

**NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES**

October 1, 2018

A Submission to the Nova Scotia Legislature Law Amendments Committee

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TOWN CAUCUS CHAIR:

Mayor Jeff Cantwell
Town of Wolfville

A submission regarding Bill 55 as introduced in the 2nd session of the 63rd General Assembly of the Nova Scotia Legislature, titled:

An Act to Incorporate the Region of Windsor and West Hants Municipality

My name is Jeff Cantwell, Mayor, Town of Wolfville. I am a member of the Board of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, and Chair of the Towns Caucus. I am extending regrets on behalf of the President of NSFM, Councillor Geoff Stewart who cannot be here today. He is attending an NSFM meeting in Port Hawkesbury. I am here representing NSFM.

The Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities is the voice of Nova Scotian Municipalities. On behalf of my Board and our members, I wish to speak in support of Bill 55.

Our current municipal structure and geographical boundaries were established over a century ago. How we live and work today was never even imagined back then. Yet our structure and the environment in which municipalities operate has not changed with our progress. We are set up to compete with each other.

We need new tools and new approaches if we are to help our communities be sustainable and viable. We need to ensure our communities are resilient and vibrant. We need to be better able to respond to the needs and desires of our citizens. We need to be able to adapt to new technology and new expectations. We need to become more efficient and more effective.

Recognizing communities of interest, and willingness to work together requires an environment that encourages innovative ways of working together.

The Towns Task Force in 2011 made a number of recommendations aimed at encouraging greater collaboration and cooperation amongst municipalities. We are a small province, and there are many linkages between our communities. We cannot afford to continually duplicate services. We need to help each other, and by doing so, our province will be more successful.

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We need more flexibility in how municipalities can do this. The current Municipal Government Act is not flexible enough.

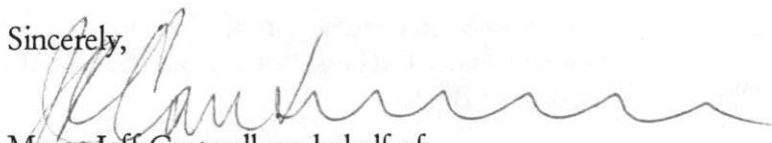
The circumstances communities find themselves in varies across the province, and there needs to be new tools available to help them improve their communities and the everyday lives of their citizens.

Windsor and West Hants have come together and agreed on an approach that meets their needs. This Bill will serve them well.

NSFM would like to add our voice in support of Windsor and West Hants and congratulates them on their courage and innovation.

Municipalities will learn from their experience as they move towards a new regional government.

Sincerely,


Mayor Jeff Cantwell, on behalf of
Councillor Geoff Stewart
President, NSFM

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