



East Hants & Districts
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Date: Friday, September 16th, 2022

Subject: The Proposed Bylaw for East Hants Campground Owners

Dear Council of Municipality of East Hants,

I am writing on behalf of the East Hants & Districts Chamber of Commerce to express the Chamber's concerns about the proposed *Campground Bylaw*.

In our view, the proposed bylaw replicates existing requirements. For example water and septic are regulated under the provincial Department of Environment & Climate Change, and noise concerns are regulated under the municipal *Community Standards Bylaw*. The proposed bylaw requires campground owners to produce documentation that is already submitted to other departments. In other words, it is a duplication of effort required from these local businesses, which is why the province removed the requirement for campground licences: The licence requirement was found to be an unnecessary layer of regulation that did not serve a purpose.

The proposed bylaw creates more balls for a small business owner to juggle, even though regulation is already in place and the required documentation already exists. This extra cost and time commitment for campground owners is not justified. The proposed bylaw creates a regulatory cost at the municipal level but lacks a clear purpose that would benefit the community.

The Municipality of East Hants has identified tourism as an important part of our economic development and community growth. In the municipality's *Strategic Plan* one of the municipality's objectives is to "Support tourism" (page 10). The East Hants *Municipal Planning Strategy* has two separate sections devoted to tourism; it includes the word "tourism" 47 times; and on the first page the *Plan Overview* states that: "This Plan emphasizes the Municipality's need to encourage tourism. . .". The Chamber appreciates the dedicated work that has gone into the *Strategic Plan* and *Municipal Planning Strategy*, and supports tourism as an important part of our community's growth.

Tourism-related businesses have been among the hardest hit by the impact of covid, and requiring them to complete a redundant layer of red tape right now is bad for local business. If council plans to proceed with this proposed bylaw, we ask that a public hearing be called so that members of our community can have their voices heard about the importance of reducing red tape to support local business, and whether the proposed bylaw benefits the community as a whole.

Sincerely,
Glynn Irving
EHCC President