



**Municipal Affairs
Office of the Minister**

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November 24, 2025

Dear Mayors, Wardens and Chiefs:

I have enjoyed my visits and discussions to date with municipal councillors and councils and look forward to ultimately getting to visit and know everyone. Your dedication to sustainably provide the services that your constituents expect is obvious. Thank you for your commitment.

No matter where you live in Nova Scotia, you deserve to know how your local government is funded and how the management of that funding translates into reliable and accessible local services.

As we head into heavy budget discussions and as I familiarize myself with your community and its circumstances, I wanted to take a step back and get a 50,000 foot view of the big picture financial situation landscape. This led me to creating the attached spreadsheet. It's comprehensive. I included every community and am sharing it in its entirety to be transparent and fair. I want every local government to see the same data I am seeing.

Please review and fact check the numbers for your community. If there are discrepancies, please advise. If your numbers are skewed by any one-off items or unique situations, that is also important to highlight. We need to make decisions based on the best possible data.

There are no shortage of funding requests, and we will have to make difficult decisions. The Province has already started scaling back program funding across the board and changing hiring processes as we deal with the current financial challenges.

We work very hard to be fair in making decisions. It's never easy. Need and outcomes always drive the process, but this data reminds us that the needs across the province truly are different and there is often a different sense of urgency.

Thank you in advance. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. MacDonald".

John A. MacDonald
Minister of Municipal Affairs

c: CAOs and Councillors