

RCMP Erases Comments

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ditor General of Canada, Mr. Michael Ferguson to review the proposal by the RCMP to consolidate their Operational Communication Center in Dartmouth.

Casey provided four reports by leading authorities in Emergency Communications which all state that redundancy is a key to ensuring a safe emergency communication system. The RCMP plan eliminates redundancy already in place.

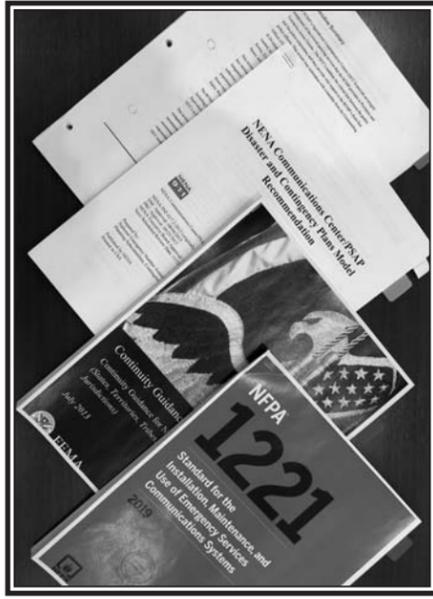
Currently one emergency communication centre is in Truro and one is in Dartmouth near the RCMP Headquarters. This 100 kilometer distance provides the geographic distance recommended in these reports in order to ensure that at least one facility is operational. The RCMP proposal removes this safety measure.

Casey said "Just ten days ago a perceived bomb threat caused the closure and evacuation of the Coast Guard facilities in Dartmouth. If both of the Communications centres and the RCMP Headquarters were closed and evacuated because they are all located in Dartmouth, most of the province would be without 911 service, fire or ambulance communications. Police communications would be severely curtailed.

One source reports that in recent years, Halifax Regional Police have investigated over 70 bomb threats and laid charges in five. Seven were reported in one 48 hour span. Casey has asked the RCMP to hold off any decision until the Auditor General compares the four emergency measures reports with the plans of the RCMP.

Below are quotes from the four reports:
The 2004 RCMP Report specifically recommended that "the RCMP not locate their primary OCC within the Halifax Regional Municipality", and "the OCC Primary service delivery site be outside of HRM due to risks of placing 2 largest police communications centres in close proximity to each other". None of the facts that caused that conclusion have changed; if anything, the threats are even greater today. The RCMP erased these critical comments in the copy provided to Casey.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is considered the lead authority in emergency communications. Their recent report entitled the "2019 National Fire Protection Association #1221 requires that " #4.1.6.1 **The alternative communications center shall be separated geographically from the primary communications center**



at a distance that ensures the survivability of the alternative center." The RCMP proposal is just the reverse of this requirement.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 2009 report states "Organizations should have adequate, separate locations to ensure execution of their functions. Physical dispersion should allow for easy transfer of function responsibility in the events of a problem at one location." Again the RCMP proposal is exactly the opposite of this requirement.

The National Emergency Number Association (NENA) 2015 Report states "Redundant and resilient systems are needed to continue operation when a failure causes the loss or damage of a needed resource". The RCMP plan is to eliminate that redundancy. The NENA Report recommends "two layers of redundancy" and also states that emergency call Centers "face more risks and threats than ever before".

Parliamentary Security Services examined the failure of communications during the 2014 shootings in the Parliament of Canada. Their study concluded that a second, off site communications center was required to provide redundancy. Again, the RCMP plan is to eliminate the redundancy they currently have in Nova Scotia.

Casey said "I am not an expert in emergency communications but these organizations are. They can't all be wrong."

Correspondence at November Council Meeting

By Maurice Rees

Several pieces of correspondence were on the table at Council's November meeting, actually held on December 4th, due to a major storm on November 29th.

A letter from Jim Baird, Chairperson, Tatamagouche Village Commission concerning a sidewalk along a portion of Main Street Tatamagouche promoted council to instruct staff to help the village commission. At its October 9th meeting the village commission opted to proceed with the construction of a proper sidewalk, complete a curb for a short stretch of Queen Street between the Legion and Scotia Bank. The intent is to reduce traffic congestion on Main Street and facilitate access to a large parking area behind Main Street stores.

Letters from Maggie's Place and the NSCC Foundation for its "Make Way" Campaign and "Urgent Need Fund" were tabled to be discussed during budget deliberations. Maggie's Place requested an increase in its annual grant that supports their Outreach and Tot Playgrounds. Since 2006 the annual grant has been \$3,000 but costs have risen. They



asked for the allotment be increased to \$5,000 annually.

Leck Krzywonos, Principal, NSCC - Truro Campus, in a letter dated November 21, explained the purpose and rationale behind the Make Way and Urgent Need fund. The request was for Council to consider an annual allotment of \$20,000 to \$30,000 to help increase both of the funds.

A copy of the November 6th, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) Board report was circulated to councillors and staff highlighting a variety of initiatives including: Partnership Network; Housing and Seniors; Cannabis Legislation, Asset Management and Upcoming Events. The re-

port's section on Resolutions include sub-titles of: Property Assessment CAP; Review of Equalization; Internet and Cell phone Connectivity; Roads and Physician Recruitment.

The building permit activity report for October listed 37 permits with a value of \$5.234-Millions compared to 40 permits at \$4.459-Million for October 2017. For the calendar period from January to October, there are 340 permits with value of \$42.54-Million in 2018, compared to 402 permits at \$44.725 for same period in 2017. In the fiscal year - period from April to October, 2018 has 218 permits for \$36.48-Million, with 323 for value of \$29-Million in fiscal 2017.

Council Approves Committee Recommendations

By Maurice Rees

Six recommendations from Colchester Council's committee meeting on November 15th were approved at council's November meeting. The November meeting, originally scheduled for November 29 was held on December 4th, due to a storm on the 29th.

Detailed stories were included in the Shoreline December issue, but reported here again as part of the legislative process. The recommendations included:

Solar Colchester Proposal Review and Recommendation: Council approves accepting the proposal of Supernova Energy Solutions and staff begin to design a 'Solar Colchester' program to encourage the installation of Solar PV systems in Colchester.

Debert Airport Snow Plowing: Council approves the snow plowing contract for the Debert Airport for the 2019 winter season be awarded to Ian Sinclair Contracting.

Nominating Committee Appointment: Council approves Councillor Gibbs be appointed to serve on the Nominating Committee for the balance of the 2016-2020 term of Council.

Energy Efficiency Project: Council approves that staff be authorized to sign the draft incentive offer with Efficiency Nova Scotia for the proposed energy efficiency

upgrades at the Central Colchester Wastewater Treatment Facility.

4-H Funding: Council approves Colchester County 4-H be granted funding in amount of \$100,000 to be paid upfront and budgeted over four years; and, this funding be subject to an agreement as approved by CAO and Solicitor.

Christmas Eve Day: Council approves the Municipal offices be closed on Christmas Eve Day 2018, where operationally permissible, and staff required to work on that day be allotted time off in lieu, at a time as agreed upon by the employee and employer.

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