



## Justice

Finance Corporate Services Unit

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Mr. Stéphane Cyr  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Municipality of the District of Clare  
PO Box 458  
Little Brook, NS BOW 1Z0

Dear Mr. Cyr:

As the 2017-18 fiscal year approaches, we would like to advise you of the expected costing and update you on pertinent information regarding the RCMP as well as the expected costing of DNA analysis.

### RCMP Costs 2017/18

To enable municipalities to properly plan for the upcoming year, it is advised that we expect the cost of policing to increase on a portfolio basis by 3.8% over the 2016/17 costs. The province and RCMP have been working together to find savings and to ensure all cost projections for 2017-18 are reasonable, ensure the safety of the public, and provide adequately for day-to-day operations. We understand the economic pressures facing municipalities and are aware of the importance to balance affordability with public safety.

This increase includes an assumption of a salary adjustment for the RCMP of 2.5%. This increase is in line with recently arbitrated settlements between Nova Scotia municipalities and their own police services. As a result of the efforts to implement a new labour relations regime for the RCMP, it is unlikely that any salary adjustments will be known before the start of 2017-18. In an effort to ensure that both the province and our municipal partners are not negatively impacted by the timing of the salary settlement, the province will continue to accrue the full costs of any retroactive payouts. In the event that the salary settlement does not materialize at this amount, we will be investigating initiatives to alleviate pressures from future fiscal years, and we commit to keeping you informed as this unfolds.

### Biological Casework Analysis Agreement

The Biological Casework Analysis Agreement provides Nova Scotia's municipalities with DNA analysis arising from criminal investigations. DNA analysis is an important and affordable service that helps solve crimes. It is valued by Nova Scotia's policing services. The expected cost to Nova Scotia in 2017-18 is \$724,334.26, compared to \$988,849.89 in 2016-17. This reduction in cost is the result of lower-than-anticipated expenses due to salary savings. Those savings were realized due to consolidation of the lab. It is expected that the cost of the service in the upcoming fiscal years will return to the 2016-17 level as positions are staffed.

As in previous years, the proration of the cost to municipalities will be reassessed upon the Department of Municipal Affairs' release of the "Total Uniform Assessment" for the 2017/18 fiscal year. The invoice that you will receive in summer/fall 2017 will show the reassessed amount.

Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact me.

Yours truly,

Wanda Fletcher

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