

Amanda R. Dunfield



February 21, 2025

West Hants Regional Municipality
ATTN. WHRM Council
76 Morison Drive
Windsor, NS
B0N 2T0

Good Afternoon Council,

Please accept this correspondence as an expression of deep concern urging Council give pause and more careful consideration to Minister Lohr's bundled request for support to reducing inter-provincial trade barriers and resource development before offering WHRM's support.

While it would seem a reduction in inter-provincial trade barriers could be advantageous for many industries, the correspondence is unclear as to which trade barriers are being considered. Similar may be said regarding support for resource development; in the absence of further information on precisely what is being defined as 'resource development', where these developments are anticipated to occur, what they will entail, the potential pros & cons of these projects, etc., etc., it would seem premature to request a broad-brush statement of support from any municipality, and abundantly short sighted for any municipality to hastily agree. First transparency by way of broader public discussions, then social license.

With specific consideration to West Hants, *we must not lose sight of the fact we remain under a prolonged State of Emergency. Any mandate for mineral and energy resource development in West Hants may not align well with the mandate set out in the State of Emergency; which has been clearly stated to be a need to monitor essential water resources in Hants County for the protection of property, health and safety of persons in Hants County.*

We are told our natural water resource availability is so problematic that there isn't sufficient water for fire suppression, nor to properly rectify this situation. In fact, WH MLA Melissa Sheehy Richard has said when fighting a fire in West Hants 'they have to stop and they have to let the building burn' if there not

enough water available, and 'the government is not willing to be at risk', 'no Minister is prepared to sign that away, to say we're willing to be responsible.'

Simply put, it would appear we are not positioned at this time to support resource development in West Hants, particularly should any such development have any requirement whatsoever for water.

Thank you for your careful consideration of Minister Lohr's request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Amanda', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Amanda Dunfield

Schedule "A"
Renewal of Provincial State of Emergency by Minister
(subsection 19(2) of the *Emergency Management Act*)

Emergency area:

On June 1, 2023, a State of Emergency was declared for the area around and including Pisiquid Lake, Windsor, Hants County in the Province of Nova Scotia.

Nature of the emergency:

Nova Scotia experienced unprecedented wildfire activity in May 2023. Out of control wildfires damaged homes and destroyed large tracks of land. The fire suppression resources in the emergency area were inadequate for a large fire event. The Provincial government has to monitor the availability of essential water resources in the Hants County area for wildfire and fire suppression purposes. These circumstances require the continuation of prompt coordinated action or regulation for the protection of property and for the health and safety of persons in the emergency area.

I am satisfied that an emergency, as defined in clause 2(b) of Chapter 8 of the Acts of 1990, the *Emergency Management Act*, continues to exist or may exist in the Province and requires the further continuation of the state of emergency in the emergency area identified above.

While under a Provincial State of Emergency, I may require any or all of the actions specifically listed under clauses 14(a) to (m) of the *Emergency Management Act*, or anything else I determine is necessary for the protection of property and the health or safety of persons in the Province.

The Directions issued from June 1, 2023, until today shall continue in place under this renewal unless terminated or changed by me in writing. Further Directions may be issued and posted for the public throughout the State of Emergency.

This State of Emergency was previously renewed every second Thursday for a 14-day period from June 15, 2023, to February 20, 2025 at 8:00pm.

With the approval of Governor in Council, I hereby further renew the declaration of a State of Emergency for the emergency area identified above to continue on and after 8:00 pm on **Thursday, February 20, 2025**.

If this Declaration is not renewed or terminated earlier, the State of Emergency remains in effect until 14 days after the date and time it is declared, which is until 8:00 pm on **Thursday, March 6, 2025**.

Dated February 18, 2025 at Halifax, Nova Scotia,

Original signed by:

Hon. Kim Masland

Minister of Emergency Management