

February 9, 2023

Warden Eddie Nickerson  
2447 Highway 3,  
P.O. Box 100,  
Barrington, Nova Scotia  
B0W 1E0

Dear Warden Nickerson,

Re: Renaming of Cape Negro to Eel Bay

Thank you for taking my call, Friday, January 12th to discuss re-naming the community of Cape Negro to Eel Bay.

Our Geographic Names Program has been engaging residents of Shelburne County since the summer of 2021 to change four local names that cause harm to the African Nova Scotian community in Nova Scotia. More recently, after discussions with the Municipality of the District of Barrington in the spring of 2022, the Program has been in direct contact with the residents of Cape Negro regarding the name change. A series of community meetings occurred between August and October, resulting in a short list of possible replacement names for the community. On November 8th, residents selected from the short list of names, and the result was a majority vote in favour of Eel Bay. Overall, we understand there has been concerns expressed with the process. The Program is doing a complete review to redefine the process for place names that cause harm to reflect democratic and inclusive principles while respecting community decision-making.

Moving forward, the Geographic Names Program has approved the name Eel Bay as selected by residents of Cape Negro. There are several activities we are coordinating for this name change, including:

- Request to Canada Post to include Eel Bay in mailing addresses.
- Update the provincial 911 system to include the community's new name.
- Request to Public Works for new signage in the community and along Highway 103.
- Meet with community residents, if they are agreeable, to receive their input and feedback as we continue to improve the naming process. We are planning to be in the community on March 9, 2023.

There are three names remaining to be changed in Shelburne County. As recommended by community members of the newly renamed Eel Bay Community, we will recommence the geographic naming process on those features once the lobster season has ended to ensure affected community residents have an opportunity to participate. Meanwhile, we would be happy to meet with you and your colleagues at your convenience.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 902-240-7660.

Yours truly,



Úna Hassenstein  
Executive Director, Government Services  
Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services

c: Honourable Colton LeBlanc, Minister, Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services  
Joanne Munro, Deputy Minister, Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services