

Resolution 2C

CCME WASTEWATER STRATEGY (PASSED)

⇒ Halifax Regional Municipality

WHEREAS new federal regulations for wastewater treatment systems are forthcoming in the near future; and

WHEREAS the new regulations will require extensive construction of or upgrades to municipal wastewater systems across Canada; and

WHEREAS no funding strategy to meet the cost of facility upgrades has been identified as of yet; and

WHEREAS municipalities are unable to take on the cost of these upgrades by themselves; and

WHEREAS a national strategy and regulatory regime demands a national, predictable costing strategy; and

WHEREAS a federal long-term infrastructure plan is being developed for 2014;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities urge the Province of Nova Scotia to advocate for a dedicated funding stream within the long term infrastructure plan that will address the costs of wastewater system upgrades.

Forwarded to:

Minister of the Department of the Environment

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Minister of Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations

RESPONSE (from Department of Environment):

Nova Scotia has worked on, through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME), the development of a Canada-wide strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent (MWWE). It was our understanding that Environment Canada would release federal wastewater regulations to support this strategy and we requested that any new regulation be accompanied by a dedicated federal funding program to support implementation.

On July 18, 2012, Environment Canada released new wastewater regulations under the Fisheries Act. I am planning to send a letter to the federal Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Peter Kent, indicating

that Nova Scotia communities will require assistance to meet the new regulations and that targeted federal funding is required to support this initiative.

The Honourable Sterling Belliveau

Minister

October 31, 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.

We understand the burden of CCME and have made our position clear to the Federal government. Based on early cost estimates, it is apparent that the costs to achieve compliance with these proposed regulations, for many Nova Scotia municipalities, will exceed their ability to finance, if no support is available from the Federal and Provincial governments. We will continue to ensure that wastewater is a priority issue and pursue mutually beneficial solutions with all of our partners.

The Honourable John MacDonell

Minister

May 1, 2013