

## **Resolution 5**

### **INFRASTRUCTURE (PASSED)**

**WHEREAS** municipalities appreciate the financial assistance provided by the federal and provincial governments for investments in infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS** municipalities bear the greater responsibility for operating costs, maintenance and eventual replacement; and

**WHEREAS** the federal and provincial governments benefit through income and sales taxes from infrastructure investments; and

**WHEREAS** municipal revenues do not typically benefit from these investments; and

**WHEREAS** municipalities are in the best position to determine their own priorities but funding from other levels of government are directed at eligible categories determined by the federal or provincial governments; and

**WHEREAS** municipalities are developing asset management plans to identify wise investments;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the UNSM request that the Province ensures that:

- federal funding programs are predictable and long term to ensure better planning and achieve greater efficiencies;
- the required municipal share be decreased in recognition of the full life cycle and operating costs borne by municipalities;
- funding be focussed on projects identified as priorities by municipalities; and
- their asset management program is fully implemented in three years for all municipalities.

Response from:  
*Department of Municipal Affairs*

**RESPONSE to:**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the UNSM request that the Province ensures that:

- federal funding programs are predictable and long term to ensure better planning and achieve greater efficiencies;

- the required municipal share be decreased in recognition of the full life cycle and operating costs borne by municipalities;
- funding be focussed on projects identified as priorities by municipalities; and;

*As outlined in the Minister' s 2016 mandate letter, the department is focused on maximizing municipal access to federal infrastructure funding and works hard to ensure that projects are fit into various infrastructure programs.*

*As you know, federal infrastructure programs such as the New Building Canada Fund - Small Communities Fund are developed by the federal government and administered by provincial governments. Funding is awarded to eligible projects based on the amount of available funding and the nature of the applications submitted by municipalities. While funding categories are determined by the federal government, municipalities are encouraged to submit applications based on their own infrastructure priorities.*

*The federal government sets the contribution and share of the funding in accordance with its program objectives, fiscal and economic considerations. The provincial contribution and share are in most cases set by the federal government, as they were for the Small Communities Fund. In the case where the Province can determine its contribution and/or share, these are set with the objective of balancing the amount of support given to individual projects, and maximizing the number of projects that are funded, within the fiscal framework.*

*The Province will share your perspectives with the federal government when next we discuss the development of infrastructure programs.*

**RESPONSE to:**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the UNSM request that the Province ensures that:

- their asset management program is fully implemented in three years for all municipalities.

*The Asset Management project is proceeding on schedule. The two major components include : 1) development of a portal for municipalities to enter asset information into an asset registry database, and 2) the collection of municipal asset inventory.*

*The first component - "building the portal" - will give the municipalities a system to capture and report on their assets (i.e . Asset Registry Database) and will assist in some of the decisions for sustainability, identify*

*infrastructure gaps and helping build stronger communities. Through consultation with both our Infrastructure Asset Management Nova Scotia Working group and our Project Management team, OMA has completed phase 1 of the development stage. We are currently reviewing responses to our Request for Information proposals, seeking information on external solutions to efficiently track and report on the assets of municipalities across Nova Scotia. The approaches will be evaluated and used to coordinate next steps in the Asset Registry development.*

*The second component is also well underway. The Infrastructure Asset Management Nova Scotia Working group, through partnership between the DMA and the UNSM, is proceeding with a municipal data collection pilot project. Creating an inventory of municipal assets is a substantial undertaking. By conducting a pilot project, the working group can estimate the time and effort that will be involved for every municipality.*

*The timeline for all municipalities to create an inventory of municipal assets and complete data collection has not yet been determined, but is anticipated to extend beyond three years. Under the Federal Gas Tax Agreement, municipalities are required to demonstrate progress towards the improvement of their asset management plans. The Asset Management registry project being undertaken by DMA will ensure that municipalities meet this requirement.*