



December 7, 2023

David Benoit
President & CEO Build Nova Scotia
1875 Upper Water Street, Suite 301
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1S9
Email: david.benoit@novascotia.ca

Dear Mr. Benoit,

The Municipality of East Hants was pleased to hear the provincial announcement in October to invest \$47.3 million to start the new Cellular for Nova Scotia Program to expand telecommunications infrastructure and communications networks throughout the province. East Hants Council would like to congratulate Build Nova Scotia for leading this project forward for Nova Scotians.

East Hants is aware of the shared concern by all Nova Scotians with the availability and dependability of cellular phone coverage within the province. East Hants is one of the fastest-growing municipalities by population. The Municipality is comprised of both urban and rural areas, and in many of these areas cellular phone coverage is weak and inconsistent. This includes a number of service gaps when traveling through major provincial transportation corridors. Recently, throughout the municipality there has been a significant unexplained decrease in cell coverage in rural and highly populated areas. Lack of service and dropped calls are commonly known issues. These have been reported to carriers who have acknowledged that it could be years until it is remedied through investment in new infrastructure.

Reliable cell phone coverage is a critical infrastructure that impacts the safety and well-being of our residents and businesses. It affects individual households, business operations, and emergency first responders. In addition, cell phone coverage is also a factor in the

economic and social prosperity of our region. Businesses, government, and community organizations depend on cell phone coverage to maintain and grow operations and provide services.

On behalf of Municipal Council, I would be happy to meet to discuss the challenges our communities face daily.

Sincerely,



Warden Eleanor Roulston

CC:

Honourable Tim Houston, Premier

John MacDonald, MLA Hants East

Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson, President - NSFM

Honourable John Lohr, Minister - EMO NS