

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 Worried About the Federal Government's Approach to the RCMP Negotiations

Halifax, September 29, 2011: The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) is very disappointed and concerned with the federal government's ultimatum as described by B.C. Solicitor General Shirley Bond. Solicitor General Bond indicated the federal government has threatened to withdraw RCMP services by 2014 if provinces and territories do not give a commitment by November 30, 2011, to sign their proposed new contract by April 1 of 2012. The existing agreement expires on March 31, 2012.

The provinces and territories have been working hard to reach a new agreement with the federal government based on three objectives:

- establishing a federal-provincial partnership where meaningful consultation would occur prior to decisions being made that impact cost, quality and governance of services
- more accountability in operations and financial matters
- real efforts to contain costs and to allow some control over the costs being passed on to provinces and municipalities.

Based on these objectives, and with input from municipalities, the Province of Nova Scotia, along with the other provinces and territories, responded to the federal government's offer with a new proposal in July. This new proposal has been ignored by the federal government. Instead, an ultimatum was delivered.

Mayor MacLean stated "Policing services are of prime importance to the citizens of our municipalities and it is irresponsible of the Federal Government to threaten withdrawal of their services by 2014. Our citizens do not deserve to be treated in this manner. All levels of government must recognize there is only one taxpayer, and the three levels must work together in a fair and equitable manner".

He further stated that ending negotiations now is indicative of a government not interested in listening to the people of this country. “Citizens are not stupid—they know police services are vital to their communities, but they also want their government to be accountable for their decisions. They want to know where their tax dollars are going and that services are delivered in a cost effective manner. What is wrong with asking for more accountability?”

-30-