

**OUR MISSION**

The UNSM is the collective voice of  
municipal government in Nova Scotia

## NEWS RELEASE

For interviews or more information, contact:

**Name:** Lyle Goldberg, Policy Analyst  
**Organization:** Union of NS Municipalities  
**Phone:** 423-8673  
**Email:** goldberg@eastlink.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Campaign Schools Encouraged Women to Run for Municipal Office**

**Halifax: December 2, 2008:** The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) is encouraged by the fact that 40 per cent (38 of 94 participants) attending the campaign schools for women ran for municipal office in the October 18 elections. Of the 38 participants who ran, 13 were elected or 34 per cent. "These are outstanding results," declared Councillor Claire Detheridge, Acting Chair of UNSM's Women in Local Government Committee. "It is obvious how important these schools are for women in terms of motivating them to take the final plunge and actually run," Detheridge said.

The UNSM hosted four municipal campaign schools for women between April and May to provide women with hands-on experience on how to run a successful election campaign and to provide them with important information on the role and mandate of municipal government.

Charlene Thompson, elected as a first-time councillor in the Town of Westville, said that "the schools gave me a wealth of information about municipal government and that desire and extra push to run in the upcoming election."

Schools were held in Sydney, Dartmouth, Stellarton and Yarmouth. The UNSM is looking to host an expanded number of schools in advance of the municipal elections in 2012.

The UNSM Women in Local Government Committee has set a goal to have women represent 30 per cent of municipal elected officials in Nova Scotia. Currently that figure sits at 21 per cent.

Additional partners supporting the campaign schools included the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, the Association of Municipal Administrators and Status of Women Canada.