levels are government are listening. The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities is encouraged with the province's commitment to communities, and looks forward to working with the province

under a new partnership arrangement that will bring both levels of government together for the betterment of Nova Scotia.

The UNSM is a non-profit organization that has represented the Provincial interests of municipal governments across Nova Scotia since 1906. Total membership is 399 elected officials representing all 51 municipalities.