



January 9, 2025

Attention

Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Finance and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Honourable David J. McGuinty, Minister of Public Safety

Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister of Emergency Preparedness

Honourable Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities for Canada

Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Canada

Honourable Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia

Honourable Barbara Adams, Deputy Premier of Nova Scotia

Honourable John A. Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Minister of Finance and Treasury Board

Honourable Tim Halman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

Honourable Kim Masland, Minister of Emergency Management

Honourable Michelle Thompson, Minister of Health and Wellness

RE: Financial support to fund a residential property buyout program

Please accept the following letter on behalf of the West Hants Regional Municipality (WHRM) and its' Council requesting financial assistance to support a residential property buyout program; specifically, for Stannus Street, Windsor properties impacted by overland stormwater flooding during extreme weather events which results in the presence of Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) on their properties and in their homes due to the combined storm and sewer systems presently in the Windsor area.

During the June 11th, 2024 meeting, Council received correspondence from an area resident in hopes of addressing these concerns and seeking information on suggestions or supports for Windsor area homes most frequently subjected to WHRM's combined sewer overflows. They further enquired about the potential options for expedient property buy outs for interested parties, similar to a buyout program that was executed in 2016 in Sydney, Cape Breton which was part of a managed retreat program.

A letter dated August 2, 2024 from the Honourable John A. Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, noted that the federal government will likely announce changes to the Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) Program guidelines in April 2025. While this news sounds promising, it is likely to have little impact for those residing on Stannus Street in Windsor who continue to experience combined sewer overflows (CSO's) during extreme weather events.

As noted in the past and more recently, residents continue to express a need for immediate action and a residential property buyout program for homeowners in areas impacted by the noted conditions while the municipality continues to define the long-term infrastructure upgrades needed for the area.

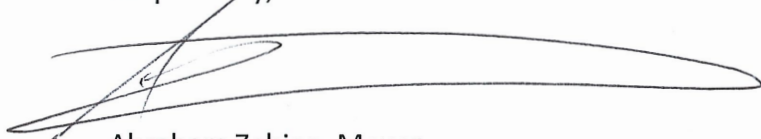
Council has undertaken the exercise of drafting a potential residential buyout policy. A key component that still needs to be determined is a funding model. To date there has been no confirmation from either level of government that financial support will be provided to support such a program.

To formally express the current position of the Council who met on November 26, 2024, to discuss this matter, the following motion was ratified **"COUNCIL DIRECT STAFF TO WRITE A LETTER TO THE PROVINCE OF NS AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF CANADA FORMALLY REQUESTING FINANCIAL SUPPORT WITH THE FUNDING OF A BUYOUT PROGRAM"**.

West Hants Regional Municipal Council wishes to express the importance of timing and urgency residents have expressed surrounding the creation of this policy.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Abraham Zebian', written over a horizontal line.

Abraham Zebian, Mayor

ds/az

CC: Member of Parliament for Kings-Hants, Kody Blois
MLA Hants West, Melissa Sheehy-Richard
West Hants Regional Municipal Council
Chief Administrative Officer, Mark Phillips