



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

May 28, 2012

Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer
Halifax Regional Municipality
P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3A5

Dear Mr. Butts:

Re: Suspension of the HRM Lakes Water Quality Sampling Program

I am writing on behalf of the Halifax Watershed Advisory Board to express our deep concern over the decision to suspend the HRM Lakes Water Quality Sampling Program carried out by the Energy and Environment office.

As you are probably aware, while the water resources of Nova Scotia may appear plentiful, appearances can be deceptive. Potable water is not always close at hand, recreational beaches are frequently closed for health reasons and aquatic habitat is disappearing.

Within the Halifax Regional Municipality there are many volunteer groups who contribute to the protection of our lakes and rivers. These groups rely heavily on the data collected under the Energy and Environment program to provide the sound information they require for their work. Without it, the Board fears that they will be unable to function effectively: research projects will be halted, remediation projects abandoned and education programs curtailed. In the end both the current population of HRM and future generations, as well as the municipality itself and the natural environment, will all suffer.

At the same time, this baseline water quality data is extremely valuable to the HRM Regional Planning Department in guiding development away from stressed watercourses and lakes and in establishing the requirements for site specific mitigation plans. These measures will help ensure that HRM's water resources are protected for many generations to come.

The HRM Lakes Water Quality Sampling Program provides more up to date water quality information, in more detail and on more of HRM's lakes than is currently available through similar programs. At the same time, it furthers the objectives of the new Water Quality Monitoring Functional Plan.

For these practical and policy reasons, the Board urges you to reconsider the decision to suspend this valuable program and looks forward to hearing that the suspension has been lifted.

Yours sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHAIR

A. Ellinor Williams, Chair
Halifax Watershed Advisory Board

cc: Halifax Watershed Advisory Board