



**Attorney General
Justice
Office of the Minister**

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AUG 27 2015

Scott Conrod, CPA, CMA
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Pictou
PO Box 640
40 Water Street
Pictou, NS B0K 1H0

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**Nova Scotia
Utility and Review Board**

Dear Mr. Conrod:

I am writing in regards to the application being filed with the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) by the Municipality of Pictou County and the Towns of New Glasgow, Pictou and Stellarton with respect to municipal amalgamation.

As I understand, subject to a NSUARB decision and order, these four entities will be dissolved and replaced by one new municipal body. The intended effective date of the new amalgamated municipality is April 1, 2017. This dissolution, amalgamation and new incorporation is to include policing by municipal police agencies and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

I further understand that the aforementioned municipal units wish to maintain current-day municipal policing arrangements for a transition period of up to five years from the April 1, 2017 effective date of the proposed new municipality. The purpose of this time period is to allow for the new municipality to properly plan for the effective and efficient transition and amalgamation of certain aspects of municipal policing.

Should the NSUARB approve the proposed amalgamation, it should be understood that it would be required to develop and implement a revised policing governance model under the new structure; Municipal Board(s) of Police Commissioners would be required as per subsection 44(1) of the *Police Act* to provide oversight to the municipal police agencies; and an RCMP Police Advisory Board would be required to provide oversight to the RCMP component in accordance with subsection 57(1) of the *Police Act*.

Subject to a decision and order of the NSUARB, the maintenance of current municipal policing arrangements and the implementation of an approved governance structure, I am prepared to authorize the requested five-year transition period pursuant to my authority under section 5(1) of the *Act*. The deemed dissolution date with respect to municipal policing may occur at any point between April 1, 2017 and March 31, 2021, provided that approval of an amalgamation policing agreement is first obtained from my office. This approval is required in accordance with subsections 36(6) and 85(1) of the *Police Act*, which stipulate that a municipality must provide the Minister of Justice with immediate notice of a decision to change the manner in which it provides policing services and obtain approval of such structure as well as an amalgamation agreement

regarding the same. This would also include the requirement to obtain my approval if any change is made to the current policing model during the transition period.

Staff from my Department will be available to provide any assistance possible as you work towards the development of a new policing model for Pictou County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diana Whalen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

The Honourable Diana Whalen
Minister of Justice and Attorney General