



July 10, 2020

Dear Minister Wilson,

We are writing to you today with a renewed ask for action on the urban lakes situation. We have now seen the first of this season's blue-green algae risk advisories at Lake Banook and Lake Micmac in Dartmouth, earlier than ever before, and we know that the situation will continue to deteriorate without leadership from Nova Scotia Environment. Invasive weeds, floating yellow heart, high bacteria levels and more frequent algae blooms are all signs that our lakes' clean, healthy ecosystems are at risk.

As you know, urban lakes provide significant benefits to our city and our province. They act as economic drivers, recreation and event sites, and drivers of tourism.

This summer, many gatherings, day camps and other activities are restricted due to COVID-19. During this time, urban lakes have taken on an enhanced importance for many Dartmouth residents who rely on and deeply value these outdoor spaces.

We have spent the last number of years listening to residents and advocating for provincial action on this issue. We have written letters and asked questions in the legislature. Last summer we hosted a Dartmouth lakes town hall that was attended by over 150 residents who told us, loudly and clearly: governments need to collaborate to solve this issue. In September of last year, we met with you and your staff and brought three asks:

- To immediately convene an Urban Lakes Commission that can work with stakeholders across jurisdictional lines and guide the work to protect our urban lakes
- To enhance staffing, training, and resourcing of frontline Nova Scotia Environment staff who work with urban lakes
- To commence a public awareness campaign either independently or in concert with similar HRM initiatives about what residents can do to protect nearby lakes

Will you please let us know of your re-commitment to these initiatives, as well as what progress has been made on these specific asks to date?

The Dartmouth lakes hold immense importance to many, many people. They are economically, ecologically and recreationally vital. We cannot allow them to continue to deteriorate and are looking to you to further this work.



NOVA SCOTIA
NDP CAUCUS

5151 GEORGE STREET, SUITE 601
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA B3J 1M5
P: 902-424-4134 | 1-888-247-0448

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CC', enclosed in a light gray rectangular box.

Claudia Chender
MLA, Dartmouth South

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SL', written in a cursive style.

Susan Leblanc
MLA, Dartmouth North