

**From:** [Nicole Albright](#)  
**To:** [PREMIER@novascotia.ca](mailto:PREMIER@novascotia.ca)  
**Cc:** [James.mitchener@novascotia.ca](mailto:James.mitchener@novascotia.ca); [Ben.snair@novascotia.ca](mailto:Ben.snair@novascotia.ca)  
**Subject:** Mariners Centre Expansion Project  
**Date:** October 23, 2021 6:08:02 PM

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The Honourable Tim Houston  
Premier of Nova Scotia  
1700 Granville Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 1X5

Dear Premier Houston,

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your commitment to public service and ask for your further commitment to a project that will improve the health and well-being of community members for generations.

## Mariners Centre Expansion Project

Since 2001, the Mariners Centre has been the linchpin of community recreation in Yarmouth County, providing a home to a number of local athletic organizations and acting as the premiere event venue for the area. The Centre's importance to the social fabric of the community cannot be understated, and its role as the central hub for the tri-county area is important to the physical and mental health to local residents.

Now, 20 years after it first opened, the Mariners Centre can be at the heart of a new, more inclusive, greener approach to recreation. The Town of Yarmouth, Municipality of the District of Argyle, and the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth are applying for funding through the Green and Inclusive Communities Building Program (GICB) for a thorough renovation of the Mariners Centre. This unique municipal partnership would see direct benefits for the 24,000 residents of the region. This project will reinvent community recreation in the Yarmouth region for decades to come, enrich thousands of lives, and lead to healthier and more prosperous communities.

An accessible community hub that promotes an active and social lifestyle is important to our communities. Our region has a disproportionate share of residents living in poverty, and access to high-quality community infrastructure is imperative for their physical and mental well-being. The need is clear, as is the support for this project; a 2021 community survey with nearly 900 respondents showed that redevelopment of the Mariners Centre is a top priority for residents.

## Project Highlights

- A new fitness centre with a focus on seniors' programming.
- An aquatic centre tailored to competitive events for youth and wellness benefits for all groups.
- A 370m two-lane indoor walking track.

Two multipurpose community spaces with the potential for a “spiritual space” to support local Indigenous communities and needs.

- A design that will meet the Canada Green Building Council’s Net-Zero Standard.

## Funding

Total project cost is anticipated to be in the range of \$30 million. The three municipal units are able to contribute a total of \$10 million, including fundraising from the local communities. This demonstrates the municipal and community commitment for the project, which is deep and widespread.

The proposed expansion of the Mariners Centre would have a transformative impact on the lives and well-being of thousands of our communities’ residents, and would leave a legacy that will last for generations. This correspondence serves to bring you awareness of our project as well as to ask for your consideration in supporting our project which would most definitely promote healthier living.

Thank you for your time and if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Nicole



Nicole Albright  
Chair — Mariners Centre Expansion Steering Committee  
Deputy Warden  
Councillor — District 5  
Municipality of Argyle  
902-307-4474

**From:** [Premier](#)  
**To:** [Nicole Albright](#)  
**Subject:** Thank you for your email  
**Date:** October 23, 2021 6:08:11 PM

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Thank you for your email to Premier Houston. This is an automatic confirmation your message has been received.

As we are currently experiencing higher than normal volumes of correspondence, there may be delays in the response time for correspondence identified as requiring a response.

We recognize that many Nova Scotians have concerns about COVID-19. If you are looking for the most up-to-date information, we encourage you to visit: [novascotia.ca/coronavirus](https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus) or [canada.ca/coronavirus](https://canada.ca/coronavirus). You can also call the toll-free information line at 1-833-784-4397.

If you are experiencing symptoms, please visit <https://811.novascotia.ca/> and use the COVID-19 online self-assessment tool, which will help you determine if you need to get tested. If you don't have internet access, call 811.

Thank you,

Premier's Correspondence Team

**From:** Calvin D'Entremont  
**To:** Neil Mackenzie  
**Cc:** Tina Comeau; Kathy Johnson; Postlewaite, Jakob; Doug Jones; wad; 490 (9) (d); halifax@globalnews.ca; Michael Gorman; 490 (9) (d); premier@gov.ns.ca; cbcs@cbt.ca; info@ndp.ca; letters@herald.ca; Diane Rosati; info@thecoastguard.ca; info@thevanquard.ca; newsonline@ctv.ca; Alan Muise; Bessier Boudreau; Brian Rodney; Charlene LeBlanc; Esouti Cuthbert; Greg Shaw; Janice Saulnier; Janice Saulnier; Jonathan Joseph; Mark Blinn; Natalie Smith; Patti Durkee; Rebecca (Becky) Cottreau; Rick Allwright; Roland D'Entremont; Tammy Murray; Victoria Brooks; Wade Cleveland; Rob Stephenson; Scott Surette; Jeff Gushue; Lindsay Mackinnon; Mayor Pam Mood; Steve Berry; Belle Hatfield@townofyarmouth.ca; Gil Dares; Heather.Hatfield@townofyarmouth.ca; Derek Lesser; Daniel Allen; John Cunningham; Lorn Cushing; Trevor Cunningham; Nick Hilton; sheri@district.yarmouth.ns.ca; Jenny Porter; Danny Muise; Gau Surette; Kathy Bourque; Nicole Albright; Richard Donaldson; Ted Saulnier; Gordon Boudreau; Glenn Diggdon; ACCA Executive Director  
**Subject:** Re: Silver Cloud to call in Yarmouth, signalling a welcome return of the cruise market.  
**Date:** May 4, 2022 2:39:14 PM

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Wonderful news.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 4, 2022, at 8:11 AM, Neil Mackenzie <nmackenzie@yasta.ca> wrote:

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Silver Cloud to call in Yarmouth, signalling a welcome return of the cruise market.**

Hebron NS, May 2nd, 2022 - Silversea Cruises, operator of the passenger vessel Silver Cloud, will be visiting the Yarmouth and Acadian Shores region on May 13th.

Silver Cloud is a 157-meter luxury expedition class cruise ship. Silver Cloud is expected to be at anchor at the mouth of Yarmouth Harbour by approximately 10:00 am on Friday, May 13th and depart in the early evening at 6:00 pm. Guests travelling aboard Silver Cloud will be tendered to the Killam Brothers Marina in the Town of Yarmouth by the ship's crew. Once landed, guests will explore Yarmouth & Acadian Shores on three separate tours that will feature local history, food and culture, including Cape Forchu, The Town of Yarmouth heritage district and a local brewery tour.

Neil MacKenzie, CEO of the Yarmouth & Acadian Shores Tourism Association is excited to welcome guests and crew from Silver Cloud and thankful for the early-season business.

*"After such a long wait, we're very happy to welcome this fantastic cruise line to our shores. We've been working hard over the past few years to maintain our business relationships with cruise lines and build itineraries that include the port of Yarmouth, this is really great news." Said MacKenzie. "Yarmouth is really well-positioned to attract more ships in the future. We're very lucky to have cruise ship operations certification at the port of Yarmouth and a year-round Canada Border Services office. Amazing assets for any port."*

Local owner/operator Dawn Nickerson of Nova Scotia Wine & Beer Tours loves showing off our amazing food, wine, beer and spirits to cruise guests.

*"It's wonderful to see international guests visiting Yarmouth & Acadian Shores again." Said Nickerson, "Especially in the early part of the season. It's been really tough for tourism businesses over the past few years so it's great to see guests arriving and experiencing the area. We love touring cruise guests around and showcasing our amazing part of Nova Scotia."*

The Yarmouth & Acadian Shores Tourism Association (YASTA) is a member of the Atlantic Canada Cruise Association (ACCA).

This is the first scheduled visit of Silver Cloud to the Port of Yarmouth.

###

**Neil MacKenzie**  
CEO - Yarmouth & Acadian Shores Tourism Association (YASTA)  
T. 902-400-0323  
E. [nmackenzie@yasta.ca](mailto:nmackenzie@yasta.ca)  
W. [yarmouthandacadianshores.com](http://yarmouthandacadianshores.com)

**From:** Kathy Bourque  
**To:** Calvin D'Entremont  
**Cc:** Neil Mackenzie; Tina Comeau; Kathy Johnson; Postlewaite, Jakob; Doug Jones; wad [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; halifax@globalnews.ca; Michael Gorman; [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; premier@gov.ns.ca; chcrs@chc.ca; info@ndp.ca; letters@herald.ca; Diane Rozali; info@thecoastguard.ca; info@thevanguard.ca; newsonline@ctv.ca; Alain Muise; amiser@nsnews.ca; Brian Rodney; Charlene LeBlanc; Devon Lunnway; sara-shay; amasa.Saulnier; Janice Saulnier; Jonathan Joseph; Mark Blinn; Natalie Smith; Patti Durkee; Rebecca (Becky) Coitreau; Rick Alwright; Roland d'Entremont; Tammy Murray; Victoria Brooks; Wade Cleveland; Rob Stephenson; Scott Surette; Jeff Gushue; Lindsay MacKinnon; Mayor Pam Mood; Steve Berry; Belle Hatfield@townofyarmouth.ca; Gil Dams; Heather Hatfield@townofyarmouth.ca; Derek Lesser; Daniel Allen; John Cunningham; Lorn Cushing; Trevor Cunningham; Nick Hilton; sheri@district.yarmouth.ns.ca; Jenny Porter; Danny Muise; Guy Surette; Nicole Albrigh; Richard Donaldson; Ted Saulnier; Gordon Bourque; Glenn Duggan; ACCA Executive Director  
**Subject:** Re: Silver Cloud to call in Yarmouth, signalling a welcome return of the cruise market.  
**Date:** May 4, 2022 3:23:18 PM

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Good news and thanks for sharing

Kathy Bourque  
District 7  
Municipality of Argyle  
Sent from my iPhone

On May 4, 2022, at 2:39 PM, Calvin D'Entremont <cdentremont@munargyle.com> wrote:

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**Subject:** Re: Silver Cloud to call in Yarmouth, signalling a welcome return of the cruise market.  
**Date:** May 4, 2022 7:54:53 PM

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This is awesome!!

Nicole Albright  
Deputy Warden  
Councillor District 5  
Municipality of Argyle  
902-307-4474

On May 4, 2022, at 8:11 AM, Neil Mackenzie <nmackenzie@yasta.ca> wrote:

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**Neil MacKenzie**  
CEO - Yarmouth & Acadian Shores Tourism Association (YASTA)  
T. 902-400-0323  
E. [nmackenzie@yasta.ca](mailto:nmackenzie@yasta.ca)  
W. [yarmouthandacadianshores.com](http://yarmouthandacadianshores.com)

**From:** [Premier](#)  
**To:** [Nicole Albright](#)  
**Subject:** Thank you for your email  
**Date:** May 4, 2022 7:55:04 PM

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Thank you for your email to Premier Houston. This is an automatic confirmation your message has been received.

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If you are looking for the most up-to-date information from the Government of Nova Scotia please visit: <http://novascotia.ca>

Thank you,

Premier's Correspondence Team

June 13, 2018

The Honourable Stephen McNeil,  
Premier of Nova Scotia  
7th Floor, One Government Place  
1700 Granville Street  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 1X5

Dear Premier McNeil,

The Municipality of Argyle supports the Municipality of Digby's request that Phase 2 funding for the completion of the highway from Digby to Weymouth be a top priority when negotiating with the Federal government for highway infrastructure funding.

Adequate transportation infrastructure is critical to the economic and social prosperity of a region. Not only does this section of highway connect travelers to other methods of transportation such as the MV Fundy Rose, the CAT and the Yarmouth International Airport, it also provides a faster and safer route for our products to get to market.

The Municipality of Digby and the members of the Task Force have worked very hard in the past 6 years to lobby both the Federal and Provincial governments that this portion of uncontrolled access Highway 101 from Digby to Weymouth needed to be completed. We commend them on their work and on the commencement of Phase 1 of the project and hope for a favorable response to their efforts for Phase 2.

Sincerely,

Richard Donaldson  
Warden

Cc: Mr. Colin Fraser, M.P. West Nova  
The Honourable Lloyd Hines, Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure  
Renewal  
Mr. Gordon Wilson, M.L.A. Clare Digby



February 28, 2022

Honourable Tim Houston  
Office of the Premier  
7th Floor, One Government Place  
1700 Granville Street  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 1X5

**CSAP Education Act**

Dear Mr. Houston,

At a recent Council meeting, Council discussed how the CSAP has been trying to get their own education act since 2018 without success. We are aware that CSAP is currently governed by the Old Education Act of 1995-96 which is not an acceptable law. The Municipality of the District of Argyle Council is in support of CSAP's efforts to establish their own education act, as there is no better way to preserve and promote the French language, Acadian and Francophone communities than to adopt a legislation that ensures the vitality and survival of the CSAP.

Council is asking the Provincial Government to consider the following solution provided by CSAP:

- Adopt legislation for French first language education that is compliant with the Charter;
- That is separate and autonomous (i.e. there would be two education frameworks in Nova Scotia: (i) an act and regulations that oversee education for the majority exclusively, and (ii) an act and regulations that oversee education provided only by the CSAP); and
- That is neither subordinate to, nor dependent on the legislative framework for English language education (i.e., that would include all provisions required to oversee education provided by the CSAP).

On behalf of the Municipality of the District of Argyle Council, I thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

MUNICIPALITY OF ARGYLE

Office of the Warden



Warden, Danny Muise  
Municipality of Argyle



MUNICIPALITÉ D'ARGYLE

Bureau du préfet

Cc: Honourable Colton LeBlanc, MLA Argyle

Honourable Becky Druhan, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development



Honourable Tim Houston  
Premier of Nova Scotia  
1700 Granville Street  
P.O. Box 726  
Halifax, NS B3J 2T3

September 22, 2022

Dear Premier Houston,

Recent public comments from the Provincial government surrounding the status of the international ferry service between Maine and Nova Scotia have risen sharp concern amongst our Council and our partner organizations in the region, and we would take this opportunity to express the nature of our concern and open the door to a positive effort for a continued service.

First, we acknowledge that the contract between the Province and Bay Ferries does not include us as a party to that contract, which would put us unaware of the details. We both share an interest in having a signed and executed contract crafted in the best interest of our region and Nova Scotians, and that supports an operator. Furthermore, we are both interested in tourism growth for our region and for Nova Scotia, and we are firm in our belief that this ferry service can serve that purpose well.

The statements surrounding the potential cancellation of a contract, and/or a service left many in our region fearful of the consequences of those statements. Our Council considers these statements very powerful, but also premature, considering this as the first season of transport since the pandemic. It would appear from our perspective that the province has had a negative reaction toward the numbers of passengers in this calendar year. From our perspective, a lower count this year was completely understandable and unsurprising given the environment. We request these statements be clarified so that there is no room for misunderstanding between us.

Media statements are powerful statements, and lead tourism operators, tourists, and other interested parties in a state of confusion and may in fact harm future planning from tour operators, who plan well in advance and listen intently to the words of our provincial leaders.

Clearly, our preference would be for your department to have open and honest conversations with the provider, as they would surely have insight on a mutually beneficial adjustment. We have a great relationship with Bay Ferries, forged in mutual promotion and marketing, and working alongside each other on many initiatives designed to increase traffic and promote our beautiful province. We are therefore confident that a mutual arrangement can be sought between the province and Bay Ferries. We trust that in this conversation, you will both understand the reasons why the numbers appear discouraging to the province and seek to address them positively.



Please keep in mind that when the first ferry cancellation occurred, there was a regional scale effort to restore this service, which was led by our business leaders. A previous government made a unilateral decision to cancel the ferry service and that occurred with no consideration of the community it would impact the most. While the government reluctantly decided to restore the service, that decision harmed the service for years, and set much uncertainty in the tourism industry. This was exacerbated by COVID-19, and all the restrictions that followed, some still in place today.

If possible, we are interested in a closer relationship with your team surrounding the ferry file, seeing as any changes would have dramatic impacts on our region, and to tourism operators all over Nova Scotia. While we cannot be a party to a contract, we are offering an advisory ear to your leadership, to discuss the details surrounding this important service. We do not want to be at odds with our Provincial counterparts over a service in the media, we want to be a positive advisor to your effort, to ensure the local perspective is considered, and offer our statistics gathered as evidence to support that this subsidized service can be viable and useful to us all.

Our tourism partner, YASTA, has provided your department with some fascinating statistics on rooms sold, length of stay etc., and so we will not be repeating it here.

In summary, we believe that an ongoing commitment to the service, with local engagement at the table, is the best approach to address the issues the province faces. We are sensitive to the increasing costs of operation, which you bear. We are also ready to discuss the economic spinoffs of that investment and are confident that a reasonable go forward plan can be reached.

Sincerely,

Danny Muise  
Warden

**Provincial Ministers CC:**

Honourable Barbara Adams  
Honourable Jill Balsler  
Honourable Brian Comer  
Honourable Susan Corkum-Greek  
Honourable Steve Craig  
Honourable John Lohr

Honourable Becky Druhan  
Honourable Patt Dunn  
Honourable Tim Halman  
Honourable Brad Johns  
Honourable Colton LeBlanc  
Honourable Karla MacFarlane

Honourable Allan MacMaster  
Honourable Kim Masland  
Honourable Greg Morrow  
Honourable Tory Rushton  
Honourable Michelle Thompson  
Honourable Brain Wong

**Municipal partners CC:**

Warden John Cunningham  
Chairman Calvin d'Entremont  
Mayor Pam Mood