

**The Union
of Nova Scotia
Municipalities**

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Town of Kentville

May 6, 2010

The Honourable Ramona Jennex
Minister
Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations
P. O. Box 216
Halifax, NS
B3J 2M4

Dear Minister Jennex:

Thank you for your letter of April 22, 2010, providing municipalities with the required notification of possible changes that may affect their revenues or expenditures. This information was presented to the UNSM Board at our meeting on April 28 and once we gather more detail from your staff, we will provide notification to the broader membership.

Department of Natural Resources

Our members are concerned that the transition from the Crown Land Information System to the Geographical Information System could have a significant impact on grants-in-lieu paid to municipalities. We will be meeting with Provincial staff to get a better understanding of the implications of this transition.

Despite our concern over this issue, I do want to compliment your Government on the decision to transition from your existing CLIMC system to GIS. The cost of collecting and maintaining data in disparate systems is significant. We look forward to more effective and timely data sharing between the Province and municipalities.

Department of Environment

Municipalities will be reminded of the prior notice (December 2009) concerning registered petroleum storage tanks. I fully expect municipalities will take advantage of the 50% reduction in the licensing fee by providing proof of insurance.

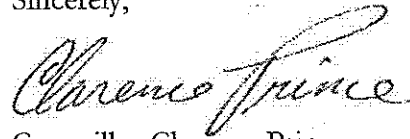
Expenditure Management Initiative (EMI)

We understand the significant financial challenges facing the Province and UNSM is anxious to work with your Government to find solutions. We serve the same citizens and a significant level of the government services our citizens receive are delivered at curb-side by municipalities; despite the fact that only 8 cents of every tax dollar collected goes to municipal government. This makes municipalities serious stakeholders and governments must continue to work together to build on the gains we have made. We cannot afford to go back to the 1990's, when deficits were pushed to local taxpayers, hurting our economy and the quality of life in our communities. Our relationship is strong, and we are anxious to know how we can help.

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In closing, I want to thank you for taking the time to meet with members at our Spring Workshop last week. Your commitment to municipalities and the residents they serve is obvious.

Sincerely,



Councillor Clarence Prince
President, UNSM

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