

OCT 07 2016

Mr. Michael Merritt
Chief Administrative Officer
Cape Breton Regional Municipality
VIA E-MAIL: mjmerritt@cbrm.ns.ca

Dear Mr. Merritt:

The Department of Municipal Affairs has reviewed the July 4, 2016, funding request from the Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM). As the Regional Enterprise Network (REN) model does not support the creation of a separate REN for the Cape Breton Regional Municipality, we are pleased to offer the following to encourage long-term prosperity in your Municipality:

- Department of Municipal Affairs staff support to identify and map assets of significance to CBRM by collecting and analyzing provincially housed data and information. This is an important step toward being able to use land-use plans as a tool to promote business development.
- As per recommendation 17 of the 2014 Fiscal Review, the Department of Municipal Affairs will provide up to \$100,000 in funding for a process to examine the viability issues facing CBRM. The Department would like to work with CBRM in engaging the community to examine, discuss, and develop solutions at large for the future viability of CBRM. Engaging the business community, non-profit community, citizens, and the federal and provincial government to develop innovative solutions to the issues, both economic and other, facing CBRM will help ensure an approach to viability that is community lead and supported. Our department is eager to work with CBRM in developing a Terms of Reference for this project.
- At the conclusion of the community engagement exercise, the Department would be pleased to fund up to an additional \$125,000 for necessary studies to implement recommendations/ solutions as determined from the process noted above; for example, funding could be used to support a wastewater infrastructure study that would examine the cost of meeting the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) wastewater effluent standards in CBRM.

We are pleased to support you in this worthwhile endeavour.

Yours truly,



Kelliann Dean
Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs

cc: Shannon Bennett, Director, Governance & Advisory Services, DMA
Gordon Smith, Provincial Director of Planning, DMA