
NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities and the Association of Municipal Administrators are Pleased To Work with the Province to Increase Accountability and Transparency in Municipal Government

Halifax, October 28, 2016: The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) and the Association of Municipal Administrators, Nova Scotia (AMANS) are pleased to accept an invitation by the Honourable Zach Churchill, Minister, Department of Municipal Affairs to work together to increase accountability and transparency with respect to municipal council and staff expenses.

Cecil Clarke, President of the UNSM, presented the Minister's request to the UNSM Board this morning. The UNSM Board unanimously accepted the Minister's invitation.

In his response to the Minister, President Clarke stated, "We know municipalities want to maintain public confidence in local government, and UNSM will support them in this endeavour." He further indicated UNSM has been involved in discussions with the province, AMANS and the Property Valuation Services Corporation around mechanisms, like open data, to assist municipalities in being transparent and accountable. UNSM looks forward to further discussions.

Marie Walsh, President of the Association of Municipal Administrators, Nova Scotia which represent staff of municipalities says, "While we believe that the majority of municipalities in Nova Scotia have good policies and processes in place, this will be an opportunity to validate this and identify any gaps and/or

additional tools needed to facilitate a best practice of open and transparent government which is accountable to the citizens.”

The members of both the UNSM and AMA have a strong commitment to and sense of stewardship in their work