

May 12, 2023

Dear Municipal Partners,

We are reaching out today to seek your input regarding a key next step as the governments of Nova Scotia and Canada collectively move forward on the recommendations of the Mass Casualty Commission.

We recognize the insight you can provide in this process as the local representatives who are closely connected to the people and the communities that were most affected by the events of April 18/19, 2020.

The Mass Casualty Commission Final Report called on both levels of government to work together to create an Implementation and Mutual Accountability Body to monitor and report on the implementation of the report's recommendations. Found at Recommendation I.1, the report recommends that the Chair of this entity be appointed by May 31, 2023. We have attached a copy of Recommendation I.1 for your review.

The Governments of Nova Scotia and Canada are taking action on this recommendation and wish to hear from you with respect to the appointment of the Chair. Your input on the Chair position, including the background and experiences the person should possess, is welcome. Submissions can be directed, in writing, to ChairConsult@novascotia.ca. Submissions will be accepted until Monday, May 22 at 12:00 am.

We also want to take this time to share that support is available. The provincial mental health crisis line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 1-888-429-8167. We are providing additional supports in Colchester, Cumberland and Hants Counties which includes a mobile health clinic, mental health, peer supports and grief and trauma counselling. You may also provide input and share feedback on longer term services and supports for these areas through community engagement sessions. More information, including dates and locations, can be found at novascotia.ca/community-support or by calling 211.

You may also wish to access the Government of Canada's Wellness Together Portal which provides free, credible information and supports available 24/7 to individuals across Canada to help address mild to moderate mental health and substance use issues. The portal provides an inclusive experience to all individuals in Canada, tailored to meet the needs of varying age groups and diverse populations. To access support workers, social workers, psychologists and other professionals for free, confidential text sessions or phone calls, simply text the word WELLNESS to 686868 (Youth) and 741741 (Adults), or call 1-888-668-6810 (Youth) and 1-866-585-0445 (Adults).

Yours truly,

The Honourable Brad Johns
Attorney General of Nova Scotia
Minister of Justice

The Honourable Marco Mendicino, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Public Safety Canada