



## South-West/South-Shore Nova Scotia Water Shortage Response Proposal

January 2, 2019

Submitted to: Hon., Chuck Porter, Minister DMA

Submitted by:

Municipality of Argyle  
Municipality of Barrington  
Municipality of Yarmouth  
Region of Queens

### **Background:**

Residents of South-West and South-Shore Nova Scotia suffered significantly during the water shortage periods during the summer and fall of 2016 and 2018. This unprecedented situation caused residents to look for assistance both with potable and non-potable water. It was a strain on volunteer capacity, especially the volunteer fire departments and Ground Search and Rescue that assisted many residents with water shortage issues.

The Municipal responses were varied including:

- the purchase of significant amounts of drinking water both in 2016 and 2018
- assistance of the Provincial Government through EMO Nova Scotia, distribution of drinking water to residents whose wells were very low or had no water at all
- opening of fire halls and community centres for access to water for varied uses
- use of recreation facilities for water distribution and shower facilities
- public information bulletins on updates and private sector vendors with goods/services

Another situation which arose during this period was that the local Volunteer Fire Departments were experiencing a shortage of water in their usual water sources like dry-hydrants, fire ponds and lakes. This could have resulted in the lack of water to fight structure fires and support DNR in the event of a forest fire.

The purchase of drinking water was logistically very easy, but storage and transportation of the drinking water was sometimes difficult. Moving forward, EMO committees could benefit from MOU's with private sector firms like storage companies and food retailers on accessing centrally located storage space. Ground Search and Rescue and volunteer fire departments continue to be an excellent source of distribution support.



Residents who had no water in their wells were looking for places to have showers. Many drove over 20 kilometers to the Town of Yarmouth using facilities at the Mariner's Centre and Queens Place Emera Centre in Liverpool; schools that opened their shower facilities; fire halls/community centres to access water for drinking, bathing and doing laundry. This was often problematic as there were limits on when people could access these facilities and the overall lack of facilities across the large area in question. Added to these already difficult circumstances is the increased financial hardship involved with paying for water, showers and laundry facilities that many residents experienced.

The ability to access non-potable water was the major difficulty during this time. It was often a matter of finding and bringing large water tanks to people's homes and then dropping off water into these tanks. Many residents purchased trailers or carried these tanks in their trucks to bring home. The major difficulty was finding places to even get the water and many people travelled long distances to do this.

What would be of beneficial to residents would be, again, strategically placed water stations in the where people could access non-potable water and where comfort stations include laundry and shower facilities and to support proving upgrades to existing septic systems or creating modest new septic systems where required to handle this additional use.

**Given the significant value of proposed upgrades and projects below, the Municipalities are requesting a dialogue with the Minister around possible funding support necessary to see these projects come to fruition.**

## **Project Recommendations:**

### **Municipalities of Argyle & Yarmouth**

A. A regional storage facility is required.

B. Non-Potable Water stations and showers:

These are the locations which are designated as having the most value for residents if water stations were installed or built there. Some of these locations would also benefit from having shower facilities installed in the building.

1. Village of Wedgeport – A water station built on property owned by the Wedgeport & District Volunteer Department. There are showers at the fire station. The fire department has existing storage facilities for potable water. This would serve a population of approximately 1920 residents in the community of Wedgeport and surrounding areas.



2. The Villages of East and West Pubnico –Install a permanent housing unit, pump, electrical hook up and outside access to the water on an existing well in West Pubnico. The population that this water station would serve is over 2579. Residents here also have access to showers at another location.
3. The Village of Quinan – Community Centre. This location serves as a comfort centre for the area. What would be needed here would be a drilled well and shower facilities in anticipation of another dry season. The existing dug well does not provide enough water for people to access non-potable water. This community is long distance from the Town of Yarmouth. There are no schools or other facilities in the area. The population of approximately 439 is not large but spread out and isolated.
4. Ste Anne du Ruisseau – There is a new fire station being built by the Ste Anne du Ruisseau Fire Department which serves a population of 1460. Their plan is to build shower facilities in the building. However, they are currently planning to service the building with a dug well. A drilled well and outside access to the water would be timely additions to the scope of the project.
5. Tusket area – Hubbards Point Community Centre. What we propose here would be to install a water station with a drilled well and installation of shower facilities. The population served is approximately 1265 and this facility would serve a number of communities along highway 308.
6. Hebron Recreational Centre – This is the secondary EOC for the joint EMO. Accessing water at this location is already problematic due to decommissioned service to the Town of Yarmouth water system and poor water availability in drilled wells. A project to re-connect this location to the municipal water system, water storage, exterior water station and shower upgrades are all appropriate improvements at this site. This would serve a highly populated area of approximately 4107 residents in Yarmouth County.
7. Carleton Fire Department – Water storage facility needed, drilled well for a water depot and shower facilities at this location would meet the needs of remote communities. This would serve the communities of Forest Glen, Carleton and Kempt with a population over 1503 residents.
8. Mariner's Centre – Existing Water source. Adding a token system to the exterior water access would alleviate the demand on staff and volunteers at the centre. As well, it would provide a means of getting accurate data on water distribution. In addition, commercial haulers could be identified and dealt with differently than private residents who are hauling water for themselves.

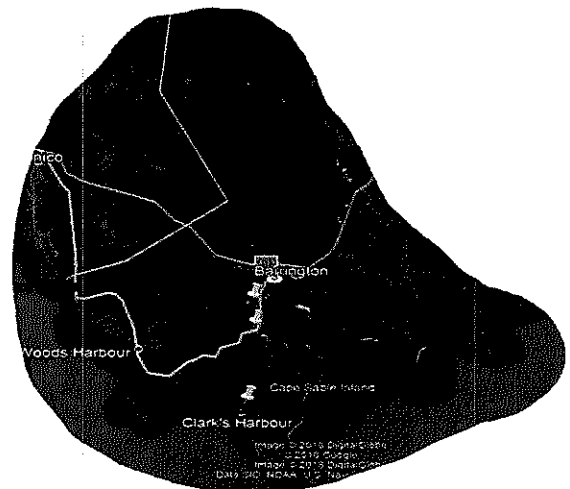


### Location Summary Yarmouth County

Water Source Locations			
Name	Address	Lat	Long
	150 Dennis Pt. Rd., Lower West		
West Pubnico	Pubnico	43.6274537	-65.7929
Quinan	7036 Highway 308, Quinan	43.92015847	-65.8354
Wedgeport	90 Black Pond Rd., Upper Wedgeport	43.75488415	-65.9926
Ste. Anne du Ruisseau	73 Eel Lake Rd., Ste. Anne du Ruisseau	43.83977766	-65.9312
Hubbard's Point	342 Ch. de la Pointe, Hubbards Point	43.83134202	-65.9797
Carleton	20 Highway 203, Carleton	44.00604261	-65.9262
Hebron Rec. Complex	105 Cemetery Rd., Hebron	43.89429525	-66.0892
Mariners Centre	45 Jody Shelley Dr., Yarmouth	43.8385686	-66.0973

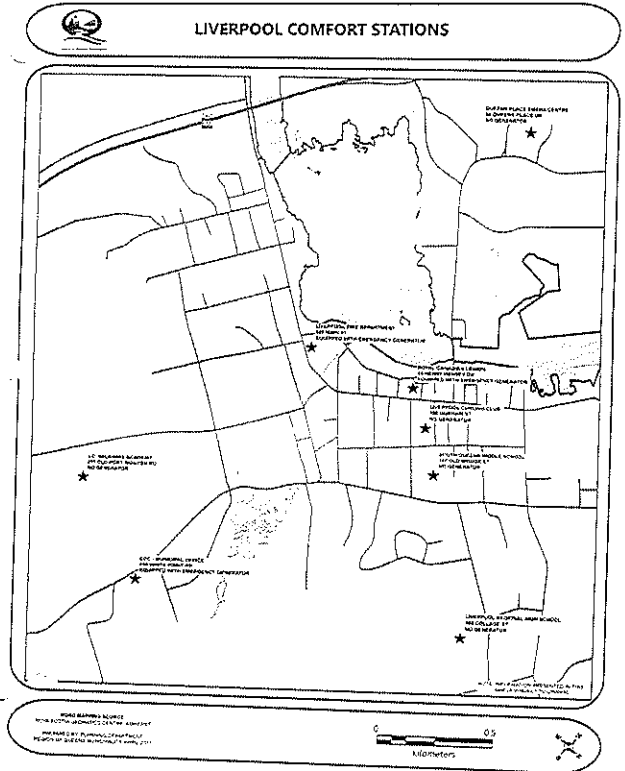
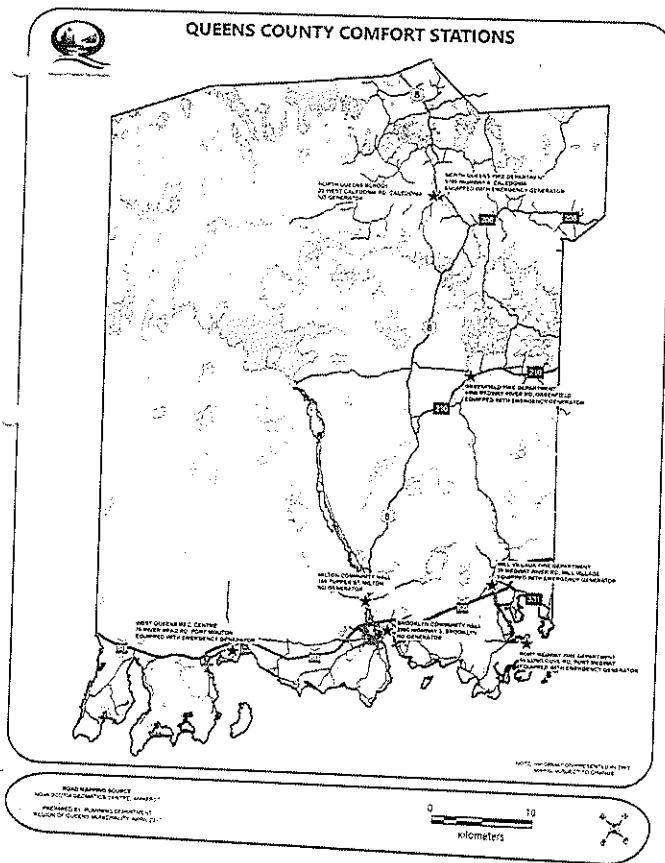
### Municipality of Barrington

1. West Head CSI (X 285,909 Y 4,815,019) - 1 small building approximately 20 ft. by 30 ft. Building to include electricity and plumbing, 4 washing machines installed, 2 showers, 2 wash rooms, exterior water supply to fill boxes or containers with water. Upgrades to system may be required.
2. Barrington Passage (X 288,338 Y 4,822,269) - 1 small building approximately 20 ft. by 30 ft., building to include electricity and plumbing, 4 washing machines installed, 2 showers, 2 wash rooms, exterior water supply to fill boxes or containers with water, large exterior storage tank for bulk water
3. Barrington Passage (288,804 Y 4,824,833) - Bury 8-inch pipeline 800 ft. from quarry to road, install suction box on end of pipe in quarry, install fire hydrant on end of pipe at the road. This will give the Volunteer Fire Department access to millions of gallons of water where residents can fill boxes or containers with water.



## Region of Queens

It appears the comfort center's existing wells will support a shower facility during our periods of water shortage. In view of this the priority would be to modify a number (at least 3) of the existing comfort centers with the addition of shower facilities that would be used by those requiring them during periods of water shortage.



Region of Queens 3 proposed comfort stations:  
West Queens Recreation Centre in Port Mouton (West Queens)  
North Queens Fire Hall in Caledonia (North Queens)  
Mill Village Fire Hall (East Queens)



(The 2 sites in East and West Queens will require an assessment to determine if their septic systems can currently handle the additional water capacity.)

The Region of Queens would like to request financial assistance to establish a second external top on its central water system in Liverpool for access by the public 24 hours a day and reduce the demand on its current public well tap.