



**Municipal Affairs and Housing
Office of the Minister**

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March 2, 2023

Ms. Penny Smith
Warden
Municipality of Shelburne
Via email: warden@municipalityofshelburne.ca

Mr. Lindsey (Eddie) Nickerson
Warden
Municipality of Barrington
Via email: enickerson@barringtonmunicipality.com

Mr. Cory Nickerson
Mayor
Town of Lockeport
Via email: cory@lockeport.ns.ca

Mr. Harold Locke
Mayor
Town of Shelburne
Via email: harold.locke@shelburnens.ca

Mr. Rex Stoddard
Mayor
Town of Clarks Harbour
Via Email: mayor@clarksharbour.com

Dear Wardens & Mayors:

Thank you for your email of November 25, 2022, regarding your concerns about the ongoing re-negotiation of the 1995 Service Exchange Agreement.

We understand and recognize there are uncertainties about what this means for your community, but rest assured the municipal voice is well represented as we continue discussions with the Advisory Group established by the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM). The Advisory group is comprised of six elected municipal representatives and four chief administrative officers from across the province representing the municipal voice.

It is important to note that the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing did not request any Non-Disclosure Agreements during this process. The Service Exchange Committee itself determined this was something they wanted in place.

I also acknowledge the timeline is ambitious, however, renegotiating this agreement is a key component of my mandate that I do not take lightly. This is an opportunity to modernize an outdated agreement to reflect the pressures of today and will provide clarity on the responsibilities between the Province and Municipalities.

The draft service exchange agreement is currently receiving government consideration and once approved we will conduct fulsome consultation with municipalities across the province. Additionally, you can expect the details to be outlined in a future 12 months notice from the Department. This will provide the necessary runway to ensure adjustments can be made and considerations given for the following fiscal year.

We look forward to continuing the dialogue and reaching an agreement that provides the landscape for municipalities to succeed for years to come.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to municipal government!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Lohr".

Honourable John A. Lohr
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c: Nolan Young, MLA Shelburne
nolan.young@shelburnemla.ca

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