

NS-IEG-4717

March 4, 2026

Mark Phillips, CAO
West Hants Regional Municipality
76 Morison Drive, PO Box 3000
Windsor NS B0N 2T0
Via Email: mphillips@westhants.ca

Dear Mark Phillips:

On February 23, the Government of Nova Scotia released Budget 2026-27, *Defending Nova Scotia* (<https://novascotia.ca/budget>).

Over the past five years, government has made significant investments in programs and services to improve healthcare, strengthen communities, and support Nova Scotians. In the face of continuing global uncertainty and slower revenue growth, government must manage expenses carefully and align spending with core priorities.

As part of Budget 2026-27, government is undertaking expenditure management measures, including reducing the size of the civil service by 5%, reducing the size of the broader public service by 3%, reducing government operating costs, and making the difficult decision to reduce discretionary spending.

In this context, the Department of Growth and Development is implementing a revised funding framework for the Regional Enterprise Networks. The new framework aims to provide business supports to improve consistency, clarity, and alignment with provincial economic priorities.

Beginning in the upcoming fiscal cycle, provincial funding will move from core operational support to a service delivery program model focused on defined regional economic development services:

- Business Navigation and Pathfinding
- Business Retention and Expansion
- Regional Coordination Functions

There will be no core operational funding available from the Department under this framework. Provincial funding will be limited to approved activities that align with departmental priorities and defined program objectives.

Eligible proponents may continue to access provincial funding through proposal driven intakes tied to defined activities and outcomes. Additional program details will be communicated in the coming weeks.

The Province recognizes the critical role that our partners play in supporting businesses, workforce development, and regional economic resilience. We appreciate your continued collaboration as this framework is implemented.

Sincerely,

Chris Morrissey
Deputy Minister, Department of Growth and Development