



October 31, 2025

Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
Suite 1500, 1809 Barrington Street
Halifax, NS
B3J 3K8

Via Email: info@nsfm.ca

Dear NSFM Board,

East Hants has had a Code of Conduct for Elected Officials for years. The right of the public and of elected colleagues to raise concerns about a councillor is a right that the Council of East Hants believes in. The passing of regulation to stifle the public's ability to enter complaints about a Councillor are troubling to East Hants and should be to all elected officials in the province, both provincial and municipal. The regulation has been written in such a way that individual municipalities are not permitted to take complaints from the public. This is a step backwards for many.

To be in compliance with Provincial legislation, East Hants Council has taken the step to repeal their Code of Conduct approved in 2024 to meet part 23A (2) (aa) of the MGA. This Code of Conduct, which went above and beyond the Provincial regulations, has been replaced with the regulated Code of Conduct.

We recognize that the Code of Conduct was perhaps not working as intended in some cases. We also recognize that appropriate consultation with municipalities could have resulted in amendments that would have supported those struggling with Code complaints, while maintaining the integrity of the Code of Conduct process for the public.

On behalf of the residents of East Hants we are requesting that the NSFM advocate for amended regulations that re-open public participation (as soon as possible) and that deal with frivolous and vexatious complaints, improve the intake process for vetting complaints that may be code related and

improve financial controls through the process. We believe that our CAOs are a valuable resource to vet complaints and direct them to an investigator if the complaint could fall within the parameters of the Code.

A similar letter has been sent from East Hants Council to the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eleanor Roulston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eleanor Roulston
Warden, Municipality of East Hants