



**Municipality of the District of Argyle**

P.O. Box 10  
Tusket, Nova Scotia  
BOW 3MO

May 11, 2021

Dear Warden Danny Muise and Council,

Please accept this letter in reply to yours of May 3, 2021, wherein you outlined your Council's concerns with respect to the regional survey conducted by MQO Research, on behalf of the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth.

We wish to begin by expressing that Council has read and digested the content of your letter and certainly understands the sentiments expressed therein. In particular, Council acknowledges and understands the anger and sense of betrayal that has been detailed. While it is our intention, in the following paragraphs, to explain the decision and address some of your concerns, please don't interpret the explanations as an attempt minimize, in any way, the sentiments you have expressed.

As you know, the Town of Yarmouth, the Municipality of the District of Argyle and the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth find themselves in unchartered territory. Never before have the three municipal units partnered on a project of the scale, complexity, costs and duration of the Mariner Centre Expansion. Obviously, in these circumstances, trust and co-operation are fundamental to success. To the extent that our decision has impacted upon those foundational requirements, we offer our sincerest apologies. To not include our partners in the survey work was a misstep that will not be repeated. **That is a promise.**

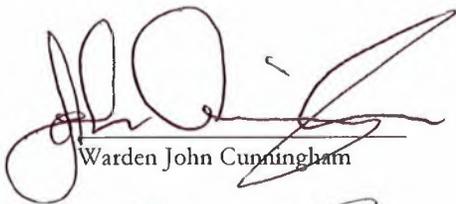
As you are aware, MODY held a council meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. The agenda included an in-camera item listed as "Contract Negotiations - 275 Main Street Yarmouth". While we are obligated to refrain from divulging the content of in-camera discussions, we can assure you that the survey was not the topic of discussion but, rather, the result of the same. The intent behind the decision was to obtain concrete data intended to assist with decision making. While the intent was pure, the execution was certainly flawed. In particular, we accept the concerns raised regarding the crossing of municipal boundaries, without notice or approval. We can assure you that it was not our intention to offend

those residents of the Municipality of the District of Argyle who are of Acadian culture and language and sincerely apologize for any hurt that this may have caused.

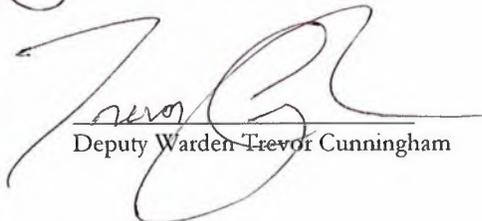
With respect to the design and content of the survey questions, we assure you that there was no intention on MODY's part to employ misleading language or to skew the questions in any way. While this explanation may not be accepted, MODY relied upon the expertise of MQO in framing the questions. As you may be aware, MQO representatives will be preparing a final report that will be presented to MODY Council at an upcoming meeting. It is our sincere hope that any concerns raised in relation to the content of the questions will be explored at that time. As the presentation will be made at a public (virtual) meeting, you are more than welcome to attend for the purposes of hearing the MQO employees present their report.

Council appreciates that it may take some time to repair the damage caused by the survey decision, however, we are heartened by your stated desire to move on from this difficult matter and focus on the ultimate goals of our partnership *viz.*, re-opening and operating "Mariners on Main" while focussing on the ultimate goal of the Mariner Centre Expansion

Respectfully,



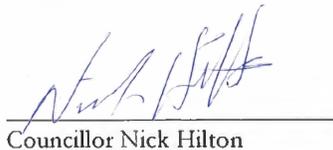
Warden John Cunningham



Deputy Warden Trevor Cunningham



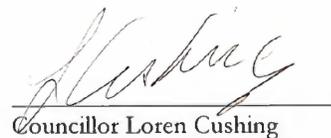
Councillor Patti Durkee



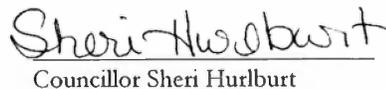
Councillor Nick Hilton



Councillor Daniel Allen



Councillor Loren Cushing



Councillor Sheri Hurlburt