

## Councillor Request for Information

**Included on Agenda**  
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office  
by Noon Thursday)

**Added Item**  
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office  
by Noon Monday)

**Date of Council Meeting:** March 7, 2006

**Subject:** Fair and Equitable Funding

**Request:**

Please include the above item on the March 7, 2006 Regional Council agenda.

**Reason:**

I will be introducing the attached resolution for Council's consideration and approval.

**I would like this response as:**

- Resolution of Council - as attached
- Email to Mayor, Council and Municipal Clerk's Office
- Memo to Mayor, Council and Municipal Clerk's Office
- Information Report to       Community Council     Regional Council
- Recommendation Report to     Community Council     Regional Council

Councillor Linda Mosher

District 17

## **RESOLUTION - FAIR & EQUITABLE FUNDING**

**WHEREAS** in October 2004, the UNSM Board commissioned a study by consultants Dr. Paul Hobson, Dr. Wade Locke and Dr. David Cameron, to establish principles against which the current state of municipal finance in Nova Scotia can be assessed for fairness and equality; and

**WHEREAS** in May 2005, the Report, "A Question of Balance-An Assessment of the State of Local Government in Nova Scotia," was submitted to the UNSM by the consultants; and

**WHEREAS** the Report recommends three guiding principles:

- 1) Each level of Government should fund expenditures in its respective jurisdictions from its own revenues;
- 2) The Province should ensure that municipalities have access to the broad property tax powers and revenues sufficient to finance their spending responsibilities;
- 3) Municipal equalization should adhere to the principle that municipalities across the Province have the fiscal capacity to provide reasonably comparable levels of municipal services for a reasonably comparable tax burden. To ensure this, Nova Scotia's municipal equalization program should be fully funded and paid for out of the Province's general revenues.

That were accepted by the UNSM Board on July 12, 2005; and

**WHEREAS** at the 2005 Annual Conference the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities' membership endorsed the Report, "A Question of Balance-An Assessment of the State of Local Government in Nova Scotia," accepting its Guiding Principles and Recommendations and mandated the Board of Directors to seek implementation by the Province; and

**WHEREAS** an Implementation Strategy, which is based on a five-year phase-in of the recommendations, has been approved by the UNSM Board and the three Caucuses;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Halifax Regional Municipality joins the UNSM Board in calling upon the Provincial Government to accept the three Guiding Principles and beginning with the 2006/07 Provincial Budget, begin implementation of the Report's Recommendations.