



Department of Municipal Affairs

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Dear Mayors & Wardens, CAOs & Clerks:

Following the commitments made by the Department during engagement sessions held in December 2018 and January 2019, the Department of Municipal Affairs is seeking your municipality's input to help shape regulations related to Bill 58.

Bill 58 was passed last Fall on October 1, 2018, and it amends the *Municipal Government Act* and the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*. This request for input is the latest step in municipal engagement relating to legislative and regulatory changes establishing a framework for mandatory planning, minimum planning requirements, and engagement with abutting municipalities.

The move towards mandatory minimum planning in Nova Scotia is in response to numerous calls from municipal governments in recent years, including in a Statement of Municipal Concern from the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, as well as input from over a dozen municipalities during the input process of the *Municipal Government Act* review.

Municipal land use planning documents take the form of a Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law. A Municipal Planning Strategy's purpose is to provide statements of policy to guide the development and management of the municipality. This policy is implemented through a municipality's Land Use By-law.

It is by way of the *Municipal Government Act's* [sections 212 to 214, 217, 219 and 220](#) that the intent and contents of a Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law are authorized. [Bill 58](#) amends some of these and other clauses to establish the framework for requirements related to planning for all areas within your municipality, the contents of your planning documents, and the need to establish a policy for engaging with abutting municipalities on planning related matters where necessary. The regulations will provide additional detail on these requirements

Feedback received during the sessions last December and January have helped to shape the enclosed draft regulations, which are provided for a more detailed review and comment by your municipality. Please note that the documents provided are a plain language draft of the proposed regulations. Edits will be made based on the responses received and while the aim will be to maintain the intent of the regulations, changes in wording may be required to reflect legislative requirements.

It is anticipated, once Bill 58 is proclaimed and the regulations are declared, that the Minister of Municipal Affairs will provide three (3) years for municipalities to come into compliance with these new requirements.

Please provide your input to the Department of Municipal Affairs by June 28, 2019.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. During my absence from the office from April 29 to May 10, 2019, you may connect with Andrew Paton, Senior Planner, who will be Acting Director during this time. Andrew can be reached at andrew.paton@novascotia.ca or (902) 424-7492. Alternatively, you may contact your Municipal Advisor.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,



Gordon Smith
Provincial Director of Planning

c: Janice Wentzell, Executive Director, AMANS
Juanita Spencer, CEO, NSFM
Mark Peck, Executive Director, Policy, Planning & Advisory Services, DMA
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Encl.
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