October 26, 2026

Attn: Mayor David Mitchell, President
Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM)
1809 Barrington Street, Suite 1500
Halifax, NS B3J 3K8

Sent via email: david.mitchell@bridgewater.ca

Dear Mayor Mitchell,

On behalf of the Town of Digby and the Municipality of Digby, we are writing to encourage the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) to make the new RCMP municipal billing and mandatory public safety reinvestment model a priority in its advocacy efforts with the Province of Nova Scotia. While we appreciate the dialogue that NSFM has had with the province, and the information we have received, it is our hope that NSFM will represent the many concerns that municipalities have voiced about the proposed model and public safety spending.

We recognize the importance of investing in public safety, but concerns have been raised regarding the restrictions placed on how these funds may be allocated and whether the model provides municipalities with sufficient flexibility to address their existing and emerging community needs. For instance, the restriction that the funding cannot be directed toward certain existing municipal services, including Fire Services and Regional Emergency Management Organizations, as these do not fall within the defined scope of eligible public safety expenditures. These services play an important role in protecting residents and supporting community safety. These costs continue to increase, in part because of new provincial standards. Restricting municipalities from applying public safety funds toward these services may limit opportunities to address local priorities effectively and make the best use of available resources.

In our discussions between various municipal units, members have expressed other concerns including the implementation timeline, lack of independence or autonomy of municipalities to make decisions about spending, the additional staff resources and workload required, the inability to use the funding towards existing services and initiatives, inconsistency of funds required to be spent between municipalities who share an RCMP detachment, and difficulty to make long-term plans or hiring decisions because the funding may fluctuate over time. This is by no means an exhaustive list, as each municipality has their own unique needs and concerns.

We believe there is an opportunity for coordinated advocacy and for NSFM to represent these concerns before the model becomes firmly established. Accordingly, the Town of Digby and the Municipality of Digby respectfully request that NSFM raise each of these concerns and advocate for greater flexibility in the eligible uses of mandatory public safety reinvestment funds. Through NSFM, municipalities should have a strong voice and a meaningful opportunity to ensure that the funding requirements support effective, locally determined public safety outcomes.

We appreciate NSFM's ongoing work on behalf of Nova Scotia's municipalities and look forward to your support in bringing these concerns forward to the province.

Sincerely,

Linda Gregory

Linda Gregory
Warden
Municipality of Digby

Mike Bartlett
Mayor
Town of Digby

CC: CEO Juanita Spencer
NSFM Membership