



Joan and Doug Stiles presented The Joy Stiles Award for Leadership in Physical Education to Mahaya MacGillivray as Phys Ed teacher Malcolm Campbell, left, looks on. (Harrington Photo)

Hippern's "Access to Information" Explanation

By Kathleen Hippern

I sent the adjacent letter late yesterday afternoon (June 7th) to the Minister of Public Safety, Commissioner of RCMP, Nova Scotia RCMP's Commanding Officer, the Nova Scotia Premier and other politicians and officials as indicated at the bottom of the letter. To clarify, I made my own Access to Information request on this matter and in May I received a copy of the 2004 and 2017 RCMP Feasibility reports created by the RCMP themselves which are very concerning with regards to the reasoning for the move to Dartmouth, how the option was chosen and aspects of public safety. It does say in my copy from April 2004 in a few places that placing the province's 2 largest communications centers in the same general area is not recommended.

One quote: "The more centralized the RCMP OCC operations are the more important site selection is to OCC operations from a disaster recovery perspective. It is not recommended that the two largest police communications operations in Nova Scotia be placed within the same metropolitan area."

The latter was later accepted that year, as reflected in the subsequent June 2004 report, by RCMP officials as a criteria in the decision that ultimately led to the selection of the current Truro, NS Location. Public Safety reasons were cited in the 2004 reports that no longer appeared a concern in the 2017 report which is confusing.

As far as health and safety for the employees which is also cited as a reason for the move from Truro to Dartmouth, most will be afforded move packages but many have

stated that they will not be able to take it as their families are settled in the region and therefore will have to commute. These employees are essential services and will face having to commute in inclement weather and after working long hours. Commuting will make an already long work day doing essential and difficult work even longer.

It is not clear how this decision would make things healthier and safer for the employees who chose to move to the region and be near their workplace based on information provided to them when one takes in account the dangers of driving fatigue (especially after night shifts) and the essential services aspect where one is report to or duty and work while the province and its roads are essential shut down due to weather or natural events.

The true options appear to be for those people that are unable to relocate is that they can either choose to commute or leave their position. Our union was not consulted at all during this last study even though we asked to be on numerous occasions. Our members are devoted to their jobs and have the safety and security of Nova Scotians and Canadians as their number one priority.

Our members work the front line and are in the best position to understand their own work. CUPE Local 104 wants to be part of key decisions in relation to their workplaces that may impact Safety and Security on all levels and as well as their own well-being.

Kathleen Hippern is President CUPE Local 104 - RCMP Telecoms Operations & Intercept Monitoring. She can be reached at: president@cupe104.ca

Colchester considering "live streaming" meetings

By Maurice Rees

Over the nay votes of Councillors Cooper, Parker and Taggart, Colchester Council approved a motion to move forward and have staff investigate and report back to council on Live Streaming council meetings. Comments in favour of live streaming including, which has been suggested by

residents, is it is time for council to catch up and live streaming will increase transparency. Some felt live streaming could have positive and negative impacts on council proceedings.

Councillor Masters it would not be a good thing if it limited frank discussion around the table. Cavanaugh suggested the gallery is always open, but

almost every meeting, there are lots of empty seats. When asked about the technical requirements, Scott Fraser, suggested as far as he knew most of the technology was already in council chambers.

No date was set for staff to report back to council.

Building permits for 2019 are almost identical to 2018. In

2019 year to date 94 permits valued at \$9,625,004 outpaced 89 permits in 2018 with value of \$9,417,240. In fiscal 2019, for the month of April, 41 permits had value of \$3,395,442, while April 2018 30 permits were valued at \$3,325,740.

CUPE • SCFP
104

CUPE Local 104
1378 Triole St
Ottawa, ON K1B 3M4

June 7, 2019

A letter from CUPE Local 104 President regarding the closure of the RCMP Truro, NS Operational Communications Centre (OCC) and its relocation to Dartmouth, NS planned for February, 2021.

CUPE Local 104 represents members who work for the RCMP in designated emergency and essential services positions. **Our members are the first of the first responders.** Many of our members are first-first responders such as 9-1-1 operators, police call takers and dispatchers, and other communications specialists. When the public needs police / fire / or ambulance, they call our members and we make it happen. When police officers are in trouble, they call our members and we send them help. CUPE Local 104 represents the majority of employees at the RCMP Operational Communications Center (OCC) located in Truro, NS.

The decision to close the Truro, NS OCC and relocate it to Dartmouth, NS has caused confusion and anxiety amongst members of our local. Information from an Access to Information request obtained by this local support many of the concerns being felt. It is the understanding that the Minister of Public Safety, the Honorable Ralph Goodale has initiated steps to commence an Independent study/review of this situation. It is also the understanding that the RCMP is continuing with the relocation move and that work on this move continues despite the study being ordered. Many of our staff are being faced with tough decisions regarding their futures and their families and some are to formally provide their decision on whether they want to move to the new location very shortly, by Sept 27, 2019.

CUPE Local 104 disagrees and strongly objects with the decision to move ahead with the relocation work and its related timelines without knowing the results of the Independent study/review initiated by the Honorable Ralph Goodale.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Hippern

CUPE Local 104 President & RCMP Truro OCC Supervisor

Via email: R. Goodale, B. Lucki, L. Bergerman, B. Casey, S. Macneil, M. Furey, C. Porter, K. Casey, L. Zann, B. Gloade, C. Blair, W. Robinson

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