

From: [Alain Muise](#)
To: [Chantalle Newell](#)
Subject: FW: Letter from Minister Lohr re Bill 340
Date: October 24, 2023 10:37:35 AM
Attachments: [Oct 22 letter of Thanks.pdf](#)
[RFD Service exchange 2024.doc](#)

Please add my email response under for info mun reform,, one moee!

From: Alain Muise
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2023 2:25 PM
To: Pottie Bunge, Valerie A <Valerie.Bunge@Novascotia.ca>; LaFleche, Paul T <paul.lafleche@novascotia.ca>; Rafuse, Byron G <Byron.rafuse@novascotia.ca>; Atherton, Andrew <Andrew.Atherton@novascotia.ca>
Cc: Argyle-Council <Argyle-Council@munargyle.com>; Juanita Spencer <jspencer@nsfm.ca>; Jeff Bishop <JBishop@amans.ca>
Subject: FW: Letter from Minister Lohr re Bill 340

As this letter is addressed to me as CAO for Argyle, I shall take the liberty to respond. I have copied Council, and our leaders at the AMA and NSFM as they have represented us faithfully for many years.

I have attached your letter as well as my request for decision presented to Council and approved unanimously. I trust you will find the assessment in your favor, and (hopefully) balanced. Since roads was eliminated from further consideration, then we strongly endorse ALL intended changes coming from your department.

My role is to provide professional advisory services to my Council and participate as little as possible in the political forum. Your issue, unfortunately, appears quite political in terms of opposition and CBRM issues. I respect the olive branch you have provided to CBRM on what appears to be their issue. Based on my request for decision, I have highlighted how this deal, and its arrangement is very CBRM heavy when considering all other municipalities, and it was wise not to increase the MFCG as it weights very heavily in CBRM's favor. It is no surprise to us that both HRM and CBRM are much larger and different from many of us. The negotiation of a charter for them is a good faith decision on your part, and we wish you well in that ongoing effort.

It is also very honorable for you to consider the residents of CBRM and their needs in this. That responsibility, in the end, and as you know, rests equally with its Council than it does your department. It is not for me to make any recommendations as a non-elected individual, I would strongly point out that you received a quick response from CAO's in the matter of hours on Friday. This in of itself ought to indicate the importance of many municipalities interested in taking the first step. The fact these changes are in regulations and not legislation is not lost on me. This provides the province with flexibility in the instance where certain exceptions on this deal are required. Please do not pause the progress you have allowed in this process.

Change is never unilateral. You will always be opposed in the face of change. I trust that you will

continue with this change for the many municipalities that would support what you are presenting. My experience with the consultation process led by DHAM is that your biggest roadblock was the roads recommendation, which was eliminated from the amendments. While it may be true that municipalities opposed this initially, I am confident that the roads issue was the main sticking point.

We will be arranging our Warden, Danny Muise to present at law amendments when it comes to bear in support of this first and important step. Please do not replace progress with perfection, and we hope to be at the table for future conversations.

Please contact us directly should you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Alain D. Muise, CPA, CA
Chief Administrative Officer.

From: Atherton, Andrew <Andrew.Atherton@novascotia.ca>
Sent: Sunday, October 22, 2023 3:08 PM
To: Andrew Atherton <andrew_curler@hotmail.com>
Cc: Pottie Bunge, Valerie A <Valerie.Bunge@novascotia.ca>; LaFleche, Paul T <Paul.LaFleche@novascotia.ca>; Rafuse, Byron G <Byron.Rafuse@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Letter from Minister Lohr re Bill 340

Good Afternoon,

Please see attached a letter of thanks and further request related to the ongoing discussions around Bill 340 and service exchange from Minister Lohr.

Sincerely,

Andrew Atherton

Executive Director,
Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing
902 943 9244
for action from Minister Lohr.