

November 10, 2017

Mr. Jacques Dube
CAO
Halifax Municipality
PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Dear Mr. Dube:

I am writing to you regarding your staff report of July 11, 2017, titled “Community Integration Fund – Otter Lake Landfill” and which was relied upon by Council at their session on September 5, 2017.

At the Community Monitoring Committee (CMC) meeting of October 5, 2017, the Board members discussed concerns with the report. The members feel that its content was at times inconsistent with our memory of discussions between the Board executive of CMC and HRM senior staff when HRM was considering the proposed contract extension for the operation of the Otter Lake Landfill Facility. It is also the collective opinion of Board members that the report could be misinterpreted to understand that the \$90,000 budget for CMC monitoring operation represents a form of compensation to the community, which it does not. Indeed, a Councillor and Board member of CMC stated that was his take on the message of the report. He now knows that monies within the yearly CMC operational grant should not be construed as compensation to the community. Left unaddressed by both parties, this staff view is provocative to the Board of CMC. Unchallenged, the staff report contains a set of misleading statements which may indeed, if allowed to stand, cause to similarly mislead our public, including the offices of Nova Scotia Environment.

I believe that we would all benefit from a meeting to discuss the origin of the CMC, its purpose and responsibilities, and the relationship it has with Council and staff. The CMC is a joint committee of the local community and HRM, yet we have not had the pleasure of meeting you, our new municipal leader, and discussing the role of CMC and how it relates to HRM operations. A common understanding is in both our interests. After all, we do serve the best interests of the same community.

Accordingly, I request a meeting with you, preferably this month, which would be attended by several members of the CMC executive committee, so that we can open with you a positive dialogue and relationship.

I look forward to your response.

Yours truly,

John Cascadden
Community Monitoring Committee Chair

cc: Members of the CMC