



October 31, 2025

Mr. John A. MacDonald
Minister of Municipal Affairs
Department of Municipal Affairs
8th Floor North, Maritime Centre
1505 Barrington Street
PO Box 216
Halifax, NS
B3J 2K5

Via Email: dmamin@novascotia.ca

Dear Minister MacDonald,

East Hants has had a Code of Conduct for Elected Officials for years. The right of the public and of elected colleagues to raise concerns about a councillor is a right that the Council of East Hants believes in. The passing of regulation to stifle the public's ability to enter complaints about a Councillor are troubling to East Hants and should be to all elected officials in the province, both provincial and municipal. To write the regulation in such a way that individual municipalities are not permitted to take complaints from the public is a step backwards for many.

To be in compliance with Provincial legislation, East Hants Council has taken the step to repeal their Code of Conduct approved in 2024 to meet part 23A (2) (aa) of the MGA. This Code of Conduct, which went above and beyond the Provincial regulations, has been replaced with the regulated Code of Conduct.

We recognize that the Code of Conduct was perhaps not working as intended in some cases. We also recognize that appropriate consultation with municipalities could have resulted in amendments that would have supported those struggling with Code complaints, while maintaining the integrity of the Code of Conduct process for the public.

On behalf of the residents of East Hants we are requesting that you review the current regulations and make amendments that re-open public participation and that deal with frivolous and vexatious complaints, improve the intake process for vetting complaints that should and should not be investigated and improve financial controls through the process.

I look forward to your response. If we can support returning to enabling public participation, please let me know.

Regards,



Eleanor Roulston
Warden, Municipality of East Hants