

**Halifax
Regional
Municipality**



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HALIFAX REGIONAL
MUNICIPALITY

AUG 28 2009

S.G.
MUNICIPAL CLERK

August 26, 2009

The Honourable Maureen MacDonald
Minister of Health Promotion and
5th Floor, Summit Place
1601 Lower Water Street
P.O. Box 487
Halifax, NS B3J 2R7

Dear Minister MacDonald:

As you are probably aware, negotiations have been ongoing with Canadian National Railways, for the purchase of the abandoned rail line corridor known as the Chester Spur Line. This line stretches from the Superstore on Joseph Howe Drive to Lakeside Drive in the Lakeside Industrial Park, a total of approximately 8.5 km. The line connects with the provincially owned abandoned rail corridor which links from Beechville to Hubbards and then to Lunenburg. The Chester Spur Line is a key part of the Rails to Trails system forming the backbone of the active transportation system in HRM. Council recently approved an acquisition report that should result in the final transfer of the property from CN to HRM.

I know that Active Transportation, and all of the benefits that it brings, is an important focus for the Government of Nova Scotia and that the Province and HRM have forged a successful partnership in developing Active Transportation in this municipality. The purpose of this letter is to request a one-third contribution in funding towards the acquisition of this critical asset. Based on the projected net cost for the lands of \$2.25 m this amounts to an ask of \$750,000. With other obligations the total purchase price is beyond HRM's financial capability. Council has asked me to appeal to the province for assistance in securing the full funding needed to finalize the acquisition of the corridor.

Please consider this proposal an invitation to partner on this important initiative. Further information can be provided and HRM

MUNICIPAL CLERKS OFFICE

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