amans
ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATORS NOVA SCOTIA

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To: Chief Administrative Officers

RE: Proposed Changes to the NSFM By-Law

Dear Colleagues:

Earlier today, a communication went out to the membership of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) with proposed changes to its by-law that would remove the AMANS representative on its Board of Directors. The NSFM Executive Committee notified the AMANS Executive Committee of this decision earlier this spring. The AMANS Board of Directors has also been informed and is aware of the proposed by-law change.

Under Section 5.2 a) xi. in the current version of the NSFM by-law, there is "a representative appointed by the Association of Municipal Administrators" as part of its seventeen-member Board. The AMANS representative is an employee of an NSFM member unit and is typically the Past President of the AMANS Board of Directors. Mike Dolter, CAO, Town of Truro has been serving in this role to date.

There is a reciprocal position for a representative from the NSFM Board of Directors on the AMANS Board. Under Section 6.3 b) of the current version of the AMANS By-Laws, it states "a member of NSFM Board of Directors may be appointed by the AMANS Board on the recommendation of the NSFM Board to serve on the AMANS Board as a full voting member. An alternate may also be appointed to attend meetings in their absence. The NSFM Representative on the Board will be granted Full Member rights for the duration of their term." Brenda Chisholm-Beaton, Mayor of the Town of Port Hawkesbury and Past President of NSFM is this current representative on the AMANS Board.

It is important to point out that while notification of the proposed by-law change was received by the AMANS Executive Committee, a rationale on how this change would advance the interests of NSFM has not yet been provided. Also, an alternative means of achieving the intended benefits of the current reciprocal arrangement has not been provided by the NSFM Executive Committee.

The AMANS Board of Directors values NSFM representation on its Board and does not support the proposed by-law change that would remove the AMANS representative on the NSFM Board. That said, we will respect the NSFM Board's decision to proceed with the proposed changes as well as the official vote on this matter at the next NSFM AGM.

We strongly believe that the presence of a municipal administrator at NSFM Board meetings can enhance the Federation's decision making, and subsequent representation of municipal interests, by the NSFM Board.

At the same time, AMANS is not proposing a similar change to its by-laws as the Board believes the reciprocal arrangement benefits local governments in Nova Scotia and makes the municipal sector stronger. The seat will still be available for a member of the NSFM Board of Directors should they wish to continue serving on our Board, participate on critical discussions of interest to municipal administration in Nova Scotia, and pose questions to AMANS Board members and staff that may help advance mutual priorities of both organizations.

We believe that increased collaboration can assist us in further leveraging the benefits of the current reciprocal arrangement. In fact, if this arrangement had not previously been established, it would undoubtedly be identified now for consideration as an effective means for both organizations to enhance their collective impact in achieving common interests.

AMANS is committed to working with NSFM in any manner that continues to grow our relationship and make municipal government in Nova Scotia the best it can be. We will keep members updated as this matter evolves.

Sincerely,

Kim Ramsay

President

AMANS

cc. Pam Mood, President, NSFM

Juanita Spencer, CEO, NSFM