

## **Resolution 24A**

### **PROVINCIAL TRANSIT FUND (PASSED)**

- ⇒ Town of Kentville
- ⇒ Town of Wolfville
- ⇒ County of Kings

**WHEREAS** there is an increasing demand for transit services throughout Nova Scotia; and

**WHEREAS** municipalities may provide public transportation services under the Municipal Government Act; and

**WHEREAS** both the Province and municipalities are interested in reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and

**WHEREAS** municipal units have limited fiscal capacity and are unable to fund the deficits resulting from providing public transportation services; and

**WHEREAS** the Province has announced its intention to reduce the HST by one percentage point in 2014;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities work with the Province to establish a Transit Fund which would be used to match municipal spending on transit services; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request that the Province establish the fund at an amount equal to one-half of the one per cent reduction in HST (approximately \$80 million per year); and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request that the Province consider redirecting a portion of the proposed HST reduction to fund the Transit Fund.

Forwarded to:

*Minister of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal  
&  
Minister of Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations*

### **RESPONSE:**

*I want to acknowledge with thanks your letter of October 4, 2012, enclosing four Resolutions passed at the September Annual Conference of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities.*

*I should note that Resolutions 17A, 24A, and 4C fall under the purview of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Affairs. We have, therefore, referred those Resolutions to that department for response.*

*The Honourable Maurice Smith, QC  
Minister  
October 23, 2012*

***RESPONSE (from Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations):***

*I am pleased to send to you the Department's response to the 2012 Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) Resolution.*

*The Province has implemented major changes to get to a balanced budget this year and to make life affordable for Nova Scotians. In 2004/05 the Province and municipalities entered into a service exchange agreement that transferred the responsibility for public transit to municipalities. Since that time, the Province's only involvement in public transit has been to support community based transit services in rural areas through the programs offered by SNSMR.*

*The Honourable John MacDonell  
Minister  
May 1, 2013*