



May 1, 2024

The Honourable Kim Masland, Minister  
Nova Scotia Public Works  
PO Box 186  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 2N2

Via Email: [publicworksminister@novascotia.ca](mailto:publicworksminister@novascotia.ca)

**Re: Bill 236 - The Railways Act - Windsor & Hantsport Railway Company**

Dear Minister Masland;

I am writing on behalf of East Hants Council following up on a letter dated July 19, 2023 expressing Councils' desire for an expeditious proclamation of Bill 236 or intervention by the Province declaring the Windsor & Hantsport Railway (the company) no longer having controlling interests in the former short rail line. East Hants has previously expressed interest in having this rail line converted to "rails to trails" that other areas of the Province have benefited from. Several letters have been sent on this matter to date. West Hants Regional Municipality shares our interest on this issue and has also corresponded with your office.

The company has been defined as being active by the issuance of an Operating License but in reality, it remains very much inactive. Crossings have been paved over, there have been no signs of maintenance or vegetation management along the line. Safety concerns continue with the stability of bridges and railway ties that are near or have fallen into water courses.

In response to our 2022 letter, we received correspondence from you dated April 22, 2022 indicating that your department has reviewed the decision of the UARB in the matter and continue to "evaluate next steps". Meanwhile, the license of the company remains active.

We were copied on a letter dated April 16, 2024 from Bonnie Rankin, LLB - Executive Director of Policy and Corporate Services with the Department of Public Works to Mayor Zebian of West Hants in response to their letter of July 5, 2023. While we appreciate being copied, we have no record of receiving a response to our July 19, 2023 letter.

We would appreciate receiving a follow-up regarding the current status and next steps on this file. We continue to encourage the Province to support the residents of this region in achieving the goal of active transportation to the benefit of all.

We look forward to your response.

Best regards,



Eleanor Roulston, Warden

cc: Mayor A. Zebian, West Hants  
Mark Phillips, CAO, West Hants  
Kody Blois, MP Kings-Hants  
Melissa Sheehy-Richard, MLA West Hants