

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNSM Reports Mixed View on Provincial Budget

Halifax, April 4, 2013: The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) reports mixed views on the provincial budget.

"The bottom line is that this budget did not provide any new funding for municipalities and at the same time we will be forced to pay more education costs which is a provincial responsibility," said Councillor Russell Walker, UNSM President. "And while we are pleased that the Province will contribute to the new infrastructure program, we want to ensure that majority of this funding will remain with municipal projects," Walker further stated.

Municipalities will also have to start paying for DNA analysis which is estimated at \$1 million.

On the positive side the UNSM was pleased that the Province will maintain funding for "Boots on the Street" Program which ensures additional police officers. The Province also committed to assist municipalities in funding community development projects through the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage. "With the formation of the Regional Enterprise Networks, many municipalities were concerned that there would be no provincial funding for community development projects. The Province has indicated that this funding will remain in place. We are pleased that they have listened to municipalities on this important issue," Walker stated.

The budget did not address a number of unknown costs including policing and wastewater regulations which is estimated to be in the millions of dollars.