Construction Association of Nova Scotia

2020 HRM Municipal Election Coverage Candidate Questionnaire Responses



2020 Municipal Election – Letter to Candidates

In the 2020 Nova Scotia Municipal Elections, the Construction Association of Nova Scotia (CANS) will play an active role, ensuring that the issues important to our members and the industry are top of mind for all councillor and mayoral candidates.

Over the coming weeks, CANS will proactively share information about the Municipal Election with our members via email newsletter communication, our website and on our social media feeds. We will be providing members with information on key topics and issues important to our industry, as well as voter information.

Our goal is simple. We want to build on our strong working relationship with HRM, to increase your understanding of our industry, discuss ideas/concerns, and identify ways we can work in greater collaboration with the Municipality. CANS and HRM have enjoyed a complimentary and collaborative relationship, working together to advance key issues and concerns for the betterment of the Municipality and our surrounding communities however, there is still much work to be done.

Municipalities across the country have significant challenges to contend with in the near future. These challenges also provide significant opportunity for innovation and a creative approach to solutions. Such issues include:

- Federal infrastructure funding available to municipalities
- Early release of tenders
- HRM noise bylaw
- Community and social benefits agreement

What will you do to ensure that these important issues are addressed?

We ask that you please provide us with an answer by **Friday**, **October 9 at 4:00pm**. We will share responses with CANS members and release to the public and media prior to Election Day as a means of helping them understand the position of each candidate.

Regards,

Duncan Williams President & CEO, Construction Association of Nova Scotia

Tim Houtsma Chair, CANS Board of Directors Construction Association of Nova Scotia

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Mayor Candidates

Mayor: Mike Savage

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Halifax was a leading growth centre in Canada. Record economic growth and precedent-setting immigration were both contributing to a construction boom across the municipality: in downtown Halifax and Dartmouth and in designated growth communities within the municipality. Throughout the pandemic, construction has continued on much needed residential developments, with arowth in the single-family home numbers. Although the pandemic has slowed economic growth, I believe that the fundamental strengths of our economy, our comparatively young population, and our innovative businesses will allow Halifax to recover and regain our place as a thriving city. Anecdotally we are hearing that relatively low COVID-19 case counts are attracting people to Halifax and other centres. Part of that recovery will be the federal infrastructure funding available to help municipalities recover. As Mayor, I've worked with the leaders of the Big City Mayors Caucus of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to advocate for this funding, and to ensure flexibility in its application. Within Halifax, we have continued to build infrastructure, but there are significant needs to continue state of good repair investments, and to build new infrastructure and facilities to address the needs for a growing population, and to prepare our city to address and mitigate the impacts of climate change and respond to changing transportation needs.

Strong growth in the urban centre over the past number of years coupled with a strong housing market allows us to move more aggressively on a number of projects in designated growth areas in suburban and rural communities.

Early release of tenders: I will continue to support moving as much work out to tender as swiftly as we possibly can, even where that may require additional human and information technology resources and process improvements. I am pleased that a high number of municipal staff continue to receive training in lean process improvements.

HRM noise bylaw: I have and will continue to support noise bylaw exemptions for significant projects in HRM, but I also have a responsibility to the residents of our community and the neighbourhoods in which they live. We must continue to offer some flexibility balanced with the need for peaceful enjoyment of where one lives or conducts business.

Community and social benefits agreement: I support community and social benefits for large, disruptive projects. I also appreciate that many of these projects can themselves bring such benefits once complete. We have a shared responsibility to invest in community and social wellbeing and to help ensure the growth and economic success of our city does not serve to broaden gaps between those who are doing well and those who struggle to find opportunity.

Councillor Candidates

District 1

District 1: Arthur Wamback

Federal infrastructure funding available to municipalities: I believe with the Federal and Provincial funding coming available for infrastructure investment we at the Municipal level must

ensure we are ready and have our priorities established. As a member of the council, I will work to ensure that the long term development strategy for Halifax is achieved and the vision adhered to.

Early release of tenders: I am unclear what the issue is here. Fundamentally I believe the early release of tenders benefits all stakeholders in the procurement process.

HRM noise bylaw: I believe the current Noise By-law (N-200) which allows all noise-generating activities, including construction-related noise is still valid. Once data and analysis is in from the recent survey conducted by "Shape your City" modifications may occur.

Community and social benefits agreement: The Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) process which is a collaboration between communities, the development industry, and HRM to reach economic development goals for all stakeholders is a good process and should receive council's attention.

District 2

District 2: David Hendsbee

I have always been an advocate for partnership funding and taking advantage of any Federal/Provincial infrastructure programs. HRM council has recently changed its capital budget approval process and now have a multi-year program to show projects and timing of such initiatives in order to get tenders out in a timelier process.

District 2: Tim Milligan

I feel that I need more information to adequately answer this question. One comment I would like to make is I believe early release of tenders serves a couple of purposes 1 it gets people back to work earlier in the season and 2 I believe the quality of work is affected when tender are awarded late in the construction season.

District3

District 3: Vishal Bhardwaj

Continue work with Canadian Federation of Municipalities, Member Parliament and MLAs and ask for faster delivery of funds so that construction work can be started. We need to remove red tape and make our processes more effective and efficient. City shall respond how well they are doing by measuring customer satisfaction against tender processes. We shall have a deadlines to meet those goals to ensure tenders are issued on t8me.

HRM Noise bylaw impacts both Resident and Developers, each community has unique requirements and we need to keep in mind both parties perspective.

Community and Social benefits is great process where both developers and community can be benefitted creatively. I fully support this process.

District 3: Becky Kent

I am a collaborator and believe that respectful and safe dialogue is imperative. There are many stakeholders such as yours that must be at the table to address housing in our communities and ways to address the crises at hand. I am a supporter of having your organization at the table.

HRM must have our share of Federal infrastructure funding and use it wisely and strategically.

HRM must do a better job to process tenders and development decisions in a timely matter, specifically shorter period of time.

HRM noise bylaw is a problem for both construction projects and neighborhoods. We must find ways to mitigate these concerns.

Community and social benefits agreements are necessary for all levels of government and we must lead by example

District 4

District 4: Ryan Burris

Create an open door for communication and support projects and programs that reduce costs drive innovation, support climate change. HRM has committed to and support local contractors during and post pandemic.

District 4: Kevin Foran

Working together with all stakeholders is key. Housing and particularly affordable housing is a big issue in HRM. We need to look for unique solutions and look at ways to partner with public and private stakeholders to help address the issue.

District 4: Jessica Quillan

In order for me to see these issues get addressed, I have to familiarize myself with them and there complexities. Having meaningful conversations to develop goals and strategies that will create results.

District 4: John Stewart

When dealing with multiple Levels of Government, outside Agencies and Industry it is important to maintain open channels for communication, It is important to build working relationships so concerns can be addressed before they become problems, problems can be resolved before they become crisis's, and crisis's can be prevented completely by trust and respect.

I am a person that wants to work together. We can move more by pulling together than pushing for our own agendas, so my idea is to work together.

District 6

District 6: Douglas Day

Yes.

District 6: Ibrahim Manna

Would like to see earlier release tender but the price would have to be right. HRM noise bylaw no noise should be happening as soon as sun goes down also. The social benefits agreement

would like to see the community to benefit from and project that happens in their community such as developing design and something a community can look up to.

District 7

District 7: Waye Mason

Well as you know I have been quite vocal about the province's effective embargo of the ICIP money for Transit, Green and Housing. That's almost a billion dollars over 10 years that should have started being spent in 2017. I believe the current crisis has finally resulted in movement and I will continue to advocate loudly for these programs to go forward asap.

I've spoken every budget about getting more advanced tenders out and earlier.

I believe it is reasonable to bring the noise bylaw into the same standards as you see in Toronto, and I think that noise issues from construction on dense urban areas require different approaches than in a business park with no residents. We can no longer have a one size fits all policy.

CSBAs are going to be an important part of the delivery social and economic justice in Halifax, and I look forward to a clear and progressive policy to help ensure that all residents in HRM have the opportunity to benefit from these projects.

District 7: Jen Powley

There have been claims that I am anti-development. I'm not anti-development, I'm pro-climate. If a developer can figure out how to build without concrete, glass, and steel or figure out how to reuse a building - I'm all for it. The current federal government has dedicated a lot of municipal infrastructure funding to 'green' projects. To ensure HRM can compete for this funding, we need to approve projects that are sustainable. As councilor, I will work to push HRM to fund more sustainable infrastructure projects that will continue to support our city's construction sector. With the implementation of HalifACT 2050, there will be many new green construction jobs. I don't feel that HalifACT is adequate in tackling climate change, therefore I would ideally like for these retro-fitting jobs to happen sooner rather than later.

While I am not fully familiar with the procurement process for HRM, I am eager to hear the concerns from stakeholders. Early release of tenders would give bidders more time to decide and prepare a bid, which would benefit everyone. As councilor I would engage with staff to see if they need more support on the release of tenders to ensure the construction industry more time to plan and prepare.

As with all by-laws, we need predictable and clear rules that are fair to all parties. Any adjustment in construction working hours as per the HRM Noise By-law would need to be thoroughly discussed. Shorter working hours or a delayed start time would increase construction costs and cause greenhouse gas emissions. I believe the current rules provide a decent balance between construction efficiency and reducing disturbance. In circumstances of overnight road construction, I would consult with the residents affected to ensure a disproportionate amount of citizens are not adversely affected.

We have a limited carbon budget that we will have to live within, for our children, and for our children's children. There will be many opportunities for creative, construction projects that will increase HRM's stock of affordable housing, as well as the build of the new Mi'kmaw Friendship Centre. The future won't look like the past, but I believe that with proper consultations of the

affected groups, we can reach an agreement that will benefit the environment while continuing development toward a more sustainable future.

District 7: Craig Roy

These like other issues raised to me will be addressed constantly until I see an end result. There needs to be more working together and less red tape. Housing is a crisis for HRM and we need to allow CANS to be part of the solution. Meaning, we need to work smarter when it comes to federal infrastructure, tenders, noise bylaws, and be transparent to the community, this will allow for more inclusiveness.

District 8

District 8: Virginia Hinch

The biggest challenge I think the industry, municipality, and community face are community benefits agreements. As it stands, there is no mechanism for these to be included in developments in Halifax and often the inaction of the city - or its rush to see things through - creates tension between developers and community members/groups. Instead, there is an opportunity for developers and community to work together to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes if the city has the will to step up and advocate for it.

Right now, any kind of community benefit agreement would have to be worked into a development agreement and is at the discretion of the developers and community. The city needs to voice a real desire to see these kinds of agreements brought into the official processes so that there is a standard and consistency to it. As it stands, the onus is on the developers and the community.

The city also has to understand and acknowledge that not all areas within the city centre are the same and that these considerations were ignored when the Centre Plan was developed. What works and fits in the South End of the peninsula does not necessarily work or fit in the North End of it, for example, and broad as-right criteria coupled with no community benefit direction will only exacerbate the ongoing issues.

District 8: Dylan Kennedy

With regards to federal funding, I am excited to see the expected budget following Wednesday's throne speech. Until this new approach is explained in better detail, I cannot identify gaps which can be fixed on a municipal scale. While pleased to see a federal focus on building affordable housing, I see many other areas which require federal cooperation such as the lead concern.

I am a strong believer in stakeholder involvement with relation to public spaces. Taking the Bloomfield building as an example, the early release of public tender was a mistake. I believe renovation projects involving such important buildings should involve more public discussion. Town Halls, and referendums being two great ways a community can identify development goals. Once these goals are defined, then we should invite potential partners to bid on such projects.

Noise pollution is a problem for many on the Peninsula. These complaints come from various sources whether its traffic, social events, construction or something else. I don't believe one bylaw will adequately reduce noise concerns but that noise levels must be considered when brainstorming solutions along with other disturbances.

Community involvement is crucial. While I have already highlighted where and how I want this emphasized, I want to also speak on cultural changes needed so people feel inclined to

participate. Whether virtual or physical events, they need to be well promoted, accessible, and advertised. I am also calling for all potential colleagues to learn about living with disabilities as well as other marginalized voices to make sure everybody is heard.

District 9

District 9: Bill Carr

All of these issues have different mechanisms that need to augmented. Provincial and federal infrastructure money should be used immediately for the infrastructure but also for the jobs created. There needs to be careful attention paid by council as to when funds are available and how to best utilize them across the districts. If elected I will be creating citizens circles to discuss issues in each area. Noise, use of infrastructure money and the community and social benefits agreements would no doubt be on the agendas of these groups and then passed on and flagged at council.

District 9: Shaun Clark

I maintain a connection with the community to find what their needs are by use of social media and phone/in person discussions when I'm out walking. I'm also available through these means to industry as well. All sides must be considered for the best interest of the community.

District 9: Shawn Cleary

Halifax is already taking advantage of all federal funding in infrastructure projects, climate actions, transit investments, etc. and will continue to apply for these funds. Over the past several years, the city has been getting tenders out earlier and will accelerate the pace to provide more certainty to contractors and taxpayers. The city has been consulting on changes to the Noise bylaw and will continue to adapt the construction mitigation bylaw to ensure residents and contractors have the best opportunity to get projects completed and enjoy their neighbourhoods. We will continue ensure communities benefit from the developments in their neighbourhoods.

District 9: Gerry Lonergan

In order to keep in line with the association's goal; to build a strong working relationship with HRM, it would be necessary to involve the community. We have many development and planning specialists who work for the city and we rely on their expertise with feasibility studies to ensure the project will be of mutual benefit to the developers and the community. Once approved, I would focus on minimizing impact on local residents and local business during the construction process.

District 10

District 10: Chris Hurry

Federal infrastructure funding available to municipalities: The Council needs to have staff and committees whose main focus is to learn at the earliest possible moment when funds from senior government will become available and the conditions attached to those funds. Although there are occasions where the City cannot take advantage of senior government funding because of strings attached it should never be because of lack of planning.

Federal infrastructure funds and federal green recovery funds should be vigorously sought and applied to making a more livable, carbon reduced Halifax.

Early release of tenders: There is no value that I can see in delaying the release of tenders beyond the point where the details of a project are known.

HRM noise bylaw: I understand and support the right of people within the municipality to protection from dangerous and disturbing noises. I also understand that there are times when loud noises cannot be avoided in the normal activity of development and improvement of structures within the city. The bylaw is an attempt to balance these two needs. I'm sure that there are ways to improve the bylaw and amendments have occurred numerous times since its enactment but the basic need for such a bylaw will never disappear.

Community and social benefits agreement: It is madness for Council to consider any action without consideration for the citizens directly affected. To act as though Councillors always "know what's best" for all without seeking the advice and support of the citizens is ultimate folly. Although time consuming and often frustrating, consultation and coordination with affected communities and with industry early in the planning period and throughout the development will provide fewer disruptions to the actual work and ultimately happier outcomes.

What will you do to ensure that these important issues are addressed: The job of councilor is to address these issues and I will do my job to the fullest of my abilities by consultation (both public and expert) and through the examination of documents.

District 10: Kathryn Morse

Some of the key challenges facing all municipalities are how to recover from the economic impact of Covid-19 and how to adapt to climate change. In many ways municipalities are leading and innovating and I see significant opportunities for HRM to work with partners like CANS to improve the quality of life for residents while building a more resilient and energy-efficient city. As just one example, I would support HRM applying for federal infrastructure funds to build new affordable and energy-efficient housing in HRM—to address both the severe housing shortage and meet climate targets. As councillor I will ensure I am well informed about the key issues through meetings with CANS representatives, and will support extensive consultation with stakeholders like CANS as part of the municipal pre-budget process. Overall I am in favour of more collaboration, more compromise, and more evidence-based planning. I appreciate the need to reduce red tape and make HRM a more predictable and attractive place to invest especially for large scale projects.

District 10: Kyle Morton

My plan broadly is to set clear standards for what can be built and in what locations, so we have a transparent system where new constructions being built to code don't have to go through a multi-year approvals limbo. I would like to work closely both with local communities as well as the construction industry in designing these standards so that we can make them fair, balanced, and effective.

Regarding federal infrastructure funding available to municipalities specifically, I want to work closely with local MPs to amplify our voice to secure additional funding for needed infrastructure that can support our communities and our economy.

For the noise bylaw, I think it's important we balance our economic goals with the desire of citizens not to have to deal with too much noise in overly early or late times of the day. This is

key, because antagonizing too many people in a community with issues like noise makes it very difficult to build the needed consensus for more construction overall.

I don't know enough about the other two issues to comment but I'm very open to learning more and discussing them with a solutions-focused mindset.

District 11

District 11: Kristen Hollery

I will work with the stakeholders as well as the other council members to work out mutually beneficial solutions.

District 11: Jim Hoskins

Review what are any present issues that are still outstanding and what are the most demanding challenges in your industry today.

District 11: Lisa Mullin

The economic recovery of HRM will depend heavily on our ability to navigate the financial crisis felt by industry and our ability to set a competitive tax/fee structure that will allow growth. The city cannot function without revenue and the construction industry cannot build in areas that are cost-prohibitive.

Working with the Federation of Municipalities, I hope to lend my voice to Council that supports advocating for federal infrastructure funding that will address many issues in Halifax such as rural and suburban commuter traffic, affordable housing, hospital building/upgrade/retrofit, and schools. Having over a decade of grant writing experience, I feel that my strengths will be best utilized in

developing a strong grant application and having a strong voice to advocate. Utilizing my existing relationships with both provincial and federal governments, I feel that I would be well positioned to have our voice heard.

The tender process in Halifax is long and arduous. Now with the implementation of the new Social Policy, decision making will be put through another lens and this has the potential to slow the process down. I am proposing that I lend my expertise in policy design to the framework committee to ensure that the tender review process is smooth and timely and reflects our need to get tender out on time (if not early).

By-law N-200 outlines the times that equipment may be utilized without causing a disturbance to the peace and tranquility of a neighbourhood and hasn't been updated since 1999. There is an opportunity for the Construction Association of NS to contribute a proposal that outlines new timelines for construction based on things like: newer equipment and noise emitting levels, construction in non-residential zones, etc. Having a proven track record in policy review, I feel that my voice on those discussions would be valuable.

Thank you for the opportunity to engage with you. I look forward to the possibility of future engagements on City Council!

District 11: Hannah Munday

1. Federal infrastructure funding is typically tied to matching funds from the province and municipality. If elected, I will ensure prompt review of any new federal infrastructure funds to see

if these funds can be utilized by the municipality effectively. We don't want to miss out on opportunities.

2. Early release of tender documents allows companies to best analyze the requirements to get the most accurate pricing and construction schedule. However, as you know, premature release of documents often leads directly to multiple addenda and clarifications (and resulting confusion from bidders). If elected, I will encourage staff to prepare tender documents to be as complete as possible and allow bidding companies adequate time to review the material and provide their best bid.

3. We need to balance the realities of completing large-scale construction projects with resident comfort and livability of residential neighbourhoods in particular. I am aware that noise bylaws can interfere with construction schedules and especially now, when economic recovery from the effects of COVID-19 is so pivotal, that balance will be difficult to strike. Halifax has asked for feedback from residents on construction noise as part of the Shape Your City initiative, and when the results from that survey are made public council will need to examine how best to ensure that work can be completed in a timely manner while minimizing disruption to residents whenever possible.

4. I firmly believe that development must take a holistic approach to community living. New housing developments must be walkable, livable, and provide amenities for the wider community use (playgrounds, green spaces, local retail, etc.) Other municipalities across Canada have utilized CBAs to good effect, creating jobs and more attractive community spaces. I feel that establishing the CBA model in Halifax would create benefits for the construction industry, the business community, and the residents of our city.

District 11: Pete Rose

I have worked as a Construction Project Manager for the last 10 years and have developed extensive experience within the construction field. I am extremely familiar with the tendering process and early release of tenders is one great way to try and remove the total time it takes to get projects started. I am committed to working with the Construction Association of Nova Scotia to ensure that we can find paths forward and removing as many barriers as we can to ensure that our relationship continues to grow into the future.

District 12

District 12: Eric Jury

Federal infrastructure funding available to municipalities: I would work with council to meet with MP's to see what options are possible to have municipalities get direct funding from the federal government and work with the MLA's to allow federal funding to be managed by the municipally.

Early release of tenders: I would work with council to review the procurement procedures to see if there is possibilities for increasing tenders for construction and reducing the waiting periods.

HRM noise bylaw: I would work with council to see if there was possible exemptions during construction periods for high priority projects.

Community and social benefits agreement: I would work with council to see if there could be a agreement in certain communities under construction to promote acceptance from community once they are aware of the construction benefits.

District 12: Iona Stoddard

In terms of federal and infrastructure and funding, there is going to be a rebuilding after COVID-19. We have to be in a position to get that money. This is only my personal feelings and thoughts, but I think Halifax should get a greater portion of the money coming to Nova Scotia. We are the second largest coastal city in Canada, and I believe we contain about a third of the Nova Scotia population. We are definitely the economic driver of the province. I would like to push for more control handed over to us from the Province. What I care most about though, no matter the distribution of money, I want to see the infrastructure money going into the hands that will spend it locally. I will push for it.

For the early tendering process, I call for a shorter permit process in my platform, and by extension, I am in favor of an earlier tendering process. Both of these actions help investors because it will let the industry plan better and allow work to start sooner. We need to continue to build, and part of that will be affordable housing. It is something I'm ready to fight for. It is hard for a company to plan ahead when the tendering process is slow and when obtaining the proper permits are also slow. Other cities have improved this area, so why can't we. It helps the work get started earlier and hopefully finished faster. Any time we can make a part of our city stronger, we see benefits from it in other areas. It just makes sense from a planning perspective.

Which brings me to noise bylaws, and this one is a tough one. Plenty of studies to show that excessive construction noise has a detrimental effect on those living nearby. But at the same time, shorter work hours means the work lasts longer. It is also not cost effective to raise the price of construction. I know there are societies that have reduced the working hours, even by removing weekend work. I don't believe we have the construction capacity to do that. When I get in council I will listen to all parties and just find a way to get the work done. I can say that I am not in favour of restricting the working hours to the point where construction can never end. I would like to see it done as quickly as possible. We can work together on this.

Lastly, for the community and social benefits agreement, as a person of a marginalized group, I have to be in favor of anything that gives some of the power back to the people. On a more specific note, I am a member of the Community Consultant Committee for the new Beechville-Lakeside-Timberlea (BLT) Recreation Centre, and have been since its inception. I believe many recreation centres and libraries across the province have created excellent benefits for the community. We can build a brighter future that includes everyone. There are cities that have done this right and cities who have failed at it. We just need to follow the best practices of other cities and we should be fine. If problems arise, we step back and look again to find ways to make it better. There is opportunity at the end of the pandemic. We just have to make sure that we are ready for it.

District 13

District 13: Tim Elms

With all signs pointing towards a possible recession in 2021, we really need to be careful where we spend our money but not at the expense of affordable housing.

We need to open the communication lines between municipal and provincial governments so that all parties are aware of the funding available to them. opening the communication channels Knowing that there is funding through the Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP), delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities will help our communities remain informed decisions about roads, water systems, buildings. We also have new Cooperative purchasing trade programs available to our municipalities that can help alleviate possible

procurement strain (costs & time constraints) Having pre tendered awarded vendors will diminish any concern of early release of tenders and expedite the entire procurement process. The HRM noise bylaw is important for the sake of all those in the surrounding area. Particular to my motto for the construction industry " Build it like you live there"- at a time that is reasonable for neighbours. We can also look at a combination of public/private housing; where our governments invest more in housing funds that can be used to help developers finance new buildings which include more units for low-income aging, and/or working-class resident. Or developers get some sort of a credit for the percentage of affordable homes they are including in their builds and renovations.

District 13: lain Taylor

The most significant area the municipality can work better with CANS would be through the early release of their tenders. This is an area where a lot of inefficiency is created. Through better planning and organizing from our councilors at City Hall, tenders can be released in the winter months, so that projects can be aligned, and take advantage of the peek construction seasons of spring and summer.

The HRM noise bylaws are something that can be easily addressed through identifying them clearly in the tendering process. This will ensure that constructors are held to task, and will help improve efficiency through reducing the amount of time spent of responding to complaints once construction has begun.

With other industries being hit hard by the pandemic, it is now more important than ever for municipalities to push for federal infrastructure funding. Construction is one industry that can continue to operate in a fairly safe virus environment, so now is a perfect time for councilors to lobby for this funding and to invest in infrastructure that will allow the rest of the economy to rebound stronger later.

With a lack of housing being one of the major issues of these municipal elections, construction will be a key industry in moving this forward. While developers produce plans for new housing units, they are now also being asked to provide these designs with additional commercial and residential support. CANS can be a vital ally for the municipality in helping with these designs

District 15

District 15: Mary Lou LeRoy

will address all of these issues and ensure that the needs of the Construction Association members are responded to in a timely manner. I am pleased to hear that you have a strong relationship with HRM. Good relationships and political will are important to continue to move forward.