



**NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION  
OF MUNICIPALITIES**

October 1, 2018

## **A Submission to the Nova Scotia Legislature Law Amendments Committee**

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Councillor Geoff Stewart  
County of Colchester

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**TOWN CAUCUS CHAIR:**

Mayor Jeff Cantwell  
Town of Wolfville

**A submission regarding Bill 58 as introduced in the 2nd session of the 63rd General Assembly of the Nova Scotia Legislature, titled:**

**An Act to Amend Chapter 18 of the Acts of 1998, *the Municipal Government Act*, and Chapter 39 of the Acts of 2008, *the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*.**

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 58 concerning minimum standards for land-use planning across Nova Scotia's 50 municipalities.

Our members raised this subject as a concern in our Towns Task Force Report of 2011. The Task Force thought it was important for adjacent municipalities to consult with one another when making land-use plans near municipal boundaries and wanted to pave the way for more meaningful inter-municipal planning agreements. They saw these goals as being important enough to warrant creating or amending legislation. These were recommendations of the Towns Task Force.

As a number of our rural municipalities do not do comprehensive planning now, establishing minimum planning standards is an important step towards regional planning. The Statements of Provincial Interest are important and addressing them through planning will be beneficial to all Nova Scotians.

I would also note the NSFM also passed a resolution in 2017 on economic development, calling for incentives to encourage regional land use planning as a means of encouraging economic growth.

NSFM was pleased to see the Department of Municipal Affairs undertake consultation on the potential for minimum planning this summer. Municipal elected officials and municipal staff who could not attend these meetings were invited to provide feedback in written or electronic form.



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The Bill resulting from these consultations and efforts will help communities work together to plan more sustainable futures, especially in the face of increasing infrastructure expenses and climate change.

The Bill will help to make local government more effective and efficient, encourage meaningful, strategic interaction between communities and councils, and improve the everyday lives of citizens as they move about our municipalities.

We are pleased to see our members' longstanding concerns reflected in the wording and passages of this Bill. It addresses many municipal planning concerns and we believe it will help enable effective local government and the building of sustainable communities. For these reasons, we stand firmly in support of this Bill.

Furthermore, NSFAM and our members look forward to working with the Province in developing the regulations to support this Bill.

Sincerely,

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

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