

May 2, 2019

Councillor Wayne Mason
President
Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
Suite 1304, 1809 Barrington Street
Halifax, N.S.
B3J 3K8

Re: NSFM Resolutions Process

Mrs. Spencer,

In response to your request for feedback on the resolutions process on February 19, 2019 and further to our letters sent to you in April 2018 and September 2018, we would like to share some additional thoughts on the NSFM's resolutions process.

First, we appreciate the changes that were made last year to provide the opportunity for each municipal unit to offer their priorities. That being said, we believe the process is still flawed and does not use the Province's, NSFM's or its members' time in the most efficient way possible.

Based on our experience, we believe the following three key improvements could be implemented to provide a more inclusive, effective and transparent process:

1. The ranking of each resolution should be more structured. It is difficult to understand how NSFM considers the priorities submitted by each municipality which creates confusion as to how the rankings are chosen. We would suggest that a formalized scoring matrix, including a point system, be developed.
2. In order to provide each municipality with ample time to review and prioritize each resolution, we would suggest undergoing the process once every two to three years. This would allow both the NSFM and Province more time to try and properly address the resolutions adopted by its members and it would also alleviate the NSFM from completing the arduous process annually.
3. Finally, the information provided by the NSFM on each resolution was excellent but more frequent brief updates would benefit the members and create a more transparent process. We would suggest short e-mails on a more regular basis or possibly recording or streaming the discussion live.

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All things considered, we believe it is important to be strategic and provide our priorities to the Province in an effort to solve important issues within our regions. For that reason, we are making these suggestions with all due respect and would welcome any questions or clarifications you may have.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Lindsay E. Nickerson
Warden

