

Resolution 1D

ACCESS TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' EXPERTISE (DEFEATED)

⇒ County of Kings

WHEREAS the quality of policy decisions made by municipal councils is directly proportional to the information that is provided as background to the decision-making process; and

WHEREAS the Province of Nova Scotia, as well as individual municipal councils and the general public, have a strategic interest in ensuring that all municipalities are provided with the highest quality of background information on which to make decisions; and

WHEREAS the different departments and agencies of the provincial government often have the expertise, resources and information that can assist municipal councils in the decision-making process; and

WHEREAS, for reasons which are sometimes unknown, government employees are often hesitant and/or unwilling to positively respond to requests from municipal staff and/or council members, for professional advice, opinion and/or observations; the effect of such if provided, could be to the benefit the municipal government decision-making process; and

WHEREAS it is considered desirable that provincial government employees at all levels of the bureaucracy, when a request is made by a municipality, that they (provincial government employees) be encouraged to respond positively and provide information – including opinions and observations – that the individual employee believes may assist in the municipal decision-making process; and

WHEREAS it is important that such actions by provincial employees be undertaken without fear of negative repercussion in any way;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities take immediate action to establish a working committee, which will include municipal and provincial government representation, for the stated purpose of identifying and seeking to overcome present day barriers that hinder provincial government employees from providing requested background information, observations and opinions which can help municipal staff and councils in making informed decisions on matters that fall within municipal jurisdiction.