

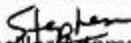


Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal
Office of the Minister

PO Box 186, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2N2

April 14, 2010

Councillor Stephen Adams
Spryfield-Herring Cove
Halifax Regional Municipality
PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Dear Councillor  Adams:

I am writing in response to your March 23, 2010, letter regarding Duncan's Cove and Chebucto Head Road.

The matter of ownership and responsibility for Chebucto Head Road is not in question. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has acknowledged that the road to the light station at Chebucto Head is not a public road. It was acquired by the Federal Government for use by DFO employees and representatives and DFO is responsible for snow clearing and other maintenance or repair work as deemed necessary by DFO for DFO's access. The province does not carry out any snow removal or maintenance activities on the Chebucto Head Road.

There are many roads within the Halifax Regional Municipality and across the province that have existed for some time and are not provincially owned public roads, Chebucto Head Road being just one example. As stated in previous correspondence, under the Provincial-Municipal Service Exchange, the province will no longer accept new local roads into provincial inventory. For the sake of clarity, the term "new local road" was intended to mean a newly constructed local road as well as any existing non-public road that may be under consideration for acceptance as a public highway. The municipalities are now responsible for considering "new local roads" as public highways.

With regards to paving of the "H" class section of Duncans Cove Road, as stated in previous correspondence, the Aid to Municipalities Program had been expanded to include non "J" class roads that have characteristics similar to "J" Class roads. I confirmed to you in my January 7, 2010, letter that the department will continue to entertain requests from municipalities to pave non "J" class roads. Duncans Cove Road was not included in the prioritized list of candidate roads received from HRM in January 2010.

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In summary, I am unable to commit the province to listing Chebucto Head Road as a provincially owned public highway or to undertaking maintenance of any kind to Chebucto Head Road as it is clearly an access road under Federal jurisdiction. With respect to Duncans Cove Road, the department will consider paving the "H" class gravel section under the Aid to Municipalities Program should HRM identify it as a paving priority.

I trust this clarifies our position on both of these matters.

Sincerely,



Bill Estabrooks, M.B.
Minister

c: David Darrow, Deputy Minister
Bruce Fitzner, Chief Engineer, Highway Programs
Peter Merritt, District Director - Central
Michele Raymond, MLA Halifax Atlantic