



June 23, 2023

Honourable John Lohr
Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing
14th Floor North, Maritime Centre
1505 Barrington Street
P.O. Box 216
Halifax, NS B3J 2M4

Dear Honourable Lohr:

The District of Yarmouth was recently notified by the NSEMO Emergency Management Preparedness Officer for Region 3 that effective on May 25, 2023, he was resigning. It is our understanding that Region 3 takes in Kings, Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne and Queens counties! The Preparedness Officers bring tremendous value on the ground and front lines to overall emergency preparedness. The most important of all is relationship building and strong local knowledge to the PCC.

In the last few years, other regions across Nova Scotia have also lost their Emergency Preparedness Officer. In some instances, the Province combined regions, in other cases, the position remains unfilled. Furthermore, the Province has not communicated with the Chief Administrative Officer or Council to advise of plans to fill the position or announcement of a new appointment.

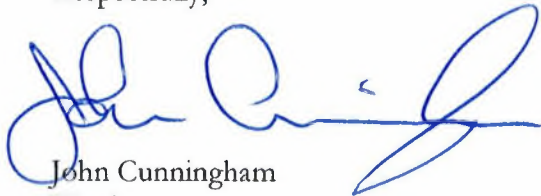
The need for well-coordinated emergency preparedness among all three levels of government is undeniable. Looking at the two most recent events- hurricane Fiona and this years' wildfires – it is clear that each level of government has a role to play in protecting residents when disaster strikes. It is further evidence that strong communication and collaboration among governments serves to save more lives, reduce property damage and protect the environment.

With no one appointed for Region 3, it leaves a large gap in having the resource needed for Municipalities to plan and prepare for emergency management. In addition, the Province is at a disadvantage in its preparedness. The importance that this position be filled as soon as possible cannot be understated.

With the warmer climate and recent trends in weather, it is known that Nova Scotia is going to experience more severe storms and wildfires, and we need to be equipped with the proper resources to be able to handle these situations, especially with those in our region who recently navigated through the management of the Barrington Lake Wildfire Complex, Nova Scotia's largest wildfire in history.

Please consider this request and should you have any questions, contact me at 902-740-5332 or emailing johnc@district.yarmouth.ns.ca

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Cunningham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Cunningham
Warden
JC/jp

cc: MLA Zach Churchill
NSEMO Region 3 Municipalities
Victoria Brooks, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Errington, Lori A <Lori.Errington@novascotia.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 3:24 PM
To: Errington, Lori A <Lori.Errington@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Reminder: Acting EMPO for Region 3

Good afternoon everyone:

Per Andrew Mitton's email of May 17, and follow-up emails from me, I wanted to let everyone know that I am continuing to act as the EMPO for Region 3 until we have filled the vacant position.

Work continues on that front, but takes time. When an ad is posted for the position, I will notify all Region 3 municipalities. I want to reaffirm that NSEMO will be filling the vacancy and the position has not been eliminated.

Please reach out anytime if you need NSEMO support, or in the event of an emergency outside of regular business hours, please call our 24/7 Incident Management Division Duty Officer at 1-833-758-4540.

Thanks and take care,
Lori

Lori Errington
Manager of Planning and Preparedness
NS Emergency Management Office
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