

## NEWS RELEASE

For interviews or more information, contact:

**Mayor Billy Joe MacLean**, President  
Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities  
Ph: 902-625-7893

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **UNSM Wants Province to Fully Fund MAG Office**

**Halifax, September 29, 2011:** The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) wants the Province to fully fund the Municipal Auditor General (MAG) Office. This office would be responsible for undertaking value-for-money audits within 54 of Nova Scotia's 55 municipalities. The only exception would be HRM who employs its own MAG.

B.C. Premier Christy Clark recently announced that the Province of British Columbia committed to setting up and fully funding an MAG Office that will work with municipalities throughout the province.

The idea of creating the MAG Office originated from an MOU signed between the UNSM and the Province in 2007. Justification for municipalities funding the MAG Office was the result of significant savings passed on to municipalities by the Province capping education costs and taking over municipal costs of corrections and public housing. These projected municipal savings were estimated at \$100 million over the course of the MOU. Earlier this year the Province dismantled the MOU essentially eliminating these savings to municipalities.

“The UNSM fully supports the creation of a Municipal Auditor General Office to promote accountability and transparency of municipalities right across the province”, stated UNSM President Mayor Billy Joe MacLean. “However, we feel that with the provincial decision to gut our MOU and eliminate substantial savings to municipalities, the Province should be obligated to fully fund the creation of the MAG Office. Moreover, the precedent has already been set with the Province of British Columbia announcing that they are committed to fully fund their MAG Office”, MacLean further stated.

The UNSM has made the request to Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations Minister John MacDonell that the Province fully fund the MAG Office. The UNSM Office is awaiting a reply.