

April 15, 2024

The Honourable John Lohr
Minister, Department of Municipal Affairs & Housing
PO Box 216
Halifax, NS B3J 2M4

Dear Minister Lohr:

Re: Service Exchange

I would like to first acknowledge the extensive efforts to date to resolve longstanding issues by way of service exchange and municipal reform. I believe commendable progress has been made. However, as previously expressed, I remain concerned about how roads will be addressed moving forward.

Initial conversations concerning service exchange agreements involved J-class roads alone. For Colchester this would involve just over 111 kms. When additional classes of roads (G, H, and I) were added to the discussion, this brought our total to over 1,278 kms – quite a significant jump.

Our Council remains very concerned about the implications that proposed changes may have on our limited resources. The costs and logistics related to long-term maintenance, repair, and replacement of roads that could be transferred to our Municipality are still unknown. How will this affect our need for equipment, human resources, and supporting infrastructure required to house these additional resources? This is especially a concern as we continue to see rising costs on all products and services, labour shortages, and challenges sourcing equipment.

I know several other municipalities share similar concerns and feel it is important to bring this to your attention. I am hopeful and trust that future service exchange considerations concerning roads will involve extensive consultation, and ultimately have the best interest of all parties in mind.

Regards,



Christine Blair
Mayor

c. NS Mayors/Warden, CAOs
Colchester County Council

