

May 2, 2019

Councillor Waye 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 2017, 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.

As mentioned previously in our letters and in our recent meeting with Mrs. Juanita Spencer, the unfortunate part of the current process is that not all voices are heard from the NSFM membership. As discussed many times at NSFM events, not all councillors are able to attend daytime meetings, not all councillors have the same ability to travel hours to a meeting, or may have had previous commitments that prevent them from attending. By holding discussions in this manner, the NSFM will hear from a small portion of the membership, the most vocal at the meetings will be heard, and the opinions of each council will not necessarily be represented even if some councillors are in attendance.

Based on our experience, we believe the following 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 each Municipal Council would rank the proposed resolutions from most important to least important for their respective

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Municipality. Results would then be compiled from all Municipalities with the highest ranked resolutions receiving the highest points and being deemed the most important to Municipalities.

2. In order to provide each municipality with ample time to review and prioritize each resolution, we would suggest undergoing the process on a less frequent basis. 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.

These improvements would:

1. Provide clear direction to the NSFM Board as to what matters most to Municipal units individually and collectively.
2. Save thousands of dollars of tax-payers money by preventing the need for councillors and staff to travel to another meeting.
3. Provide each Municipality with a voice, even when unable to attend a meeting.
4. Prevent votes or input from being skewed by a small unit that shows up with all of council to force one particular issue.

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

