

June 9, 2023

Warden Eleanor Roulston
Municipality of the District of East Hants
15 Commerce Street, Suite 170, Box 230
Elmsdale, NS B2S 3K5

Dear Warden Roulston:

I am writing to let you know we will be reaching out to your Chief Administrative Officers to request their input on how to improve the application process for Nova Scotians seeking priority access to public housing under the inadequate housing stream.

In its June 2022 report, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) of Nova Scotia found that current processes are insufficient to grant priority access to public housing. Priority access allows certain applicants to be placed at the top of the waitlist for public housing if they are:

- Victims of family violence
- In need of affordable housing in proximity to sustaining medical supports
- **Living in inadequate housing which poses an immediate health or safety risk**

To be approved for priority access under all three streams, applicants must submit forms documenting their situational requirements that are verified by a third party. Although the form for those living in inadequate housing indicates that it must be completed by fire, building and/or health inspectors, the OAG found that in some districts, applicants were unable to find the officials to do this for them. It concluded that further guidance is required on who can complete the forms, under what circumstances and whether the requirements are reasonable to meet so that only those most vulnerable are granted priority access.

We look forward to this discussion with your team so we can better understand how we can work together to ensure only the most vulnerable Nova Scotians in our communities are granted priority access to public housing.

Sincerely,



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