



GREATER CHARLOTTETOWN AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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October 31, 2016

Honourable Robert Mitchell
Department of Communities, Land & Environment
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown PE C1A 7N8

Re: Municipal Government Act Consultation

Dear Minister Mitchell:

The Greater Charlottetown Area Chamber of Commerce appreciates the opportunity to provide our feedback on proposed legislation pertaining to the Municipal Government Act.

As an advocate on economic issues for its 975 members, the Chamber has a vested interest in fiscal matters that impact PEI municipalities, particularly Cornwall, Stratford and Charlottetown.

The Chamber acknowledges that the new Municipal Government Act contains many elements which will positively impact interactions between the Provincial Government and municipalities. We also note that there are a number of changes which involve increased responsibility and accountability on the part of municipalities. The Chamber views this as a positive development, but is also aware that PEI municipalities expect to be faced with financial implications related to the changes.

At this time the Chamber would like to re-iterate the importance of resolving issues associated with the current Provincial-Municipal funding agreement. If it is to adequately implement the changes set out in the new Municipal Government Act, a municipality must have the capacity to do so - namely, adequate financial resources.

Given the clear connection between strong communities and a vibrant business community, ensuring adequate resources for PEI municipalities has been a key recommendation of the Chamber in numerous

pre-budget submissions to the provincial government. In its 2014 submission, the Chamber offered three guiding principles:

1. funding should realistically reflect expenditure needs and service demand;
2. funding should be formula-driven to provide the degree of certainty required for multi-year planning; and
3. larger municipalities should be required to adopt provincial standards of performance measurement.

The Chamber continues to stand by these principles and strongly suggests this issue be resolved as soon as possible, particularly in light of the revised standards laid out by the Municipal Government Act.

Many thanks for the invitation to provide input on this process and for your thoughtful consideration of our recommendations. If you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact the Chamber.

Sincerely,



Pam Williams
President



Penny Walsh McGuire
Executive Director

cc: Clifford Lee, Mayor, City of Charlottetown, PO Box 98, Charlottetown PE C1A 7K2
Minerva McCourt, Mayor, Town of Cornwall, PO Box 430, Cornwall PE C0A 1H0
David Dunphy, Mayor, Town of Stratford, Shakespeare Dr., Stratford PE C1B 2V8
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