



**Public Works
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 186, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2N2

MAY 16 2024

Danny Muise, Warden
Municipality of Argyle
Box 10
Tusket, NS B0W 3M0
cnewell@munargyle.com

Dear Warden Muise:

Thank you for your letter dated April 17, 2024, regarding Duck Lake Bridge, Yarmouth County.

I understand the challenges that the closure of Duck Lake Bridge created this spring season. Unfortunately, this structure is located in an area with minimal gradient, leading to prolonged periods of elevated water levels. While the structural integrity remains intact, the bridge has become impassable twice this spring season due to high water levels. For the safety of the public, our policy states that any instance of water touching the underside of a bridge necessitates its closure.

Rest assured, the Department of Public Works' Structural Engineering Division is actively engaged in surveying the situation and exploring viable options for replacement.

I must acknowledge that the complete replacement of a structure can be an extensive process. Challenging priorities are balanced across the province with a tremendous amount of resources dedicated to each project. Despite these challenges, please know that your community's safety remains our utmost priority.

I am relieved to hear that no evacuation was necessary and that an alternative route was available, albeit not without its challenges. Your patience and understanding during this time are greatly appreciated as we work diligently to address the situation.

If you have any further concerns, please contact Pamela Mehlman-Shand, P.Eng., Area Manager, by email at pamela.mehlman-shand@novascotia.ca or by phone at 902-742-2416.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kim D. Masland'.

Kim D. Masland
Minister of Public Works

c: Honourable Colton LeBlanc, MLA Argyle
Nicole Albright, Deputy Warden, Municipality of Argyle
Mitchell Conrad, District Director, Western
Pamela Mehlman-Shand, Area Manager, Yarmouth/Shelburne/Clare