

Sheralee Mitchell-MacEwan

Subject: FW: Thank You for Participating & An Update on An Act to Provide Support for Fire Protection Services

Attachments: QA Support for Fire Protection Services Act - FINAL -Feb262026.pdf; Bill 186 - Act to Provide Support for Fire Protection Services - Overview.pdf

From: Nova Scotia Fire Modernization Initiative <firemodernization@novascotia.ca>

Sent: February 27, 2026 3:28 PM

Subject: Thank You for Participating & An Update on An Act to Provide Support for Fire Protection Services

Dear Participants,

Thank you for joining us during the recent **Fire Modernization Implementation Planning Sessions**.

As part of our ongoing work, we partnered with the Fire Services Association of Nova Scotia (FSANS) to gather province-wide input. We appreciate the feedback and perspectives shared by our partner organizations, municipal elected officials, administrators, and fire service leaders during these sessions.

We listened carefully to what you had to say, and we are now taking the next step. On February 23, the Province introduced the *Support for Fire Protection Services Act*, which will strengthen fire services across Nova Scotia.

This legislation is part of the Province's broader commitment to strengthening the fire services sector. It will help ensure consistent training standards across the province and support collaborative procurement for vehicles, equipment, and insurance—helping fire departments reduce costs.

Key Changes:

- Under the new Act, the Minister of Emergency Management will provide oversight for municipal fire services and set provincewide standards for firefighter training and certification, personal protective equipment, transition support for fire services that choose to move to a municipal model, and resources for fire protection service planning, delivery, and reporting.
- The *Support for Fire Protection Services Act* also enables the creation of an Office of the Fire Commissioner, an important first step toward providing provincial oversight, coordination, and support to municipalities and fire service providers.
- The Act requires all municipalities—whether they directly oversee fire services or not—to:
 - conduct a fire protection service review to ensure evidence-based decisions about the services provided in their communities
 - ensure that local firefighter competencies, training, and personal protective equipment meet the service standards identified in the review
 - participate in a common records management system

What's Not Changing:

- This legislation does not change section 293 of the *Municipal Government Act*. Municipalities may maintain and provide fire and emergency services but will not be required to do so.
- Fire departments and fire service commissions that are not currently part of a municipal fire service will remain as they are.

We are committed to providing updates on this initiative. Attached you will find:

- A new Q&A document, and
- A PowerPoint overview of [Bill 186: An Act to Provide Support for Fire Protection Services](#).

We look forward to continuing our work with municipalities and the fire service sector to build a modernized model that better serves Nova Scotians.

Sincerely,

Fire Modernization Team

Department of Emergency Management

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