



December 18, 2023

Warden Eleanor Roulston  
Municipality of East Hants  
Box 230, Unit 170  
15 Commerce Court  
Elmsdale, NS B2S 3K5  
Email: [ahatfield@easthants.ca](mailto:ahatfield@easthants.ca)

Dear Warden Roulston:

Thank you for your email of December 7, 2023 regarding the Cellular for Nova Scotia Program, as well as your offer to meet.

Government understands the importance of reliable cell coverage for Nova Scotians. As you have noted, the Province recently announced it is investing \$47.3 million to start the new Cellular for Nova Scotia Program to expand telecommunications infrastructure and communications networks throughout the province.

Build Nova Scotia has been charged by the Province to plan, design, and manage the implementation of expanded cellular coverage throughout the province.

An initial cell gap study, and additional analysis, provides an understanding of the scope of this problem, which is common across the country. Areas in the Municipality of East Hants have been identified as having poor cell coverage as part of this analysis.

This project has a two-phased approach:

- The first Request for Proposals (RFP), which has now closed, seeks innovative and cost-effective proposals to install cellular equipment on existing provincially owned towers and other existing towers and/or infrastructure identified by proponents to expand cell coverage in underserved areas. The focus is on more immediate innovative solutions that can provide quick delivery and service.

- RFP 2 will follow to seek solutions to address remaining gap areas.

This will also ensure that the solutions identified are sustainable and are being coordinated with federal and provincial initiatives planned or underway, while ensuring maximum coverage as early as possible. Build Nova Scotia will look to maximize investments from and leverage key partnerships with the Federal Government, municipalities, and the private sector.

Overall, the goal is to reach the following coverage targets throughout the populated areas of the province:

1. 99% coverage for Basic Voice Call service
2. 95% coverage for Standard-Definition service (e.g. emails, web browsing and social media)
3. 85% coverage for High-Definition service (e.g. video conferencing, movie streaming, and other data intensive applications)

The initial focus will be major transportation corridors and areas with civic addresses.

My office will be in touch to set a mutually convenient time for a meeting with myself and Jonathan Veale our Vice President, Strategic Infrastructure and Development.

Thank you again for reaching out as it helps in developing solutions for Nova Scotians. We look forward to our conversation related to the provincial cell program and the Municipality of East Hants.

Sincerely,



David Benoit  
President and CEO

DB:ki

c *The Honourable John Lohr, Minister Responsible for the Office of Emergency Management  
John MacDonald, MLA, East Hants  
Mayor Carolyn Boliver-Getson, President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities*