

PRINCE SEES PROVINCIAL BUDGET AS A “DO NO HARM” BUDGET TO MUNICIPALITIES

HALIFAX, April 6, 2010—The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) is reporting mixed reviews on the Provincial Budget. Given the \$490 million deficit facing the Province, UNSM understands the difficult situation facing this Government. “The good news is there are no significant adjustments directly impacting municipal budgets”, said UNSM President Clarence Prince.

“While we did not get everything we hoped for in this budget, we are pleased that the Province has honoured their commitment to the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding signed November 2007. This ensures the continued phase-out of municipal payments to the Province for corrections and social housing and a cap on the municipal costs of mandatory education payments to CPI. This provides municipalities with more predictability, and we are pleased to see this on-going commitment from the Dexter Government.” Prince went on to say.

The UNSM was not surprised with the increase in HST and recognizes the Province needs to increase revenue sources, but is concerned with the impact on municipal budgets and small businesses. Hopefully, tax credits and point of sale rebates will soften the impact of the increase in HST for some Nova Scotians.

UNSM is the voice of Nova Scotia’s 55 municipalities mandated to present the municipal perspective to the Province.

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