



**Public Works
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 186, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2N2

FEB 22 2023

Glenn Horne, CAO
Municipality of the County of Antigonish
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4
glenn.horne@antigonishcounty.ca

Dear CAO Horne:

Thank you for your email of January 24, 2023, sent on behalf of rural and regional mayors and wardens of Northeastern Nova Scotia and Cape Breton, concerning gaps in cellular connectivity throughout the province.

The Province understands the importance of reliable cell coverage, and we recognize this is an issue in many rural areas. The new Crown Corporation, Build Nova Scotia, is working to better understand service levels and identify locations of critical gaps. This data will guide us in determining how best to proceed with solutions to improve coverage.

We believe that through the Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative, the extension of fibre networks further into communities does help to improve the business case for cellular providers. We are working diligently to identify options to present to government on how best to improve cell service across the province.

Thanks to you and your colleagues for advocating this important issue. We wish you much continued success in each of your endeavours.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kim D. Masland'.

Kim D. Masland
Minister

c: Amanda MacDougall, Mayor, Cape Breton Regional Municipality
Bonny MacIsaac, Warden, Municipality of the County of Inverness
Owen McCarron, Warden, Municipality of the County of Antigonish
Amanda Mombourquette, Warden Municipality of the County of Richmond
Bruce J. Morrison, Warden, Municipality of the County of Victoria

Vernon Pitts, Warden, Municipality of the District of Guysborough
Juanita Spencer, CEO, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
The Honourable Keith Bain, MLA, Victoria-The Lakes
The Honourable Susan Corkum-Greek, Minister, Economic Development
The Honourable Allan MacMaster, MLA, Inverness
The Honourable Greg Morrow, MLA, Guysborough-Tracadie
The Honourable Michelle Thompson, MLA Antigonish
Trevor Boudreau, MLA, Richmond



CAPE BRETON
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH



October 31, 2022

Honourable Susan Corkum-Greek
Minister Economic Development
Department of Economic Development
CIBC Building
1809 Barrington Street, Suite M103
Halifax, NS B3J 3K8
Email: edminister@novascotia.ca

Dear Minister Corkum-Greek:

RE: Gaps in Cellular Connectivity

We write today on behalf of our Municipalities to urge the Provincial government to address the gaps in cellular connectivity across Nova Scotia. Cellular connectivity has quickly become an essential part of our lives and an essential piece of community and economic infrastructure. It affects many aspects of our community including public safety, emergency services, economic development and residential growth.


Our Municipalities have been advocating to service providers, other levels of government as well as trying to find solutions to address the gap in cellular coverage, all to no avail.

We have recently met as neighbouring Municipalities who are experiencing the same challenges regarding cellular connectivity and are taking our concerns to you. We would like to advocate for Develop Nova Scotia to take on the analysis of cellular coverage gaps and work with service providers to find solutions as they have done with Broadband. The Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative has been widely successful, and we would like to see the work continue to address cellular connectivity. Once the backbone fibre is available

throughout the province, it would be a prime opportunity for Nova Scotia to become a leader in connectivity.

Recent challenges with the cellular network through Hurricane Fiona only serve to demonstrate how imperative cellular connectivity is, particularly in an emergency. Cellular expansion has the potential to change the landscape of rural Nova Scotia. It is key to the economic prosperity, and more importantly the safety, of our communities. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Amanda MacDougall
Mayor, Cape Breton Regional
Municipality



Amanda Mombourquette,
Warden, Municipality of the County of
Richmond



Bonny MacIsaac
Warden, Municipality of the County of
Inverness



Owen McCarron
Warden, Municipality of the County of
Antigonish



Bruce J. Morrison
Warden, Municipality of the County of
Victoria



Vernon Pitts
Warden, Municipality of the District of
Guysborough

CC: Honourable Michelle Thompson, Antigonish MLA
Honourable Greg Morrow, Guysborough-Tracadie MLA
Honourable Allan MacMaster, Inverness MLA
Honourable Keith Bain, Victoria-The Lakes MLA
Trevor Boudreau, Richmond MLA
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