

April 19, 2024

Chief Administrative Officers
Town Clerks

Dear CAOs and Town Clerks:

As you are aware the 2014-2024 Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) agreement expired March 31, 2024. I am writing to provide you with an update on the renewal of the CCBF.

In coordination with the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, the Province continues to work diligently with the Federal Government on the new 2024-2034 CCBF agreement negotiations. All provinces and territories have been presented with changes to the CCBF program that are largely a result of the Federal Government's commitment to tying new infrastructure investments to actions that will, in their view, increase the supply of housing. The Federal Government will require some municipalities to provide housing needs assessments to access federal funding opportunities.

In 2022, the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing (DMHA) launched a province-wide housing needs assessment (HNA) process to better understand the housing demand in local communities. HNAs were completed for and shared with all municipalities in 2023 and can be leveraged to meet federal requirements. Informed by the HNAs, DMAH released the Our Homes, Action for Housing plan in 2023. This plan was created to guide the provincial commitments to support the development of more housing and to complement federal and municipal initiatives.

Both of these initiatives position the Province and municipalities well regarding the new CCBF agreement.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind municipalities that until a renewed CCBF agreement is signed, any unspent funds and any interest earned thereon held by municipalities, that have not been expended as of March 31, 2024, will nevertheless continue to be subject to the 2014-2024 CCBF Municipal Funding Agreements (MFA). Once the new Federal/Provincial CCBF agreement is signed, we will send out new MFA's that cover the program parameters and will schedule information sessions to ensure a clear understanding of the new agreement.

We are working hard to ensure that there is no interruption in the flow of CCBF funding to municipalities, however, taking the time to ensure the agreement is in the best interest of all parties is paramount. If you have any questions, please feel free to send them to the program email at: CCBF@novascotia.ca.

Regards,



Byron Rafuse, FCPA
Deputy Minister