



**Fisheries and
Communities**

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**Pêches et
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October 23, 2019

Mr. Brian Hogan, Mayor
Rural Municipality of Afton
1552 Route 19,
New Dominion, PE, COA 1H6

Dear Mayor Hogan:

Over the past 4 months, I have met with many municipal mayors, councillors and staff across PEI. Many people have raised questions about the *Municipal Government Act* and how it will be implemented. Because I cannot meet with all of you in person, I am writing to address some frequently asked questions.

My mandate as the Minister of Fisheries and Communities was spelled out recently by Premier King: engage and support municipalities on the implementation of the *Municipal Government Act*, which is currently in year two of a five-year implementation plan while identifying areas that require review.

I want to confirm that the *Municipal Government Act* is in place now and sets standards for financial accountability and transparency. It is fundamentally important to have consistent governance. Although there will be a review of the legislation, I have been describing this as 'tweaking' and not a change in direction.

I recognize there are some municipalities, which struggle to meet the expectations set out in the Act, and I want to work with you to find solutions. I am encouraged by initiatives underway such as municipalities looking to share services, which can increase affordability and build capacity.

I feel strongly that local councils need to engage their residents in conversations about the future for their area and the solutions for meeting the standards for municipalities and their vision for the future.

I look forward to hearing your feedback and suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jamie Fox". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "F" at the end.

Jamie Fox
Minister

cc: Beverley McIsaac, CAO