NOVA SCOTIA
Municipal Affairs
Office of the Minister

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October 2, 2026

Juanita Spencer
Chief Executive Officer
Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
Via Email: jspencer@nsfm.ca

Dear Juanita Spencer:

On September 18, 2026, the *Service Efficiency Act* and the *Public Safety Act* received Royal Assent in the Nova Scotia Legislature. Both Acts include amendments to the *Municipal Government Act*, *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter,* the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, Respecting Housing,* and the *Peggy's Cove Commission Act*.

Service Efficiency Act
Clauses 17 and 27-31 of the Act amend the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* and the *Municipal Government Act* to remove annual provincial registration for municipal auditors and require municipalities and villages to appoint auditors authorized to practise under the *Chartered Professional Accountants Act*. The changes will take effect at a later date by proclamation.

Clauses 18 and 19 of the Act amend the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, Respecting Housing,* to extend the expiry date for the temporary exemptions from referrals of Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) planning matters to advisory committees and community councils from November 25, 2026, to November 25, 2029.

Schedule B of the Act enacts the *Peggy's Cove Commission Dissolution Act*, which dissolves the *Peggy's Cove Commission Act* and transfers responsibility for the Peggy's Cove Preservation Area to HRM under the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*. These changes are intended to modernize governance, integrate land use planning within HRM's professional municipal planning framework, and maintain the protection of Peggy's Cove's unique scenic beauty, character and cultural heritage. These provisions will come into force on a later date by proclamation.

Public Safety Act
Clauses 13 and 25 of the Act amend the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* and *Municipal Government Act* to protect emergency helicopter flight paths. These changes aim to protect safe, reliable access to emergency hospital care while providing clarity about future growth for developers. The changes will take effect at a later date by proclamation.

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The amendments, as passed, can be found in:

- subsection 46(1) of the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*; subsections 42(1), 256(1), 445(1), 445(2), 451(1), and section 457 of the *Municipal Government Act*;
- subsections 13(2) and 14(2) of *An Act to Amend Chapter 39 of the Acts of 2008, the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, Respecting Housing*;
- the *Peggy's Cove Commission Act*; and
- subsection 229E of the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* and subsection 214E of the *Municipal Government Act.*

I want to thank you for your continued support for growth and taking bold steps together to meet the changing needs of municipalities.

If you have any questions about these amendments, please contact Elizabeth Kennedy, Executive Director of Policy, Planning and Sector Relations, at elizabeth.kennedy@novascotia.ca or (902) 225-4707.

Sincerely,



Honourable John A. MacDonald
Minister of Municipal Affairs

c: Elizabeth Kennedy, Executive Director of Policy, Planning and Sector Relations, DMA

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