



Via: dmamin@novascotia.ca

December 1, 2025

John A. MacDonald  
Minister of Municipal Affairs  
Department of Municipal Affairs  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor, North, Maritime Centre  
1505 Barrington Street  
PO Box 216  
Halifax, NS B3J 2K5

Dear Sir,

Upon receipt of your letter to all the Mayors, Wardens, and Chiefs of Nova Scotia, I am deplored of the inaccuracies and assumptions you have made on your comprehensive “spreadsheet” regarding how our local governments are funded.

Firstly, you have not taken the time or effort to meet with the Sipekne'katik Council during your fact-finding mission, which clearly disregards your government's commitment to increasing public awareness and understanding of Aboriginal issues. It also undermines efforts to build a fairer future for Indigenous Peoples of Nova Scotia through renewed Nation-to-Nation, Government-to-Government relationships. The “false narrative” of transparent and fair information sharing has been poorly conceived, and your divisive actions further contribute to racial and paternalistic attitudes towards the Mi'kmaw of Nova Scotia.

As you are aware, municipal funding comes from the Department of Municipal Affairs and the tax dollars of its residents within its jurisdiction. I cannot speak for other Nova Scotia First Nations governments, but the population numbers of many municipalities include members of our Sipekne'katik community members who live off-reserve and own homes in various municipalities across Nova Scotia.

The actual funding received from the Province of Nova Scotia for 2024-2025 was \$172,696.40, derived from proposal-based grants that Sipekne'katik successfully secured. The revenues Sipekne'katik received from taxation revenues for lands that are not designated reserve lands is \$0, yet Sipekne'katik paid \$47,980.45 in property taxes and municipal services.



The reported \$74,123,072.00 in your spreadsheet also includes own-source revenues. The total funding Sipekne'katik receives and earns each year is an economic driver for the Province of Nova Scotia. The local businesses and municipalities around Sipekne'katik prosper from the fiscal leakage of our funding streams.

It is disgraceful that you would compare Sipekne'katik's funding sources with those of municipal governments. Just so it is clear, Sipekne'katik is funded through federal programs and initiatives and is guided by the *Indian Act*, which covers education, health, housing, infrastructure, and economic development. The federal government has a fiduciary responsibility to First Nations for placing us on reserve lands. The responsibility of Sipekne'katik's Chief and Council is to ensure that our members have culturally appropriate programming and services that will create a strong and viable community – now and for the future.

I expect that you provide the Sipekne'katik Council with a public apology for misconstruing inaccurate information to the public and that you qualify and quantify your assumptions with comparable facts.

In the Spirit of Reconciliation,

Chief Michelle Glasgow,  
Sipekne'katik First Nation

cc. Mayors, Wardens, and Chiefs of Nova Scotia  
Honourable Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia  
Claudia Chender, Leader of the Official Opposition, New Democratic Party  
Derrek Mombourquette, Liberal Interim Leader