



November 21, 2014

Emergency Health Services
C/O Jeff Fraser
EHS Director Ground Ambulance
966B Prince Street
Truro, NS
B2N 1H8

Re: Ambulance Service in East Hants, Hants North Area

Dear Mr. Semple:

The Municipality has been provided with a copy of correspondence dated October 23, 2014 giving notice to the Kennetcook Fire Department that the lease of space for EHS is being cancelled. The Municipality is very concerned about the permanent removal of ambulance service from this rural area of the community. While the Municipality understands the logic that the ambulance assigned to the area is spending the majority of time in the Milford depot because of the pattern of calls, we are of the opinion that this speaks more to the overall shortage of appropriate number of ambulances rather than the reduced need in the Kennetcook and surrounding areas.

Location of an ambulance in the Milford area does not give acceptable response times to residents in the Kennetcook and surrounding areas and places additional burden on our volunteer fire service to act as first responders. As you are no doubt aware, we are struggling to provide first responder and fire service in our rural areas as volunteers are often not available, particularly during the day. The Fire Service in East Hants relies heavily on mutual aid service from other departments when an emergency call comes in. That response is often not timely when one considers the nature of medical emergencies.

The Municipality is of the opinion that instead of permanent removal of the ambulance from the Kennetcook area, the service instead needs to be enhanced to afford the rural residents an appropriate level of medical first response service.

Council invites you to attend a future Council meeting to provide a full explanation of the decision by EHS and a rationale for how residents in this rural area will be assured of timely first response medical attention. Should you wish to accept this invitation, please contact Sheralee MacEwan, Assistant Municipal Clerk at 902-883-7098 Ext 217 or smacewan@easthants.ca to make arrangements.

Yours very truly,

Connie Nolan, CA, CFE
Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Dwayne Semple, Northeastern Regional Manager
Ms. Margaret Miller, MLA
Honorable Leo A. Glavine, NS Minister of Health