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Subject: Fwd:
Date: October 17, 2024 10:56:40 PM

From: Pamela Bill Snow
Date: October 17, 2024 at 10:10:19 PM ADT
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October 17, 2024

Re: Proposed expansion of GFL West Hants Landfill, Centre
Burlington, Nova Scotia

Dear Minister Halman and Representative for Dillon Consulting,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the new proposed expansion of the West Hants Landfill as outlined on October 5 in the Chronicle Herald. It presents new information, quite different from what community members were told, (myself included), at the public meetings a few months ago. We were told the current footprint would not expand horizontally. It appears from the newspaper article, the expansion will now be both vertical and horizontal, expanding the footprint significantly, by approximately 60 acres. The change of information and lack of communication to the public, has caused swirls of mistrust and confusion towards GFL and the Government. The two

public meetings were insufficient and in my opinion, left many unanswered questions. The short deadline of November 10, 2024 for further public comment is untimely for folks who had hoped to hear back from the government and GFL regarding concerns. Minister Halman at this time, it is unclear if any of our concerns have even made it to your desk, *as promised by representatives at the meetings*.

For the safety of the people living around the landfill, the surrounding environment of woodlands, creatures, water courses and ecosystems, I ask that you please take a moment to read my summary of concerns that remain unanswered:

1) Will the new infrastructure mentioned, be of world class quality and the highest available technological systems and construction materials, including landfill membranes...to ensure contaminants, chemicals and leachate be 100% contained? Will it be good enough to contain more catastrophic weather due to global warming, such as the flood and fire events Nova Scotia experienced in 2023. Minister Halman, it is no secret that the heavy machinery required to move garbage daily, damages the membranes meant to contain such waste and that the very nature of the waste is - combustible. The last fire at the Cogmagun Landfill was two weeks ago with no less than 14 fire departments present or on standby.

2) Regarding proposed new monitoring wells: Will they be inspected by an independent third party (independent of GFL) , more than once every two months and will the results be available to the public? How and where can this information be obtained?

3) With regard to possible public nuisances surely to arise, such as odour, rodents, noise, truck traffic etc , will there be an impartial way, through an independent party from GFL, for folks to report and have their concerns addressed?

4) Minister Halman, please clarify the following rumors to be true or false:

- as a number of landfills are capped to capacity in Nova Scotia, the Cogmagun site stands to expand several times its size? I, and others have heard that 7 landfills will be condensed to 3. I am very concerned about the potential influx of waste to the Cogmagun site. We have built our lives here, love our communities and deserve to know what the future plan is.
- Is it true that 30 % of HRM solid waste currently comes to the

Cogmagun site? And, is there a CAP for how much more garbage will be allowed ?

- Is HRM sewage/wastewater processed at Cogmagun, currently? or planned to be processed in future? If so, why? (when HRM has a system already in place?)

5) I see the 'Shape Your City', 'Solid Waste Strategy Review' is in progress. Can you tell me: when will all black bags finally be banned in our province so garbage can be appropriately processed, and reduce the amount of garbage going into landfills? In your words from the *Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act* that you created, " *We must work with municipalities to keep more waste out of landfills*".

6) Can you tell me why there was **no** *Environmental Assessment* done for the proposed expansion?

In Canada, other similar landfill expansions had EA's mandated, ie: Moose Creek, Ontario, 19 year expansion, June 2023.

The rest of the world is already convinced we are experiencing a global climate crisis and acting on it, so I am asking you Minister Halman~ as only you can do ~ to mandate an Environmental Assessment be carried out for the proposed expansion of the West Hants Landfill.

In closing, Minister Halman, my understanding is that IF a landfill is constructed and operated properly, it should **not** have a negative impact on people or the environment. Therefore, I am respectfully asking for answers to these outstanding concerns.

The broken communication of information from Green For Life for the proposed expansion and whether Cogmagun will expand again significantly in future should not be allowed to be obscured from the people and environment, who stand to be affected by it.

As we face a growing climate crisis and the possibility of a mega-expansion, we need assurances that our property and home values are considered, our environmental concerns are addressed and our community voices are respected.

Thank you

Pamela Snow
District 1, West Hants Municipality

