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To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Nova Scotia Community Transportation Network (NSCTN) and the Rural Transportation Association (RTA), we are writing to provide an update regarding recent changes to provincial community transportation funding and to outline the potential implications for Community Transportation Organizations (CTOs) serving your municipality.

As you may be aware, several provincial funding programs that support community transportation have been reduced or eliminated in the most recent budget proposal, including:

- Nova Scotia Transit Research Incentive Program (NS-TRIP) – reduced by 100%
- Strategic Community Transit Investments – reduced by 20%
- Community Transportation Assistance Program (CTAP) – reduced by 20%

While the Accessible Transportation Assistance Program (ATAP) and Fare Assistance Program (FAP) remain in place, reductions to operational and service development funding will affect the ability of CTOs to maintain service levels, plan for growth, and respond to evolving community needs.

Community Transportation Organizations operate with lean budgets and limited reserves. These reductions may result in constrained service expansion, reduced operating flexibility, and increased strain on staff and volunteers. Over time, this could impact access to transportation for seniors, individuals with disabilities, workers, students, and rural residents who rely on these services to access healthcare, employment, education, food, and social connection.

We are sharing this information to ensure municipal leaders are aware of the broader funding landscape and the potential local implications. As CTOs assess the impact of these changes, some may need to explore enhanced partnerships or financial support at the municipal level in order to maintain service stability for the residents and tax base they serve.

Community transportation providers are deeply integrated into local communities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, CTOs were recognized as essential services, continuing to operate so

residents could attend medical appointments and access essential goods. Their ongoing sustainability remains critical to rural and small-town resilience.

We encourage municipal leaders to consider:

- Engaging directly with your local CTO to understand projected impacts
- Exploring opportunities for strengthened municipal partnerships
- Advocating to the Province on behalf of your residents for sustainable community transportation funding

Community transportation is not only a mobility service - it is a foundational support for economic participation, aging in place, and community vitality.

We would welcome the opportunity to provide further information or speak with council if helpful.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to the well-being of your community.

Sincerely,



**Sam Thompson**

Chair

Nova Scotia Community Transportation Network



**Tanya Burke**

Board Chair

Rural Transportation Association