



Health Promotion and Protection

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B# 30343

Office of the Minister
HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
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MAYOR'S OFFICE

Peter Kelly
Mayor
Halifax Regional Municipality
1841 Argyle Street, PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Dear Mayor Kelly:

Thank you for your letter dated August 26, 2009 regarding acquisition of the abandoned rail line known as the Chester Spur Line. I commend Halifax Regional Council on the foresight in acquiring this key component of the active transportation network.

For more than a decade, the Government of Nova Scotia has been supporting active transportation as a means of achieving a healthier population through increased physical activity levels. The Department of Health Promotion and Protection's work in this area has involved participation in developing the recently released Physical Activity Strategy for the Halifax region and Halifax Regional Municipality's Active Transportation Plan. The Department of Health Promotion and Protection (HPP) also works with Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) on a variety of trails initiatives and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with HRM on these and other initiatives.

Unfortunately, HPP has no program or policy through which we can contribute to the cost of land acquisition. Once the municipality has acquired the land, we would be happy to consider the use of our infrastructure support programs to assist with the planning and development process.

I have taken the liberty of forwarding your letter to my colleague, The Honourable John MacDonell, Minister of Natural Resources, who has responsibility for acquisition of abandoned rail lines by the Province of Nova Scotia. Minister MacDonell may be in a better position to assist you.

Again, thank you for your letter and your ongoing commitment to physical activity, sport and recreation in HRM.

Yours truly,

Maureen MacDonell

Maureen MacDonell
Minister

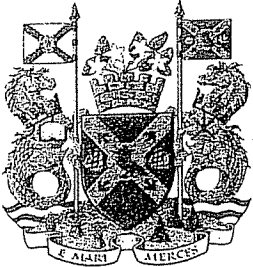
c. Honourable Graham Steele, Minister of Finance
Honourable John MacDonell, Minister of Natural Resources

MUNICIPAL CLERKS OFFICE

Distributed to:

- Councillors Meeting Regional Council
- Mayor
- CAO Date: August 11, 2009
- DCAOs G. Kai S., Mel. Anstey
- Solicitor Item No. 12.5
- Communications
- Other Jennifer Church

Halifax
Regional
Municipality



Peter Kelly
Mayor

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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

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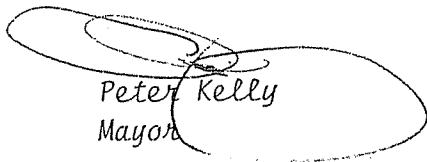
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 DCAO G. Kaiser, Mt. Arstley
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 Other J. Church

staff are willing to work closely with Provincial Staff in order to finalize the details of a report and recommendation for Cabinet consideration.

On behalf of Halifax Regional Council, I look forward to receiving a positive response to our request.

Respectfully, I remain



Peter Kelly
Mayor

cc The Honourable Graham Steel, Minister of Finance
Halifax Regional Council

