



January 31, 2019

Honorable Chuck Porter
Minister of Municipal Affairs
14th Floor Maritime Centre
1505 Barrington Street
PO Box 216
Halifax, NS B3J 2M5

Dear Minister Porter:

This is further to the letter sent to municipalities from your Provincial Director of Planning, Gordon Smith. The letter, dated January 4, 2019, invited municipal representatives to attend consultation sessions regarding minimum planning requirements.

East Hants Council is displeased with the timelines associated with this notice. Many municipal councillors have full-time jobs from which they need to arrange leave to attend such events. The amount of time from receiving the notice (January 9th) to the RSVP date (January 11th) was insufficient for some councillors to commit to attending.

In addition, all four sessions were held at the same time during the workday. This is also a barrier to attendance for some councillors.

We draw this to your attention as implementing minimum planning requirements is a very significant issue for East Hants. In fact, it is really only an issue for those rural municipal units, such as ours, that do not currently have comprehensive planning across their entire municipality.

We appreciate that the Provincial Director of Planning did meet with our Warden, CAO and Director of Planning & Development. However, additional consultation should be done by arranging for you or your staff to attend a council meeting with each of the directly affected municipal units.

Sincerely,

Jim Smith,
Warden

Cc Honourable Margaret Miller, MLA Hants East
All municipal units