



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

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JAN 24 2020

Dear Mayors & Wardens, CAOs & Clerks:

I am pleased to inform you that Bill 58 regarding minimum planning requirements was proclaimed on Tuesday, December 2, 2019. As such, the changes to the *Municipal Government Act* and the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*, along with the supporting regulations, are now enacted.

The legislative and regulatory changes establish a framework for mandatory planning, minimum planning requirements, and engagement with abutting municipalities. The Bill can be found at [https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/63rd\\_2nd/1st\\_read/b058.htm](https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/63rd_2nd/1st_read/b058.htm), and the regulations published in the Royal Gazette can be found at <https://www.novascotia.ca/just/regulations/rq2/2019/RG2-2019-10-11.pdf>.

As noted in earlier correspondence from Gordon Smith, Provincial Director of Planning, sent to you on April 26, 2019, it is expected that your municipality will come into compliance with the new requirements by the end of 2022.

The Department will assist you and your staff as your municipality considers options to develop or update your planning documents as necessary. Guidance materials to assist municipalities with this new planning environment are under development and should be released shortly. We have attached *A Guide to Land Use Planning for Economic Development* as a sample of what will be provided.

In the meantime, we suggest that you review your Integrated Community Sustainability Plans and Municipal Climate Change Action Plans, both of which contain relevant information to the planning process and are based on community consultation. We also encourage your municipality to work with your local Regional Enterprise Network and Economic Development Officers to begin to identify economic development opportunities and ways in which your municipality can use its planning documents and regulations to support these opportunities. In addition, we encourage your municipality to work with your regional Emergency Measures Organization to consider how land use planning can support efforts to protect human health and safety.

Notice of this change and its potential to affect municipal budgets was provided in April 2018. Given the timeframe, we recommend that you include a line in your municipality's budgets over the next few years, beginning with your 2020-2021 budget, to cover the costs of creating these planning documents.

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Thank you for your cooperation and involvement as the Department engages with you in the development of this new legislation. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your municipality as, together, we advance planning and other initiatives for the betterment of our residents and municipal governance in Nova Scotia.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Gordon Smith, Provincial Director of Planning, at either [Gordon.Smith@novascotia.ca](mailto:Gordon.Smith@novascotia.ca) or 902-424-7918.

Sincerely,



Chuck Porter  
Minister

c: Janice Wentzell, Executive Director, AMANS  
Juanita Spencer, CEO, NSFM  
Mark Peck, Executive Director of Municipal Sustainability