



July 2, 2024

Eleanor Roulston, Warden
Municipality of East Hants
PO Box 230, Unit 170 Commerce Court
Elmsdale, Nova Scotia
B2S 3K5

Dear Warden Roulston,

Thank you for your letter dated June 14, 2024. We appreciate the concerns raised by the East Hants Council and value the opportunity to address them collaboratively. Building a strong partnership is crucial to our shared success, and we are committed to continuing our work together on the issues you've highlighted.

We acknowledge there have been challenges and we remain dedicated to finding common ground and working in partnership. We understand that decisions may not always meet everyone's expectations, however, we are committed to conducting thorough analysis and review of any concerns brought forward.

Bussing

CCRCE understands that changes to bussing can have a significant impact on family schedules and routines. Changes are not made without careful analysis and review of the situation and possible solutions.

Such changes are only made after a thorough analysis and review of the situation, ensuring that all possible solutions are considered. Adjustments are made in response to various factors, including family relocations, community growth, construction, and local events. Safety is a paramount concern, and occasionally, unforeseen events may necessitate an immediate change to a bus stop. We strive to communicate details promptly to affected families and address any concerns, as was done following the recent change mentioned by Ms. Roulston. To help ensure the Council has the necessary information, we will provide any communication regarding changes and rationale.

Regular reviews of bus stops and routes are conducted throughout the school year, with necessary adjustments made during the summer to accommodate changes such as family moves. This can affect courtesy stops that were previously available. All considerations are made with reference to the Provincial Transportation Policy, ensuring that decisions are consistent with established guidelines.

After Hours School Access

Since 2022, we have worked with the Municipality's Recreation Department to streamline the process for booking summer camps and access to our facilities. We have centralized booking to help with summer schedules and have also worked to standardize the fees and schedules across the region. We felt that this conversation was advancing and moving towards improvement. We are open to hearing more from the Council and Warden to find paths to make this process successful.

The expiration of the joint use agreements from the early 2000's occurred not as an intentional motive, but due to staff changes for both CCRSB/CCRCE and East Hants. We are aware of the SEA agreement with HRCE and HRM, however, there are different circumstances and situations within CCRCE and its various partner municipalities that prevent us from using a direct copy of another region's agreement. We would like to continue conversations to move the recent draft towards a signed agreement.

School Grounds/Municipal Funding of CCRCE Assets

CCRCE provides a school playground when new schools are created. When schools, Home and School groups, and communities wish to expand or upgrade the equipment, CCRCE helps with the planning and ensures appropriate maintenance occurs for the playground equipment. New or additional equipment has always involved financial help from Provincial and Municipal grants and should not be seen as an unwillingness to fund our assets.

Connecting sidewalks have been a challenge. Several of the connectors were created without input from the former CCRSB during construction, and as a result the sites are not easily accessible where the connectors from the streets were constructed. We have offered to work with community groups to try and design some possible options for these access points. CCRCE was asked if we had plans to connect those streets and while we don't have a capital plan to connect them, we have offered to work with school community groups to develop alternate access points for the schools.

CCRCE has reached out to the East Hants Municipality regarding crossing guards and additional crosswalks within the municipality to help with growing communities. Our hope is these items are considered by the Municipality.

Communication

Open communication is important to us. We are always available to support any families with concerns or questions. The parent concern protocol and contact information was shared with your office on June

19th. To support family concerns, please encourage families and community members to contact CCRCE and we will ensure a timely response in responding.

In closing, CCRCE wants to have a collaborative relationship with East Hants Municipality. We look forward to the opportunity to work together on the items as listed above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karyn Cooling', with a stylized, cursive script.

Karyn Cooling
Regional Executive Director