

TOWN OF WESTVILLE

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 15, 2019

Tracey Taweel
Deputy Minister
Communities, Culture and Heritage
1741 Brunswick St, 3rd Floor, PO Box 456
Halifax, NS B3J 2R5

RE: New Proposed Funding Model for Nova Scotia Libraries

Dear Ms. Taweel,

This letter is in response to your email to our CAO dated January 31, 2019 concerning the new proposed funding model for Libraries. To begin with, we are very disappointed that the Municipalities were not at the table during these discussions. Besides the annual contributions to the Libraries, we cover significant expenses related to our Library here in Westville. All the repairs, maintenance and most operating costs (heat, cooling, lights, all other electricity requirements, cleaning, rent, insurance, etc.) are the responsibility of Westville taxpayers.

When any of our expenses incur an increase of 22%, it is of concern to us and must be reflected in our budget process. A 22% increase could mean that we would have to reduce the budget for other expenses or even possibly have to increase tax rates to cover the added increase in costs. Neither of these options is favourable. Also, it is not clear by your correspondence just when these increases will take place. Are we to receive the 1 year written notice from the Minister of Municipal Affairs?

We hope that you seriously consider our concerns and should you wish to discuss this issue further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

Roger MacKay
Mayor

c.c. NSF
All NS Municipalities