



The Union  
of Nova Scotia  
Municipalities

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Town of Port Hawkesbury

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Town of Kentville

Suite 1106, 1809 Barrington Street  
Halifax, NS B3J 3K8

Tel: (902) 423-8331  
Fax: (902) 425-5592  
E-mail: [info@unsm.ca](mailto:info@unsm.ca)  
Web Site: [www.unsm.ca](http://www.unsm.ca)

February 21, 2011

The Honourable John MacDonell  
Minister, Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations  
PO Box 216  
Halifax, NS B3J2M4

Dear Minister MacDonell:

I am writing you on behalf of the UNSM regarding your department's consideration of amending the Gas Distribution System Municipal Taxation Act. It is our understanding that SNSMR is looking at amending the existing act to ensure that municipalities share these taxes directly with villages.

Section 11 of the Act currently states that "a municipality of a county or district *may* agree to share taxes paid pursuant to Section 3 or 5 with a village located in the municipality if the assets taxed pursuant to Section 3 or 5 are located in the village."

Please be advised that at its meeting held on February 18, 2011, the UNSM Board unanimously passed a motion reiterating its previous position on the gas distribution formula—that as villages are part of municipalities, it should be determined by each municipality what to contribute to the villages.

Therefore, I respectfully urge that Section 11 of the Act remain unchanged.

Sincerely,

**Mayor Billy Joe MacLean**  
**UNSM President**

cc: Kevin Malloy, Deputy Minister, SNSMR  
Marvin MacDonald, Executive Director, Municipal Services  
UNSM Board of Directors