



November 24, 2021

Honourable John Lohr
Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing
Department of Municipal Affairs & Housing
14th Floor North, Maritime Centre
1505 Barrington Street
PO Box 216
Halifax, NS B3J 2M4

Dear Minister Lohr,

Firstly, thank you for meeting with members of East Hants Council and Staff on November 17, 2021. Your willingness to visit with us, listen and discuss a number of issues important to East Hants was greatly appreciated.

This is further to our discussion at that meeting regarding Minimum Planning Requirements Regulations made under Section 214(4) of the Municipal Government Act and our letter on that topic to you dated October 8, 2021.

Should Council's request that these requirements be rescinded or a moratorium implemented not be forthcoming, we would like to confirm timelines for this project.

As you can appreciate, updating planning documents to include more than 1000 km of East Hants that previously only had limited regulations is a major undertaking. All the more so given the level of public engagement required through a pandemic and already significant workload on our planning staff, who are dealing with unprecedented development activity in our existing planning area.

The municipality has begun this project by hosting five public open houses in various communities, conducting an on-line survey and considering staff reports on a number of land use issues. What is apparent from the work so far is that there is a great deal yet to do. In addition, the municipality is

or soon will be engaged in other significant projects including a polling district review mandated to occur in 2022 by the Province.

Because of these and other stresses on our Planning & Development Department, we request that should the requirements for expanded planning remain in place, that we be given until 2026 to have this completed.

This would allow us to take the time to develop the most appropriate planning regulations possible while allowing for adequate public consultation without negatively impacting our service delivery in other planning areas. We would certainly use only the time needed, but would feel more comfortable knowing that there was an achievable target.

Therefore, we would like confirmation that if expanding planning to the entire municipality does have to take place, that it does not have to be complete before 2026.

We look forward to your response. If you have any questions, please contact myself by email at eroulston@easthants.ca or at 902-632-2573 or for any planning related information, please contact John Woodford, Director of Planning & Development at 902-883-6120 or jwoodford@easthants.ca

Sincerely,



Eleanor Roulston, Warden

Cc:

Brad Johns, MLA for Sackville-Uniacke

John A. MacDonald, MLA for Hants East

Melissa Sheehy-Richard, MLA for Hants West

Gordon Smith, Provincial Director of Planning