



## Response to Statement by Minister of Communities, Land and Environment

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 26, 2015

Charlottetown – The Federation of PEI Municipalities applauds the statement made in the legislature today by Robert Mitchell, Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

"Today, Minister Mitchell talked about working with the Federation on a vision for strong and sustainable municipalities," reported Federation President, Bruce MacDougall. "The Minister identified some of the basic requirements needed for municipalities to be successful and sustainable for the long term, such as: minimum population and assessment thresholds; establishing boundaries that reflect the community of interest; the need for services and infrastructure; tiered tax rates; and equitable population distribution within wards. Minister Mitchell also committed to providing funding for studies and transition costs," stated MacDougall.

"The current system of 73 municipalities covering only 30% of the Island cannot continue," explained MacDougall, "and we're very pleased to see the provincial government stepping forward to take a more active role. This announcement is an important step in laying the groundwork to make sure that we have engaged residents and have the best available information as we transition to viable municipalities in all areas of PEI."

The Minister acknowledged that while change is necessary, it is also difficult and it works best when those living in the local areas lead the process. MacDougall said he hopes that many Island residents will be a part of shaping this necessary change.

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For further information contact:  
John Dewey, Executive Director  
Federation of PEI Municipalities  
jdewey@fpeim.ca  
Tel: (902) 566-1493