



THE MUNICIPALITY OF
CHESTER

Office of the Warden
The Municipality of Chester
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June 12, 2023

Minister Tim Halman
Department of Environment and Climate Change
PO Box 442
HALIFAX NS B3J 2P8

Dear Minister Halman:

I am writing to express our disappointment over government's decision to indefinitely delay regulations for the Coastal Protection Act. We are calling for the immediate release and implementation of the regulations. Our province has seen too many developments that put our communities and ecosystems at risk. Delaying implementation of the Coastal Protection Act is allowing developers and property owners to undertake development that would otherwise be regulated by the proposed regulations.

The province must step up and act on behalf of all Nova Scotians. We are in a climate emergency, and this delay tactic is unacceptable. The recent wildfires are but one example of the damage we will continue to experience due to climate change. These regulations will protect natural ecosystems and make sure new homes and businesses are safer from sea level rise, coastal flooding and coastal erosion. These are all effects that will continue to impact our communities as we deal with climate change. The Act was passed by the previous government in 2019 and there was much consultation prior to the development and the passing of the Act. Since 2019 there have been numerous consultations and public notification of impending regulations.

Municipalities have shared that a province wide approach is necessary. Our coasts are an integral part of our economy and our identity as a province, and we urge you to do the right thing and act to protect them immediately. Your very own website states "Nova Scotia has 13,000 kilometres of coastline and much of the coast is vulnerable to the harmful impacts of climate change. Many areas are already experiencing coastal flooding or facing erosion that threatens homes, cottages and businesses."

As you may be aware, a vast majority of Nova Scotia's coast has no significant development regulation. Municipalities have been working on mandatory land use planning, but the process takes much time. With the regulations pending, many municipalities, including our own, opted to put minimal regulations in place so that we

NOVA SCOTIA'S TREASURE

did not create a confusing regulatory requirement that would potentially conflict with the provincial regulations.

Most municipalities also lack the professional expertise to develop regulations that adequately address the complexities of coastal protection. The provincial regulatory regime was intended to address this in a scientifically sound and defensible method.

The province's continued delay of the regulations creates a situation where municipalities may need to enact their own regulations. However as stated, this would create a situation where some municipalities would then choose a minimal setback and protective measures, while others would potentially end up with excessive regulations. This would create an unbalanced protection of our coastline.

Extensive consultation since the passing of the legislation in 2019 has shown that Nova Scotians and municipalities support strong protective measures along our coasts. Recent activity along the coast, including in areas of our own County, have shown that regulations are needed to protect our coastal areas. In response to more than \$385 million in damage from Hurricane Fiona, you pledged in the fall of 2022 that Coastal Protection Act regulations would come into effect in the first half of this year. This delay breaks your promise to communities and represents a failure to protect Nova Scotians from sea level rise and the impacts of climate change.

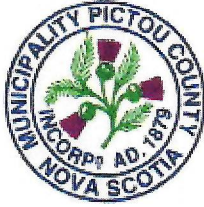
We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Allen Webber
Warden

Copy to Ecology Action Centre



Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
46 Municipal Drive, Pictou, Nova Scotia, B0K 1H0
(Tel) 902-485-4311 (fax) 902-485-6475
(Email) brian.cullen@munpict.ca

June 15, 2023

Honourable Tim Halman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Department of Environment and Climate Change
PO Box 442
Halifax, NS
B3J 2P8

Dear Minister Halman:

I am writing on behalf of the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou concerning the Coastal Protection Act. The Municipal Council recently received correspondence from the Ecology Action Centre concerning the postponement of the implementation of the regulations of the Coastal Protection Act. The correspondence is attached to this letter.

The Municipal Council agree with the statements contained in the letter and believe it is imperative that the regulations be released. As an area that saw drastic impacts from Hurricane Fiona along our coastal areas, we believe that the time is now to act. Our climate is changing, and we cannot delay our collective response to the climate change crisis. The Municipal Council supports the Ecology Action Centres call for the implementation of the regulations for the Coastal Protection Act.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Brian Cullen
Chief Administrative Officer

Cc Honourable Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia, MLA Pictou East
Honourable Karla MacFarlane, MLA Pictou West

Dear Minister Halman:

We the undersigned Municipalities of Nova Scotia are writing to express our deep disappointment over your decision to indefinitely delay regulations for the Coastal Protection Act. We are calling for the immediate release and implementation of the regulations before any more reckless development puts our communities and ecosystems further at risk.

The province must step up and act on behalf of all Nova Scotians. We are in a climate emergency, and this delay is irresponsible and unacceptable. Our coasts are an integral part of our economy and our identity as a province, and we urge you to do the right thing and act to protect them immediately.

A vast majority of Nova Scotia's coast has no significant development regulation. The Province's continued delay of the regulations is an unfair offloading of labour and costs onto Municipalities, leaving them to either pass their own bylaws, or continue to suffer degradation of our coastal communities and environment.

The Coastal Protection Act was passed in 2019. Extensive consultation since then has shown that Nova Scotians and municipalities support strong protective measures along our coasts. In response to more than \$385 million in damage from Hurricane Fiona, you pledged in the fall of 2022 that Coastal Protection Act regulations would come into effect in the first half of this year. This delay breaks your promise to communities and represents a failure to protect Nova Scotians from sea level rise.



MUNICIPALITY *of the*
COUNTY *of* KINGS

7/6/2023

Hon. Tim Halman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Province of Nova Scotia
P.O. Box 442
Halifax, NS, B3J 2P8

Dear Minister Halman,

Our Municipality has been hearing from others that they are frustrated with the relative delay in having the Regulations of the Coastal Protection Act (2019) tabled to trigger the applicability of the Act.

While Kings is not directly impacted (our coastal areas are already zoned as environmentally sensitive areas where construction is restricted), we have observed in other municipal jurisdictions the 'race to the bottom' whereby some members of the public are scrambling to erect multiple residential and other structures on postage-stamp sized lots within 'spitting distance' of the high-water mark – mostly to rent as B & B's as commercial tourism enterprises.

We support our sister municipalities in the call for an early/more timely and responsible activation of the Act and Regulations.

The announcement of the Act and the impending regulations has worsened the coastal environment rather than protected it. That is regrettable.

Respectfully,

Mayor Peter Muttart
Municipality of the County of Kings
RPM/slf
Cc Ecology Action Centre

Phone: 902-678-6141 or 1-888-337-2999
Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
inquiry@countyofkings.ca

181 Coldbrook Village Park Drive,
Coldbrook, N.S. B4R 1B9



Town of New Glasgow
Office of the Mayor

July 14, 2023

The Honourable Timothy Halman
Minister of Environment & Climate Change
P. O. Box 442
Halifax, N. S.
B3J 2P8

Dear Minister Halman:

Re: Coastal Protection Act

We are writing to express our concern over your decision to indefinitely delay regulations for the Coastal Protection Act. We are calling for the immediate release and implementation of the regulations before any more development puts our communities and ecosystems at further risk.

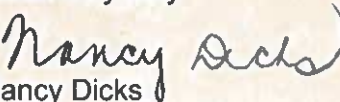
The Province must step up and act on behalf of all Nova Scotians. We are in a climate emergency. Our coasts are an integral part of our economy and our identity as a Province and we urge you to protect them.

A vast majority of Nova Scotia's coast has no significant development regulations. The Province's continued delay of the regulations is an unfair offloading of labour and costs on municipalities, leaving them to either pass their own bylaws or continue to suffer degradation of our coastal communities and environment.

The Coastal Protection Act was passed in 2019. Extensive consultation since then has shown that Nova Scotians and municipalities support strong protective measures along our coasts. In response to more than \$385 million in damage from Hurricane Fiona, you pledged in the fall of 2022 that Coastal Protection Act regulations would come into effect in the first half of this year. This delay breaks your promise to communities and represents a failure to protect Nova Scotians from sea level rise.

We urge you to deal with the regulations for the Coastal Protection Act without delay.

Yours very truly


Nancy Dicks
Mayor



TOWN OF TRENTON OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

PO Box 328, Trenton NS, B0K 1X0
Tel: 902-752-5311 / Fax: 902-752-0090
www.trenton.ca

Minister Halman
Department of Environment and Climate Change
Barrington Tower
1894 Barrington Street, Suite 1800
P.O. Box 442 Halifax, NS B3J 2P8

October 25, 2023

Dear Minister Halman:

We the undersigned Municipalities of Nova Scotia are writing to express our deep disappointment over your decision to indefinitely delay regulations for the Coastal Protection Act. We are calling for the immediate release and implementation of the regulations before any more reckless development puts our communities and ecosystems further at risk.

The province must step up and act on behalf of all Nova Scotians. We are in a climate emergency, and this delay is irresponsible and unacceptable. Our coasts are an integral part of our economy and our identity as a province, and we urge you to do the right thing and act to protect them immediately.

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The Coastal Protection Act was passed in 2019. Extensive consultation since then has shown that Nova Scotians and municipalities support strong protective measures along our coasts. In response to more than \$385 million in damage from Hurricane Fiona, you pledged in the fall of 2022 that Coastal Protection Act regulations would come into effect in the first half of this year. This delay breaks your promise to communities and represents a failure to protect Nova Scotians from sea level rise.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Donald Hussher', is written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Donald Hussher & Trenton Town Council

July 18, 2023

The Honourable Timothy Halman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Department of Environment and Climate Change
Barrington Tower
1894 Barrington Street, Suite 1800
P.O. Box 442
Halifax, NS
B3J 2P8
Minister.Environment@novascotia.ca

Dear Minister Halman:

Staff and Council of Region of Queens Municipality (RQM) urge your government to implement the regulations related to the Coastal Protection Act.

We ask this despite the fact RQM has very significant land use bylaws which cover our entire county. First created in 2009, they underwent an extensive review beginning in 2018 and finally became effective July 20th of last year. RQM bylaws related to marine shorelines were strengthened and now include a thirty-metre setback from high tide or top of bank. In addition, no finished floor level shall be below a vertical elevation of 2.8 metres. Our weakness, which the province's Coastal Regulations will improve, is the requirement to build upon non erodible soil in the coastal zone.

We understand some municipal units are opposed to this Act; however, it is essential the health and safety of those who choose to build on the ocean's edge is placed as a priority. The effects of climate change are undeniable. The rapid development of our entire Nova Scotian coastline is very concerning. Municipalities with weak or non-existent land use bylaws will be years before they have their own land use bylaws and strategies in place. The province must pair the Act with its regulations as it is very evident that common sense in relationship to coastal development is rare.

Minister Halman, we ask that you do your very best to enact the Coastal Protection Act and its regulations.

Respects,



Mayor