



June 17, 2026

The Honourable Minister Timothy Halman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Government of Nova Scotia
P.O. Box 442
Halifax, NS B3J 2P8

RE: Sharps Disposal in Nova Scotia

Dear Minister Halman,

On behalf of the Municipality of East Hants, and in support of our Northern Region Solid Waste Resource Committee partners, I am writing to convey our serious concerns about the disposal of sharps (needles) within not only our region, but across the province.

At a recent meeting of the NS Solid Waste-Resource Regional Chairs Committee your staff advised that work towards a regulated safe sharps program is not on the department's workplan at this time. This news was disappointing, given the extensive work regional staff have been engaged in for the last several years.

Sharps continue to be found regularly across all waste streams, including curbside bags, illegal dumping sites, roadways, public spaces, waste transfer stations, Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), and Enviro-Depots throughout Nova Scotia, and East Hants has not been immune.

These instances present significant risk of injury and a health hazard to the general public, first responders and to waste management workers. As the Northern Region wrote, *Kempton NS MRF, staff have documented weekly incidents, with more than 2,150 needles identified on recycling sorting lines since 2025.*

Sharps are used for various medical treatments, with more products coming into the market requiring their use, and an increase to home healthcare. Additionally, illegal substance uses and therefore sharps, is on the increase in our communities.

Municipalities and regional waste authorities, as employers, continue to manage the consequences of this issue in the absence of a consistent and enforceable provincial framework.

While the attached Appendix A was previously shared by the Northern Region and developed by the Regional Solid Waste Coordinators' Sharps Subcommittee, we felt it was important to share again for emphasis of the concern.

The existing voluntary *Safe Sharps Program* works as well as can be expected, with no targets and set guidelines. Our staff have found that local pharmacies struggle with the existing program due to inconsistent supply of safe sharps containers and collection services. Under a provincially regulated program these issues would be resolved, otherwise the stewards would be held accountable to find resolutions.

With agreement in the Region, we are also copying the Minister of Health and Wellness on this correspondence given the seriousness of concerns related to implications of sharps mismanagement. We are also copying the Minister of Municipal Affairs as this is a municipal-wide concern as well as our local MLA. We believe that addressing this issue requires collaboration through both environmental and health.

The Municipality of East Hants respectfully requests that the province re-evaluate the department's workplan and engage with municipalities through the Regional Chairs Committee to build options for a regulated approach.

Sincerely,



Warden Eleanor Roulston

cc: The Honourable Michelle Thompson, Minister of Health and Wellness
The Honourable John A. MacDonald, Minister of Municipal Affairs (MLA Hants East)
Nova Scotia Solid Waste-Resource Management Regional Chairs Committee
Northern Region Solid Waste-Resource Committee

Appendix A: Recent Sharp Reporting Examples



Figure 1: Colchester, Illegal dump March 27th, 2025

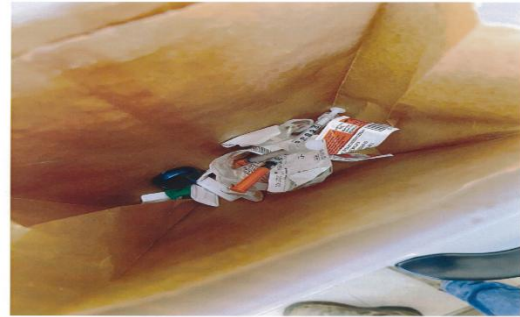


Figure 2: Windsor, Community Center. Feminine Product Disposal – March 27th, 2025



Figure 3: Colchester, Recycling Sorting Line – April 24th 2025



Figure 4: Lawrencetown, Transfer Facility – April 16th 2025



Figure 5: Yarmouth, Senior's Home – March 25th 2025



Figure 6: Illegal Dumpsite, Guysborough County - May 29th, 2025

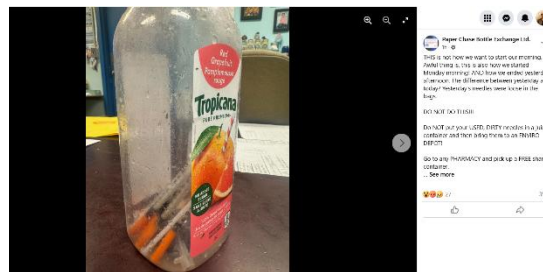


Figure 7: Yarmouth, Paper Chase Bottle Exchange – March 25th 2025

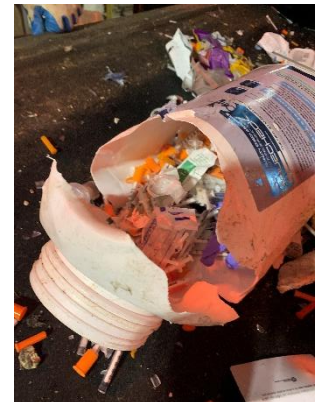


Figure 8: Colchester, Recycling Sorting Line – January 8th 2025



Figure 9: Sidewalk, Middleton Nova Scotia - March 27, 2025



Figure 20: Roadside Litter Clean Up, Yarmouth
- March 19th 2026



Figure 31: Illegal Dumpsite, Pictou County -
March 27th 2026



Figure 11: Colchester MRF - March 23rd, 2026



Figure 12: Abandoned Homeless
Encampment, Kentville - March 23rd, 2026



Figure 13: Halifax MRF - March
27th, 2026



Figure 14: Illegal Dump, Shannon
Park Kentville - March 30th 2026



Figure 15: Illegal Dump, Town of Kentville. 150
+ Sharps- Kentville - March 30th 2026



Figure 16: Bag Found in
Construction/Demolition Load, East Hants -
April 28th 2026



Figure 17: Residential Community, Glace Bay - April 1st 2026