

Resolution 29A

RELOCATION OF PROVINCIAL OFFICES FROM RURAL AREAS TO URBAN AREAS (PASSED)

⇒ District of Digby

WHEREAS the province has over the years, and continues to remove Provincial offices from rural areas and relocate to central urban areas; and

WHEREAS the relocation of these offices to the centralized areas is having a negative impact on small rural communities, especially in terms of the removal of access to the services such as land registry, agricultural offices, etc; and

WHEREAS rural communities benefit from the jobs created by having these Provincial offices in their communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities petition the Government of Nova Scotia to suspend any plans to relocate provincial offices from the rural areas of the province to the more central urban areas; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request that the Government of Nova Scotia help support small rural areas in the province by developing a policy of de-centralization of their offices.

Forwarded to:

Minister of Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations

RESPONSE:

I am writing in response to your recent letter concerning resolutions passed at the recent Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities Conference.

Government believes that all citizens should have reasonable access to public services. This is witnessed by the number of services that are distributed across the Province from Access Centres and the regional office system provided by such Departments as Environment, Natural Resources, and Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

All Departments are cognizant of the importance of maintaining and strengthening employment in rural Nova Scotia and are endeavoring to ensure that a strong presence is maintained throughout the Province.

*The Honourable John MacDonell
Minister*

January 4, 2012