

May 2, 2023

The Honourable Brad Johns
Attorney General and Minister of Justice
Department of Justice
1690 Hollis Street
P.O. Box 7
Halifax, NS
B3J 2L6

Re: RCMP Retroactive Costs

Dear Minister,

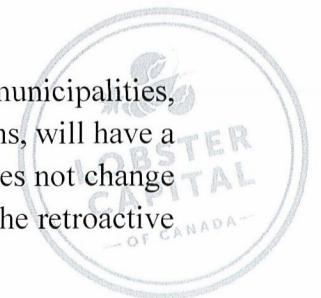
I am writing to you to express our concerns and profound disappointment in the federal government's decision to not absorb retroactive costs associated with the latest RCMP collective bargaining agreement.

Despite months of municipal advocacy led by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), provincial-territorial associations and local leaders across Canada, the federal government has indicated in the most recent federal budget that it will not be meeting the request to absorb the retroactive costs associated with the latest RCMP collective bargaining agreement.

This confirms that communities across Canada that are dependent on RCMP services for local policing, such as us and many others in Nova Scotia, will be expected to cover these costs.

We share the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities' disappointment that the only relief offered to municipalities is a slightly extended timeline for repayment and are aware that FCM and other municipal associations are set on expressing our disappointment with this decision by issuing a joint statement.

That said, the decision to pass unbudgeted and unaccounted-for RCMP costs on to municipalities, without consulting or engaging local governments in the discussions and negotiations, will have a serious impact on municipal finances. For this reason, if the federal government does not change its decision, we respectfully request that the Province of Nova Scotia fully absorb the retroactive costs.

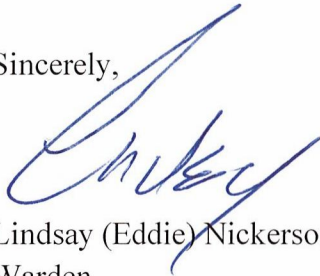


We realize that this request is substantial, but it is not being made lightly. As your colleague the Honourable John Lohr can attest, municipalities and towns are under increasing pressure to provide high-quality services at the lowest possible cost, all while managing the challenges relating to inflation and financial uncertainty. We are paying a growing share of policing costs and we cannot run deficits and have limited revenue tools, thus having a significant impact on our ability to maintain services as they are and adequately invest in our future.

We will continue to draw attention to this challenge, to help ensure municipalities are properly consulted on issues related to community policing and well-being going forward.

I thank you in advance for your serious consideration to this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions or would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson
Warden

cc: The Honourable Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia
The Honourable John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Mr. Nolan Young, M.L.A. for Shelburne
Mayor Chisholm-Beaton, President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
All Nova Scotia Municipalities and Towns



