



**Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Office of the Minister**

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September 28, 2023

Her Worship Brenda Chisholm-Beaton  
President  
Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

VIA EMAIL: [info@nsfm.ca](mailto:info@nsfm.ca)

Dear Mayor Chisholm-Beaton:

Thank you for your letter of September 14, 2023, regarding NSFM's position on the ongoing negotiations around Service Exchange. I truly appreciate your input and perspective on the situation and the support you have provided the Department and the SERMGAR Committee throughout the process.

We have heard clearly through the consultation process, and from various Municipalities since, that Part B of the roads program is not something Municipalities can support at this time. I have ensured that staff in the Department understand your position on this part of the proposal and that your opinion is considered as we move forward with a new Service Exchange Agreement.

With respect to Schedule A, rest assured the Department will continue discussions on these topics once this process is completed.

As you reference in your letter, the Department undertook 13 consultation sessions with municipalities throughout the summer, including four regional meetings. One of the regional meetings was held solely with CBRM and was extended by an hour to ensure all voices had an opportunity to be heard. Department staff also visited CBRM staff in September to undertake further conversations. In addition, the Department has provided two letters to CBRM's Mayor requesting clarification of their position on service exchange. I attach both letters for your reference. At the time of writing this letter, the Department has not received the requested motion of council.

The Department is willing to consider a separate agreement with CBRM but it is not yet clear that they are interested in forgoing the current savings available under this proposal and I need to know their position before I recommend a separate agreement.

I look forward to continuing our partnership with the Federation and our ongoing collaboration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John A. Lohr".

Honourable John A. Lohr  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Attachment

c: Juanita Spencer, CEO, NSFM  
Paul LaFleche, Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs & Housing  
Murray Scott, Mayor, Municipality of Cumberland, Chair SERMGAR Committee