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APR 26 2012

**Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations
Office of the Minister**

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APR 24 2012

Deputy Warden Jimmy MacAlpine
UNSM President
Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities
1809 Barrington St., Suite 1106
Halifax, NS B3J 3K8

Dear Deputy Warden MacAlpine:

Under the provisions of the Municipal Government Act the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations must provide to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities 12 month notice of any legislation, regulation or administrative actions that could have the effect of decreasing revenues or increasing the required expenditures of municipalities.

This letter is intended to provide notice of such changes for fiscal year 2013-2014.

Nova Scotia Environment

Based upon existing terms and conditions of approvals for municipal drinking water supplies, there is a requirement for municipalities to conduct a system assessment report by April 1, 2013. Nova Scotia Environment is currently updating its treatment standards for drinking water. Municipalities have recently been consulted in these updates that are based on recent changes to Health Canada Guidelines. Future municipal costs will be determined by these assessment reports. Please note, municipalities have been aware of these requirements since 2008.

Labour and Advanced Education

As you may be aware, the Auditor General released a report in May 2011 with 25 recommendations related to the Office of the Fire Marshal. The government committed to addressing all 25 recommendations. The Office of the Fire Marshal has established a working group to review the requirements of the 2011 Auditor General's report directly related to municipalities and fire services. The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, and the Association of Municipal Administrators are represented on the working group, as are senior officials from Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations and the Office of the Fire

Marshal. It is unknown at this point if and/or to what extent this will impact municipal budgets in the years ahead.

Other

In addition as indicated in the April 2009 notice letter, the province continues to work toward including municipalities under the Privacy Review Officer Act.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John MacDonell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

John MacDonell
Minister