

## **Resolution 1**

### **PRIORITIES (PASSED)**

**WHEREAS** the UNSM was formed to be the collective voice for municipal governments in Nova Scotia; and

**WHEREAS** all municipalities in Nova Scotia are members of the UNSM; and

**WHEREAS** many of the challenges and opportunities facing municipalities require the Province to make changes to legislation, policy or regulations or require financial assistance beyond the capacity of the property tax system; and

**WHEREAS** the province relies on municipalities to contribute to many of its goals and objectives; and

**WHEREAS** both orders of government recognize stronger communities will make a stronger province, and a stronger province will make stronger communities; and

**WHEREAS** the UNSM continues to advocate for long term solutions to municipal sustainability; and

**WHEREAS** in order for both levels of government to succeed, both orders of government need to work in partnership on priorities; and

**WHEREAS** municipalities have come together to establish priorities to present to the Province, with the expectation that their priorities will be respected by the Province and responded to;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the UNSM present the following priorities to the Province of Nova Scotia:

- Economic Development;
- Rural Connectivity;
- Fiscal Arrangements (Structural Change Alternatives, CAP, financial issues); and
- Infrastructure; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that:

- an agreement be developed committing the Province and municipalities to work together on the top priorities;
- a formal protocol for collaboration be established; and

- a semi-annual report on the progress of these priorities be distributed to members.

Response from:  
*Department of Municipal Affairs*

**RESPONSE:**

*Thank you for sharing the 2016 Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) Resolutions. I applaud the UNSM's work to improve the resolution process and focus on priority items.*

*The Partnership Framework between the UNSM and the Department of Municipal Affairs (signed December 1, 2016), provides our organizations with a formalized process to collaboratively address issues of common interest, including the UNSM Resolutions.*

*I have asked my staff to work with the UNSM Executive and Association of Municipal Administrators to identify the resolutions that can be incorporated into our joint strategic plan. As outlined in the Partnership Framework, we will be reporting annually on our progress towards addressing these priorities. We will provide responses to those that are not part of the framework discussions shortly.*

*I look forward to working together on developing and implementing our joint strategic plan.*