

From: Peter Kelly
To: Mayor/Councillors
Date: 12/01/2007 4:20:22 pm
Subject: Update - Meeting with Premier MacDonald

As you may recall, I had the opportunity to meet with Premier Rodney MacDonald in December to discuss several issues of joint interest. Minister Barnett was in attendance as well.

I took the opportunity to thank Premier MacDonald, and his government, on behalf of Halifax Regional Council for their recent positive efforts regarding Pension Solvency and Police Funding. As well, I expressed that we were pleased to be partners in the new Joint Sustainability Office and were pleased to see the NS Broadband announcement in November.

I as well highlighted several areas where we should continue to work collaboratively including: HarbourLink and support for federal funding; NS support to encourage follow-through on the Federal funding of Police; and joint planning around the Gateway concept. I as well reiterated our commitment to the District Energy Project and its importance to our community.

A key item of discussion was the Commonwealth Games. Issues related to:

- impact of federal funding announcement
- provincial/municipal funding contributions
- games guarantee

I offered a perspective that the NS contribution should be consistent with other games as their ability to fund is much greater and that the games will not create incremental revenue source for HRM, but will for NS and CAN. I suggested that we should be in agreement that the Federal \$400m cap: should not include security, should not include the provision of Shannon Park (clean), and should eliminate the % contribution requirement. I as well noted that the federal \$550 for Vancouver did not include Value in Kind, security, or the cost of federal essential services.

Overall the meeting went well, the discussion was open and frank. On CWG specifically it was understood that we needed an opportunity to discuss with our respective Council/Cabinet colleagues when the time is right and that we will each continue to consider our approach to contributions and games guarantees. We agreed that early in the new year a meeting will be requested with Federal Ministers to discuss exclusions around the federal contribution and the contribution policy and that a subsequent meeting with the Prime Minister may be requested.

We have agreed to meet on a semi-regular basis going forward.

Respectfully, I remain

Peter

CC: Dan English; Debbie Chambers; Jennifer Church