



**Environment and Climate Change
Office of the Minister**

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File #: PNS40847-H9Q4S2

April 8, 2024

Barbara Ruff

barbara.ruff@ns.sympatico.ca

Dear Barbara Ruff:

Thank you for your email of March 7, 2024, to Premier Tim Houston. As Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the Premier has asked me to respond to your letter.

Like Nova Scotians, our Government cares deeply about our coast and has committed to protecting it. We are a coastal province and Nova Scotians want our treasured coastal communities and natural areas to be protected – we agree.

That's why we are moving forward with a strong plan which leverages the expertise, and existing systems and processes, of municipalities in land-use planning, zoning and the regulation of building permits. Municipalities have long been leaders in climate change adaptation and mitigation and have expertise with creating climate-resilient communities. The Province will work hand-in-hand with municipalities every step of the way, to make sure they have any tools and support they need and that we do this important work together.

Our plan also empowers coastal property owners to make informed decisions, whether their property has existed for decades or is in the planning stages. Again, we will work with coastal property owners to make sure they have what they need to make informed decisions about their properties.

It is a plan that calls on Nova Scotians and municipalities to rethink how and where we build along the coast. Coastal property owners and municipalities know their communities best and their action and leadership are the most effective way we will ensure that our coastline is safeguarded from climate change.

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We believe that by empowering and partnering with coastal municipalities, communities and property owners, and by leveraging existing municipal expertise, jurisdiction and leadership in sustainable community planning, we can collectively best protect our coast and the homes and communities along it.

You can read our plan, entitled *The Future of our Coastline: A plan to protect people, homes, and nature from climate change*, at <https://novascotia.ca/coastal-climate-change/docs/coastline-plan.pdf>. We have confidence that Nova Scotians care about their communities, their properties and their province and will do the right thing when they have the right information and are empowered, trusted and accountable for their actions.

Our Government knows that Nova Scotians are concerned about climate change and are feeling its impacts. That is why we have been taking strong, quick action to help Nova Scotians adapt to its impacts. You can read more about Nova Scotia's leadership in response to climate change here: <https://novascotia.ca/nse/progress-report/docs/ns-climate-change-plan-progress-report-2023.pdf>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Halman', is positioned above the typed name of the sender.

Honourable Timothy Halman, MLA
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

c: Honourable Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia
Honourable Zach Churchill, MLA Yarmouth
Claudia Chender