



Municipal Affairs
Office of the Minister

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August 5, 2025

VIA EMAIL

To: Mayors and Wardens

Re: Value-for-money audit of the Nova Scotia Firefighters School

The Province values the crucial role fire services play in emergencies throughout the province. Firefighters put their lives at risk every day to keep Nova Scotians safe and away from harm, and in return, they deserve to be trained at a school that puts their safety first.

In June, we commissioned a comprehensive value-for-money audit into the operations and governance of the Nova Scotia Firefighters School. This letter is to inform you that we released the findings publicly today. The results were clear: the Nova Scotia Firefighters School cannot safely and effectively operate as it is.

The findings of the report were troubling. They show a consistent failure to uphold a culture of safety, and serious, unaddressed safety-related deficiencies. The report also identified a dysfunctional governance structure, outdated bylaws, non-existent committees, lack of strategic planning and a decline in infrastructure. Other issues noted in the report were lack of stakeholder engagement, inadequate oversight of the Executive Director, eroded public trust and a loss of confidence by firefighters.

As a result, the Province is ending its relationship with the school. A steering committee on firefighter training will be established in the coming weeks to oversee an interim training plan and to guide the work on a long-term comprehensive training model for firefighters once the results of a broader fire services review are in. The goal is to have the interim training available by fall.

The results of the audit will help to inform a broader fire services review focusing on governance, operations, communications, funding and more, expected in September.

Nova Scotian firefighters deserve no less.

Mayors and Wardens
Page 2

A link to the value-for-money audit report is included:
<https://beta.novascotia.ca/documents/nova-scotia-firefighters-school-audit>

Sincerely,



Honourable John Lohr
Minister of Municipal Affairs

c: Chief Administrative Officers
Juanita Spencer, NSFM