

Resolution 3A

EMERGENCY MEASURES FUNDING FOR MUNICIPALITIES (PASSED)

⇒ Town of Mulgrave

WHEREAS the *Emergency Management Act* (Chapter 8 of the Acts of 1990 and amended 2005, c. 48, ss. 1-6; 2007, c. 10, s. 2; 2009, c. 12) places significant responsibilities on Nova Scotia Municipalities including the establishment of an emergency management organization, the appointment of a municipal emergency management coordinator, and preparation and approval of emergency management plans; and

WHEREAS these responsibilities require municipalities to have in place personnel with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively manage emergencies; and

WHEREAS acquiring the necessary knowledge and skills generally requires attendance at training programs offered by the Nova Scotia Emergency Management Office and carrying out emergency management exercises; and

WHEREAS the course fees and travel expenses associated with attending Emergency Management Office training programs and carrying out emergency management exercises places a heavy financial burden on many Nova Scotia Municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request the Province of Nova Scotia provide financial support to Municipalities to engage in emergency management training, to develop and implement emergency management exercise, and for other operational activities related to emergency management at the municipal level.

Forwarded to:

Minister of the Emergency Management Office

RESPONSE:

Thank you for your letter of November 16, 2010, regarding Resolution 3A passed at the October Annual Conference of the UNSM. I am replying in my capacity as Minister of Emergency Management. The main issues of the resolution was the cost to municipalities of engaging in emergency management training, the development of exercises, and other operational events. The resolution called upon the Province of Nova Scotia to provide financial support to municipalities for these activities.

In fact, the Emergency Management Office (EMO) does support municipalities in all these areas. With regards to training, EMO holds courses throughout Nova

Scotia to ensure that people can attend a course in an area close to their home. Further, EMO subsidizes the cost of developing and running these courses. Some of the costs are shared with the federal government, but the majority of EMO's training budget comes from the provincial government. In addition, any municipality can apply to be considered for funding to develop and run emergency management exercises through the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP). This is a federal program that cost-shares emergency preparedness activities with municipalities on a 50:50 basis. Finally, JEPP can be used by municipalities to cost-share the expenses involved with emergency management preparedness. For example, the development of emergency operations centres and emergency plans are eligible for JEPP funding. Any costs associated with the recovery from a major disaster are also cost-shared with the federal government under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA).

The Government of Nova Scotia also supports emergency management through the Emergency Services Providers Fund (ESPF) and through financial contributions to the 24 volunteer ground search and rescue teams throughout the province. Taken together, I believe these are significant contributions to emergency management at the municipal level. For example, in 2009-10 JEPP contributed over \$300,000 to municipal emergency management projects. In 2010-11, this figure is expected to be \$215,000.

I hope that this clarifies the financial support that is available to municipalities for emergency management in Nova Scotia.

*The Honourable Ramona Jennex
Minister of Emergency Management
December 1, 2010*