



THE PREMIER
Halifax, Nova Scotia

September 14, 2021

Honourable John Lohr
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Minister responsible for responsible for the Office of Emergency Management
Minister responsible for Military Relations

Dear Minister Lohr,

Thank you for agreeing to serve Nova Scotians as Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Minister responsible for the Office of Emergency Management, and Minister responsible for Military Relations.

Governing is about people. On August 17th, 2021, we were given a mandate by Nova Scotians to activate solutions. They responded to our platform, *Solutions for Nova Scotians*, and its vision for our Province. Nova Scotians share the hope you and I have for our beautiful province and its potential.

A brighter future starts with a shared belief in what our province can do. A belief in each other. A belief in our communities. A belief in fellow Nova Scotians. We can put Nova Scotians on the path to financial sustainability and fix healthcare. We can support our traditional industries and build an environment plan that fights climate change. We can make our province a magnet for doctors, students, new residents, investors and tourists alike, and remain proud of our traditions and our heritage.

Fixing healthcare and rebuilding the economy is not for the faint of heart. It will require strong leadership and a willingness to take bold action. Working together, we can get the job done.

The success of all Nova Scotians and improvement of their health, access to health care and quality of life will be our collective success.

We have committed to listen to and respect all Nova Scotians. We have also committed to lead a government which represents all Nova Scotians and is reflective of the modern societal makeup of Nova Scotia, inclusive and respectful of all demographic, cultural and ethnic diversities to advance our collective growth and prosperity.

You have been chosen for Cabinet because of your track record and capabilities as a problem solver, as a “solutionist,” as someone who gets things done and is not deterred by complexity. You are a known collaborator who will work with your colleagues on solutions that need all the capabilities of the Government and the public service pulling in the same direction.

As Minister, your leadership and your team will play a critical role in contributing to the commitments we have made and to providing solutions. You are responsible for the conduct of the department(s) you oversee and must be aware of and adhere to the public service's *Code of Conduct and Respectful Workplace Policy* in your interactions with the public service. Most importantly, you are part of a team of solutionists who share a common vision and commitment to *Solutions for Nova Scotians*.

As Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing you will:

- Within the first 90 days of your mandate, prepare a timeline for completion of all tasks below over the next four years. The initial timelines are to be updated quarterly thereafter.
- Renegotiate the Memorandum of Understanding with the Municipalities.
- Include funding for municipal roads as an item of discussion when renegotiating the Memorandum of Understanding.
- Double the equalization payment for the first year, until a new Memorandum of Understanding can be reached.
- Work with the Housing Commission to implement the recommendations of the 2021 Affordable Housing Report.
- Develop a full inventory of lands owned and identify areas that could be used for housing. The inventory must be prepared within three months of coming into government so that the province can manage and keep track of the land it owns in a comprehensive accounting manner. This will also allow work to get underway immediately in determining best uses of those lands.
- Consider where land is available and where there is a need for housing stock: both affordable housing and general residential purchases.
- Within the first six months of your mandate, undertake a review of the Municipal Act, Municipal Charters including their size and scope, the concept of shared services and regional service authorities, with a goal of refining the delivery and governance model for all municipalities in the province.

As Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, you will also support your Ministerial colleagues as they execute their responsibilities. In particular, you will support:

- The Minister of Environment and Climate Change as they build climate change adaptive capacity and resilience by prioritizing climate adaptation across every government department and ensuring that all Nova Scotia municipalities have sufficient resources to take immediate and long-term action on their adaptation priorities.

As Minister for Military Relations, you will:

- Ensure that the important contributions of our military members, veterans, and their families are recognized within all areas of government.
- Work with the Federal Government to ensure that Nova Scotia's defence sector continues to be a driving force of innovation and economic growth for our Province.

As we progress through our mandate, we will work together to identify further refinement and priorities of focus.

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Within the first six months, and as part of your Department's mandate, you will work with me and other Departments in reviewing the role and effectiveness of Agencies, Offices and Crown Corporations with a goal of ensuring the most efficient and accountable methodology for the undertaking of their respective tasks.

We have a clear mandate and the vision and the determination to take decisive action to solve problems for people by giving them hope for health, universal mental health care, dignity for our seniors and a new opportunity for aging well. We will invest in our future. We will build a Nova Scotia with more people, more jobs, better jobs and more housing and infrastructure for people. We will do this with an overriding commitment to sustainable prosperity, establishing Nova Scotia as a world leader.

We will overcome the obstacles that stand in the way of achieving the incredible opportunities within our reach to improve the well-being and quality of life every Nova Scotian deserves.

I look forward to working with you to improve the lives of all the people of Nova Scotia and change the course of our Province now and for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Houston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Honourable Tim Houston, M.L.A.

Premier of Nova Scotia

Copy to: Paul LaFleche, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Mark Peck, Associate Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Kelliann Dean, Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs