



## Emergency Management Office of the Minister

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April 17, 2025

**VIA EMAIL**

To: Mayors, CAOs and Wardens

**Re: Fire Services Review**

The Departments of Emergency Management and Municipal Affairs greatly value the essential role fire services play in ensuring the safety of Nova Scotians during emergencies across the province. Firefighters put their lives at risk every day to protect our communities, and we are deeply grateful for their unwavering dedication.

The Fire Services Association of Nova Scotia is conducting a comprehensive governance review of fire services in Nova Scotia. This review will focus on ensuring best practices are in place and that our firefighters are fully supported and protected. Key areas of examination will include governance, operations, communications, interoperability, human resources, mental health supports, training, equipment, facilities, fire dispatch, and funding.

We recognize that previous reviews have been conducted. However, this governance review will build upon those efforts and consider the growing impact of climate change on the frequency and severity of weather events such as floods, wildfires, and hurricanes. It is vital that the governance of fire services evolves to address these new challenges, ensuring that we are fully prepared for unprecedented weather events.

Your input is a critical part of this process. We strongly encourage municipalities to participate in the governance review and provide your valuable feedback. By working together, we can create a stronger, more resilient, and responsive fire service for Nova Scotia.

Additionally, we would like to take a moment to address a common concern regarding the Nova Scotia Guard. The Guard is designed to complement existing resources in the province, not to replace them. We are committed to ensuring that firefighters who volunteer for the Nova Scotia Guard will not be deployed outside their communities in ways that could leave their fire departments understaffed. Members will be deployed based on their availability, ensuring they can continue serving their local communities.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to the safety of Nova Scotians. We look forward to collaborating with you in this important initiative and working together to strengthen fire services across the province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kim Masland".

Minister Kim Masland

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Lohr".

Minister John Lohr