

## **Resolution 2C**

### **HUMAN SEWAGE SLUDGE FERTILIZER (BIOSOLIDS) (PASSED)**

⇒ Town of Canso

**WHEREAS** human sewage sludge (Biosolids) fertilizers are presently used by some farmers in Nova Scotia under Provincial Government approval; and

**WHEREAS** bio-solids from human sewage are known to include many contaminants in the sludge that may be harmful to public health; and

**WHEREAS** a full study of the uses of Biosolids fertilizers has not been clearly investigated by either the Province of Nova Scotia or the Government of Canada;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities urge the Province of Nova Scotia to ban the application of human sewage sludge (Biosolids) fertilizers to Nova Scotia farmland until such time as a complete study on the possible harmful effects on human health and user farm lands may be completed by the Government of Nova Scotia to the satisfaction of the citizens of the province; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities petition the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to write the Federal Government requesting a ban on treated human sewage sludge (Biosolids) fertilizers on farms across Canada.

Forwarded to:

*Minister of the Department of Environment as well as Federation of Canadian Municipalities*

### **RESPONSE:**

*Thank you for your November 21, 2011, letter regarding the Resolution passed at the recent Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities' (UNSM) Annual Fall Conference. I offer the following response:*

*It is NSE's position that biosolids are organic, stabilized materials produced during the treatment of domestic sewage and septage sludge that have undergone secondary treatment to reduce pathogen content. Biosolids are the most researched and well-regulated organic materials applied to land and have been used safely in agriculture throughout the world for decades. The extensive and continuing research into the use of biosolids on agricultural land confirms that any risk to the food chain or the environment from recycling biosolids to land is exceedingly small, provided it is carried out in accordance with established industry standards.*

*The application of biosolids on agricultural land is an acceptable practice, allowed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and by jurisdictions across Canada and throughout the world, including being recognized as the Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) in most circumstances by the European Union and the United Kingdom government. The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) is developing a guidance document on the beneficial use of municipal biosolids, including land application to provide nutrients and organic matter for soil and plants. Nova Scotia has the most stringent requirements in North America for the land application of biosolids on farmland.*

*I have copied the Honourable John MacDonell, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, should his department have any additional comments.*

*Thank you for forwarding this resolution for my consideration.*

*The Honourable Sterling Belliveau  
Minister*

*January 5, 2012*