



Dear Minister Halman:

We the undersigned Municipalities of Nova Scotia are writing to express our deep disappointment over your decision to indefinitely delay regulations for the Coastal Protection Act. We are calling for the immediate release and implementation of the regulations before any more reckless development puts our communities and ecosystems further at risk.

The province must step up and act on behalf of all Nova Scotians. We are in a climate emergency, and this delay is irresponsible and unacceptable. Our coasts are an integral part of our economy and our identity as a province, and we urge you to do the right thing and act to protect them immediately.

A vast majority of Nova Scotia's coast has no significant development regulation. The Province's continued delay of the regulations is an unfair offloading of labour and costs onto Municipalities, leaving them to either pass their own bylaws, or continue to suffer degradation of our coastal communities and environment.

The Coastal Protection Act was passed in 2019. Extensive consultation since then has shown that Nova Scotians and municipalities support strong protective measures along our coasts. In response to more than \$385 million in damage from Hurricane Fiona, you pledged in the fall of 2022 that Coastal Protection Act regulations would come into effect in the first half of this year. This delay breaks your promise to communities and represents a failure to protect Nova Scotians from sea level rise.