

September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities  
Suite 1304, 1809 Barrington Street  
Halifax, NS B3J 3K8

RE: Request for NSFM Advocacy Priority – Electrical Transmission Infrastructure in  
Southwest Nova Scotia

Attention: Juanita Spencer, Chief Executive Officer

Dear President and Members of the Board,

On behalf of the Council of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne, I am writing to respectfully request that the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) recognize the inadequacy of the electrical transmission infrastructure serving Southwest Nova Scotia as an advocacy priority and refer this matter to the Infrastructure Advisory Committee, or such other standing or ad hoc committee as the Board considers appropriate.

At its meeting of September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Council unanimously adopted the following resolution:

**"Be it resolved that the Council of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne request the NSFM Board of Directors to consider the inadequacy of the electrical transmission infrastructure in South West Nova Scotia as an advocacy priority for NSFM. Be it further resolved that this Council believes that this issue would be best reviewed by the Infrastructure Advisory Committee or such other committee or ad hoc committee as NSFM may feel is appropriate."**

Council adopted this resolution because it believes the current state of the electrical transmission system in Southwest Nova Scotia has created a significant regional inequity that is restricting economic opportunity, discouraging private investment, and preventing our region from contributing fully to Nova Scotia's economic and clean energy future.

The Municipality of the District of Shelburne has consistently demonstrated its commitment to supporting renewable energy development. Following extensive public consultation and planning, Council amended its Land Use Bylaw to permit utility-scale wind energy development as-of-right across approximately 700 square kilometres of suitable land. These amendments were intended to provide certainty for developers while positioning our Municipality to support provincial renewable energy objectives and attract new investment.

Despite these efforts, the Municipality has been unable to attract utility-scale wind energy development because the electrical transmission infrastructure serving Southwest Nova Scotia lacks the capacity required to accommodate projects beyond approximately **100 MW**. This limitation is not the result of insufficient wind resources, municipal planning, available land, or developer interest. It is solely the consequence of inadequate transmission infrastructure.

The impact of this limitation extends well beyond the Municipality of the District of Shelburne. It affects the twelve municipalities of Southwest Nova Scotia, together with portions of Queens and Kings Counties, effectively limiting an entire region's ability to participate in utility-scale renewable energy development.

Meanwhile, other regions of Nova Scotia with more robust transmission infrastructure are positioned to pursue gigawatt-scale renewable energy projects and realize the significant economic benefits that accompany those investments, including increased tax assessment, employment, construction activity, community benefit agreements, and long-term municipal revenues. Southwest Nova Scotia is effectively excluded from these opportunities, not because of any local limitation, but because the provincial transmission system has not kept pace with the region's development potential.

This represents a significant infrastructure inequity within Nova Scotia.

For Southwest Nova Scotia, the implications extend beyond renewable energy.

The region's economy has historically been built upon the strength of its fishing industry. While the declining fishery still remains critically important to our communities, municipalities throughout Southwest Nova Scotia recognize that long-term economic resilience depends upon diversifying our economy and creating new opportunities for investment and employment. Economic diversification has become a strategic priority across the region.

Modern, reliable electrical infrastructure is fundamental to achieving that objective.

While transmission upgrades would unlock the potential for utility-scale wind energy development, they are equally important for attracting future industrial, commercial, and manufacturing investment. Increasingly, businesses seeking to locate or expand require access to reliable, high-capacity electrical infrastructure. Without it, Southwest Nova Scotia is placed at a competitive disadvantage in attracting virtually any energy-intensive industry capable of creating long-term employment and economic growth.

In this respect, transmission infrastructure should be viewed not simply as an energy issue, but as essential economic development infrastructure.

This issue also has important implications for Nova Scotia as a whole.

The Province has established ambitious targets to increase renewable electricity generation, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and transition to a cleaner and more resilient energy system. Achieving those objectives will require Nova Scotia to maximize renewable energy opportunities wherever they exist. Southwest Nova Scotia possesses some of the Province's strongest wind resources and municipalities have demonstrated a willingness to accommodate responsible development. However, without corresponding investments in transmission infrastructure, one of Nova Scotia's most promising renewable energy regions will remain unable to contribute meaningfully to achieving provincial objectives.

The Municipality of the District of Shelburne is not seeking preferential treatment. Rather, Council is advocating for equitable access to the provincial infrastructure necessary to allow Southwest Nova Scotia to compete fairly for investment and to participate fully in the Province's economic and clean energy future.

Accordingly, Council respectfully requests that the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities:

1. Recognize the inadequacy of electrical transmission infrastructure in Southwest Nova Scotia as an issue of provincial municipal significance.
2. Designate this matter as an NSFM advocacy priority.
3. Refer the issue to the Infrastructure Advisory Committee, or such other standing or ad hoc committee as the Board considers appropriate, to examine the impacts of regional transmission inequities and develop recommendations for provincial advocacy.
4. Advocate with the Province of Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Power, and other relevant agencies for strategic investments in transmission infrastructure that will enable Southwest Nova Scotia to participate fully in the Province's economic development opportunities and renewable energy transition.

The Municipality of the District of Shelburne believes every region of Nova Scotia should have an equitable opportunity to contribute to—and benefit from—the Province's economic growth and energy transition. Southwest Nova Scotia has the natural resources, municipal

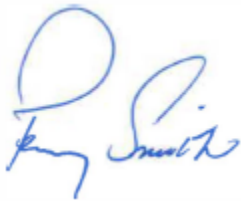
leadership, available land, and community support necessary to help achieve these goals. The missing piece is the transmission infrastructure required to unlock that potential.

Council respectfully asks for the support of the NSFM in advancing this important issue on behalf of the municipalities and residents of Southwest Nova Scotia. Strategic investment in transmission infrastructure is not simply an investment in one region—it is an investment in Nova Scotia's economic resilience, energy security, and long-term prosperity.

Thank you for your consideration. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further with the Board or the appropriate committee at your convenience.

Yours truly,

Sincerely,



Warden Penny Smith