

Public Safety Advisory Committee Member Update
Cellphone Coverage for Emergency Preparedness
September 23, 2024

The NSFM Public Safety Advisory Committee (herein referred to as the Committee) met on July 29, 2024, to discuss all delegated requests from members. Among these requests was a call to review Rural Cellphone Coverage for Emergency Preparedness as a possible advocacy priority. A total of six members participated in correspondence calling NSFM to consider this issue.

A concern with poor cellphone coverage has been expressed by the NSFM membership in the past. It is also well-established that power outages and poor cellular service interfere with appropriate emergency responses. Efforts of both the federal and provincial governments to ensure cellular service providers are being held accountable also indicates a widespread recognition of this issue as a matter of public safety. Build Nova Scotia provided a presentation to the Committee on April 29 to update the Committee on the current provincial plan to address gaps in cellular coverage and advise on ways that municipalities could help in this process.

Using this information and information provided by NSFM staff, members of the Committee applied the NSFM Advocacy Prioritization Framework and made the following recommendations to the NSFM Board of Directors.

Motion: The NSFM Public Safety Advisory Committee recommends that Rural Cellphone Coverage for Emergency Preparedness become an advocacy priority for NSFM.

Moved by: Andy Thompson

Seconded by: James Fuller

Motion Carried

In a meeting on September 6, 2024, the NSFM Board of Directors passed a motion in support of this recommendation.