



December 5, 2024

The Honourable John Lohr, Minister  
Department of Municipal Affairs & Housing  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor North, Maritime Centre  
1505 Barrington Street  
PO Box 216  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 2M4

**Re: Changes to the Nova Scotia Municipal Government Act (MGA)**

Dear Minister:

I am writing on behalf of East Hants Municipal Council seeking changes to the Nova Scotia MGA that would bring it in better alignment with the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter (Charter). Specifically, in relation to the matters that can be discussed in-camera.

The Charter includes Section 19 outlining when Halifax Council is permitted to go in-camera for confidential discussions in a closed session, similar to the MGA. One difference is that the Charter allows in-camera discussions regarding Federal and Provincial government topics, which the MGA does not permit.

*The Halifax Regional Municipality Charter Section (19)*

*Open meetings and exceptions includes:*

*(i) Any subject, the discussion of which could, in the opinion of the Council or the committee, as the case may be, violate the confidentiality of information obtained from*

*(i) The Government of Canada or the Government of the Province,*

*(ii) An agency of the Government of Canada or the Government of the Province, or*

*(iii) A public body.*

The addition of this clause to the MGA would allow other Council's the opportunity to discuss these types of topics confidentially as well.

Therefore, East Hants respectfully requests that your government considers an update to the MGA to bring it into alignment with Section 19 of the Charter, as soon as procedurally possible.

Best regards,



Eleanor Roulston

Warden

Cc:

- Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM)
- Association of Municipal Administrators (AMANS)
- Melissa Sheehy-Richard, MLA Hants West
- John A. MacDonald, MLA Hants East
- Brad Johns, MLA Sackville-Uniacke