



October 21, 2023

**To:** Office of Legislative Counsel

**From:** Mayor Wendy Donovan, Town of Wolfville, NS

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of the Town of Wolfville I am writing to support Bill 340 and encourage the Committee and the House to approve it.

As a small community, local taxes support the daily pressure on local infrastructure, police, and fire services of not only our own residents but 1,000's of regional residents for whom Wolfville is a service centre, 1,000's of tourists, and 1,000's of university students. The current Service Exchange agreement is over a quarter of a century old. So much has happened during that time and we welcome a modernized formula that will help our residents and businesses meet the significant demands of modern requirements.

Highway 1 runs through our Town and through the Municipality of the County of Kings. Unlike the County, Wolfville currently receives no provincial support for this corridor while our neighbours do. This is an inequity that must be rectified, as it is in the MOU.

As with several other Towns in Nova Scotia, Wolfville is experiencing unprecedented growth. We support this and are doing our very best to be a partner in the objectives of the Province. As a university Town we have the additional pressure of accommodating and dealing with the impact of many non-permanent young residents including international students. While the MOU did not address this specific situation the modernized agreement, including elimination of contributions to corrections and provincial housing will support the services we must provide as a university town. Towns throughout this Province are critical to the future of Nova Scotia. Growth has rightly been focused on existing urban areas and we need the Province's help to manage this process.

I urge you to understand the importance of Towns and larger urban centres to the Province's future and pass this Bill.

Sincerely

Wendy Donovan  
Mayor, Town of Wolfville

Cc: Town of Wolfville Council  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing John Lohr  
MLA Keith Irving