



OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

PO BOX 726
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
B3J 2T3

June 11, 2025

Mr. Mark Phillips
Chief Administrative Officer,
West Hants Regional
Municipality 76 Morison Drive,
PO Box 3000 Windsor, Nova
Scotia B0N 2T0

Dear Mr. Phillips,

A recent vote of the West Hants Regional Municipality Council with respect to uranium mining was recently brought to my attention.

I certainly appreciate and share your Council's concerns for protecting our land, air and water and I'm sure you know that as a Nova Scotian, my government would never do anything to intentionally put our environment at risk.

We are, however, committed to moving forward on all natural resource projects so long as they can be done thoughtfully and safely.

We will move forward - because we have to. The sad reality is that when you look at the GDP per capita across all 60 American states and Canadian provinces, Nova Scotia ranks last. We are 60 out of 60. The worst performing economy in North America.

The reason?

If you look at the average annual private sector GDP growth in Nova Scotia since 2002 you will see that the numbers look something like this:

Natural gas production: -100%
Forestry and logging: -60%
Fishing: -38%
Crop production (except cannabis): -
32% Mining and quarrying: -67%
Aquaculture: -22%

I find these numbers shocking. They certainly explain how we arrived at 60 out of 60. This is unacceptable. I won't stand for it and I know you won't either.

Over time, as a society we started to listen to groups that used loud voices and fear to shut down jobs and opportunities. They often don't want development in our Province. They are happy with this status quo.

Their first step is generally an attempt to prevent informed, healthy debate and simply try to scare people into shutting down any discussion. Their success has led to blanket bans and moratoriums.

For twenty-plus years, they have been successful, but we don't believe in this strategy as a policy development process. Blanket bans, without allowing space or the ability to discuss or explore, is lazy public policy.

We are going to get both sides of the story, gather facts and have healthy discussion on a project-by-project basis. Not every project will proceed - some projects in some areas are simply not conducive to development and that is fine.

But at the same time, technology and methods have evolved and we owe it to each other to assess what is possible.

Nova Scotia is geographically small, but geologically diverse. We have most of the critical minerals on Canada's list of key minerals and they are a part of our Critical Minerals Strategy.

Nova Scotia is blessed with natural resources. We need to develop them, and do it safely. For example, we are lithium rich - lithium is desperately needed for EV batteries. A single project in Nova Scotia is valued at approximately \$6 billion.

We have zinc. The world needs zinc for wind turbines.

We have indium. The world needs indium for solar panels.

We have copper. The world needs copper for electricity transmission.

We have uranium. The world needs uranium for nuclear energy to help get us off coal. The world needs uranium for medical isotopes to help treat cancer. The world needs uranium for food production to help with our self-sustainability in food.

We have all of these critical minerals and more. The entire world needs them and everyone is looking for a reliable supply from places where mining is ethical and sustainable. For some, Nova Scotia can be that source.

We have lifted the blanket ban on uranium mining and exploration so that we can have the discussion about what is possible in terms of safely taking full advantage of our natural resources to create jobs, attract investment and grow our economy - all while still

safeguarding the environment and human health. Uranium hasn't changed but mining has.

Since I've been Premier, we have invested approximately \$227,304,025 (not including healthcare) into Hants County on projects that include:

- Farm Loan Board Financing
- Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board Financing
- Fiona Greenhouse Replacement Program
- Expansion Project NS Foods
- Harness Racing Program
- Technologies for Value Added Agriculture Program
- Electrical Interruption Assistance Program
- Value-adding Equipment Program
- Fiona Infrastructure Redevelopment Program
- Fiona Corn Price Gap
- Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program
- Fiona Soybean Price Gap
- Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program
- Abattoir Enrichment and Efficiency
- Fiona Agr Response Gap Funding
- FADA Provincial Generator Fuel
- Advancing Innovative Technologies Program
- Exhibitions and Fairs Deferred from 20-21
- Food & Beverage Business Accelerator Program
- Soil and Water Sustainability Program
- On-Farm Industry Preparedness Program
- On-farm Electrical Preparedness Program
- Various programs
- Innovation Rebate Program Investment
- Beautification and Streetscaping Program
- Consolidation NDMP
- Emergency 911 Grant
- Emergency Services Provider Fund (ESPF)
- Federal Gas Tax Transfer
- Fire Protection Grant
- Flood Risk Infrastructure Investment (FRIP)
- Grant in Lieu of Farm Tax
- Grant in Lieu of Property Tax
- Ground Search & Rescue Grant
- Harmonized Sales Tax Offset Grant
- Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program

- Municipal Financial Capacity Grant
- NSPI Grant in Lieu
- One-Time INFLATION Top-up
- Provincial Capital Assistance Program
- Sustainable Services Growth Fund (SSGF)
- Major maintenance Public Housing (exterior renovations, building systems, accessibility, energy retrofit)
- Repair work Public Housing (exterior repairs, unit turnover, break-fix repairs)
- East Hants Hwy 214 Active Transportation Linkages
- Community Transportation Assistance Program (CTAP)
- Accessible Transportation Assistance Program (ATAP)
- One-time Grants
- Fed-Prov Covid Relief
- Asphalt/Bridges/Gravel
- West Hants Regional Municipality - College Road and Nesbitt Street Infrastructure Renewal
- Three Mile Plains/Windsor Forks PP-6
- Hwy 101: Three Mile Plains to Falmouth Twinning
- Hwy 101: Three Mile Plains to Falmouth Twinning (Aboiteau)
- Ageless Traditions
- Heating Assistance Rebate Program
- Property Tax Rebate for Seniors
- Seniors Care Grant
- Fiona Food Grant
- Fiona Tree Grant
- Fiona Farm Grant
- Seniors Care Grant Fiona Support
- Nova Scotia's child-care space creation programs
- The Station Learning Farm
- The Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia Comhairle na Gaidhlig
- Stanley Sport Aviation Association
- Ardoise Community Recreation Centre
- Burlington & District Activity Club Hants County
- SCCF Glooscap
- Newport Station Community Hall Society – Replace Septic System
- GRID Municipality of East Hants – Shubenacadie Water Treatment Plant
- Royal Canadian Legion 009 Windsor
- OPHR West Hants Regional Municipality
- SunnyRidge Equestrian Inc.
- Hants Shore Karate Club
- Mitch's Transportation Organization
- Belmont Community Club

- Rotary Club of Windsor
- Sweets Corner Community Group
- Mermaid Theatre
- Hants County Exhibition
- Heritage Beef Classic
- Gordon Hughes Tennis Club
- New Dykeland Lodge
- HMCC
- Landing Strong
- POSSE multiyear funding
- DAF and DFAA for flood relief
- Season Response Extension

These are just a few of the investments and I have no doubt that your Council has many more wants and needs. We would love to be able to meet every ask, but to do that, we need the resources to move forward.

The good news is that we have every opportunity to change our economic fortunes. But we won't do it by simply saying "no" and shutting down any discussion before it starts.

I believe in my heart that the majority of your Council is truly interested in understanding what is possible and improving Nova Scotia's economic standing. In the words of a famous Pictonian: "There is no standing still. If you are not moving forward, you are moving backward."

I ask the Council to find the courage to join us in working to find that path forward, for the good of Hants County and all Nova Scotians, because Nova Scotia has moved backwards for far too long.

Yours truly,



Premier Tim Houston

Cc: Melissa Sheehy Richard, MLA Hants West
Cc: Mayor Zebia