



March 5, 2025

Mayor Pam Mood, President & Executive Committee Member
Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
Suite 1304, 1809 Barrington Street
Halifax, NS
B3J 3K8

Re: Provincial Legislation Impacting Nova Scotia Municipalities

Dear Mayor Mood,

I am writing on behalf of the Municipality of East Hants to share concerns from Council regarding recent correspondence from the province from Minister Lohr, as well as with recently tabled legislation - Bill 24.

While we understand the interest of the province to become more self-reliant during fiscal challenges and to protect the economy, we cannot be expected to comment on items about which we have not been consulted or been provided with detailed information.

The specific concerns with Bill 24 are the powers being given to the Minister to over-ride local priorities in ordering municipalities to action anything under the Act and to pay for that action. These clauses will affect the municipality's ability to make decisions for their local community and erode our autonomy.

The other concern we have is the continued lack of consultation with municipalities and Council's across this province, especially when proposed legislation directly impacts municipal budgets and disregards the 12-month notice requirement entrenched in the MGA.

East Hants Council passed the following motion at its February 26th, 2025 meeting:

Be it resolved that the Municipality of East Hants supports the work of the NSFM in advocating for Nova Scotia Municipalities to be at the table with provincial legislative and policy makers when legislation that affects municipalities is being contemplated, and that the Warden has autonomy to sign a letter expressing support of the NSFM in representing the needs of municipalities that support municipal autonomy, strong decision making and municipal engagement.

East Hants Council fully supports the work of NSFM and encourages continued advocacy efforts with the province to ensure our concerns are recognized and our autonomy is protected.

Best regards,



Eleanor Roulston, Warden

Cc:

John MacDonald, MLA Hants East

Melissa Sheehy-Richard, MLA Hants West

Brad Johns, MLA Sackville-Uniacke