



**Municipal Affairs and Housing
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 216, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2M4 • Telephone 902-424-5550 Fax 902-424-0581 • novascotia.ca

June 15, 2023

Eddie Nickerson, Warden
Municipality of the District of Barrington
2447 Highway 3, PO Box 100
Barrington, NS B0W 1E0

Dear Warden Nickerson:

As is the case in other provinces, Nova Scotia is facing a challenge regarding the availability and affordability of housing. While this challenge is felt by so many Nova Scotians, it is also acutely felt by employers, including healthcare and construction employers, who are trying to recruit much needed workers in their sectors. This challenge has recently been further intensified in some communities where residents have been displaced by wildfires.

The Province is committed to growing our investments in housing. We have announced several affordable housing projects across the province in recent months. And, as you know, we have recently leveraged a partnership with the Housing Trust of Nova Scotia to invest \$20M in modular housing. One of the barriers they have experienced in advancing their modular builds is the availability of serviced and/or serviceable land.

While we will continue to grow our inventory of provincially owned land for housing, we are also asking for your help by sharing a list of any municipally owned, serviced (or easily serviceable) land that may be suitable for any type of new housing development, or unused buildings on serviced land for which you currently do not have any planned future use. This will help us to identify future opportunities for housing investments.

We value the partnership we have with municipalities across the province and know you are dealing with the reality of this housing challenge every day in your community. Many of you have received several requests from us as we try to find solutions to housing. We appreciate your responsiveness and willingness to put forward ideas.

Together, we can move the marker on housing. We look forward to hearing back from you and request information be submitted to Jennifer MacIntyre at Jennifer.MacIntyre@novascotia.ca by July 15, 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Lohr".

Honourable John Lohr
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c: Chris Frotten, Chief Administrative Officer, Municipality of the District of Barrington

