

Resolution 12A

MUNICIPAL GRANTS TO VILLAGES (PASSED)

⇒ Rural Caucus

WHEREAS Villages are recognized municipal entities governed by the *Municipal Government Act*, PART XVIII; and

WHEREAS residents of Villages are also taxpayers of their rural municipalities; and

WHEREAS Villages deliver services and manage infrastructure for taxpayers of rural municipalities; and

WHEREAS rural municipalities may expend money to Villages through cost sharing agreements to compensate Villages for service delivery to rural municipalities; and

WHEREAS the fact that Villages are absent from *Municipal Government Act's*, 65(a) list of organizations eligible for municipal grants or contributions, effectively prohibits rural municipalities from expending money to Villages in the form of grants or contributions; and

WHEREAS in Canada, grants from one level of government to another level are legislated mechanisms, predicated on a principle that governments with more financial capacity may aid governments with less financial capacity; and

WHEREAS the Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV) have written to the Minister of SNSMR requesting an amendment to the *Municipal Government Act* to include Villages as eligible recipients of municipal grants; and

WHEREAS the Minister of SNSMR's written reply to the ANSV states, "*If an agreement can be reached by all parties (UNSM, Nova Scotia, ANSV), [his] department would be willing to bring this amendment forward at a future session at the Legislature.*"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities communicate to the Minister its support for an amendment to the *Municipal Government Act* which permits a municipality to expend money to Villages in the form of grants or contributions.

Forwarded to
Minister of Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations

Province introduced legislation on November 1, 2012, to address this issue.

No further action required.