



Victoria Municipality PEI <victoriamunicipalitypei@gmail.com>

Victoria Causeway Park - transfer of ownership request

Victoria Municipality PEI <victoriamunicipalitypei@gmail.com>

Fri, Nov 24, 2023 at 12:15 AM

To: erhudsonminister@gov.pe.ca, brianmatheson@gov.pe.ca, bfthompson@gov.pe.ca, Sharon Slauenwhite <snslaunenwhite@gov.pe.ca>, namurphy@gov.pe.ca

Cc: Tom Wright <rmvtomwright@gmail.com>, Jean McCardle <jean.mccardle@eastlink.ca>, Ben Smith <enchantedcandles@pei.aibn.com>, Linda Gilbert <lgilbert.ca@gmail.com>, Martin Ruben <allenfarm17@gmail.com>, Eric Gilbert <ericrmvcouncil@gmail.com>, Shelley Trainor <rmvshelleytrainor@gmail.com>, "Marsha Empson, RMVictoria" <marsha.victoriamunicipality@gmail.com>

Dear Minister Hudson, Deputy Minister Brian Matheson, Director Brian Thompson, and staff Nancy Murphy and Sharon Slauenwhite at the Dept of Transportation & Infrastructure,
CC Municipality of Victoria Council and staff,

Writing to you as the Chief Administrative Officer for the Municipality of Victoria.

I understand that you all have been engaged in discussions with representatives of Amar, the company who wishes to expand their light industrial facility located on the Victoria Causeway, into what is now Victoria Park - owned by the province and leased to the municipality for the last 10 years (though as you'll see in the email thread below, we are now in an 'overhold' position on that lease).

I have attached here a letter that was sent to various ministers and departmental representatives in May of this year. The letter outlines well the municipality's various interests in the property, which still apply today. Council is open to discussion about the future ownership and funding arrangements for the park, and notes that **the most urgent concern is how the high rate of coastal erosion might be addressed.**

I noted in [the province's capital budget announcement](#) this week that there is a new investment of \$10M over 5 years for Enhancing Provincial Parks: "For new playgrounds, boardwalks, equipment, campsites, and renovations to washrooms and other structures at Provincial Parks." I would like to float the idea that this funding could come into play in Victoria. There is certainly a high summer demand for access to the beach at this space (including people wishing to camp overnight, which is not currently allowed), and investment in recreational equipment and appropriate facilities would be very welcome.

I would like to emphasize the importance of including the municipality in any discussions about the future of the site, as it is ultimately the municipality who has subdivision and development approval authority for the site (regardless of ownership status), and who has the greatest interest in the future of the site, as it has been a key recreational and natural asset for the municipality (and the surrounding south shore community) for many decades.

As I will be out of province for the month of December, so will be unable to provide administrative guidance to the process until I am back. **I encourage the Minister, Deputy Minister and Dept of Transportation staff to include Mayor Martin Ruben and Council in any discussions about the future of the site during the month of December.**

Any information gained during such discussions can be tabled or reported at the subsequent local Council meeting.

With thanks,
Anna K

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Anna Keenan (she/her or they/them)

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

Rural Municipality of Victoria 🌻

(902) 658 2541

Public Office Hours: Mon-Thur - 9:30am-12pm & 1-3:30pm

Victoria historic schoolhouse, 730 Victoria Rd, Victoria-by-the-Sea

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dawn MacDougall** <DTMACDOUGALL@gov.pe.ca>

Date: Fri, Jun 16, 2023 at 10:11 AM

Subject: RE: Victoria Causeway Park - transfer of ownership request

To: Victoria Municipality PEI <victoriamunicipalitypei@gmail.com>, Sharon Slauenwhite <SNSLAUENWHITE@gov.pe.ca>, Jamie Aiken <JAAIKEN@gov.pe.ca>

Good Morning Anna,

Unfortunately, we have not received any direction with regards to this file. Nevertheless, I can assure you that if the Lease is not renewed by August 3rd, the Municipality can continue its operation of the park property. Technically, if we continue to support your use of the property and you are desirous of continuing to maintain it, the Lease is viewed as being in an overhold position which means the terms and conditions are still in effect.

Hope this helps,

Dawn

From: Victoria Municipality PEI <victoriamunicipalitypei@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2023 4:34 PM

To: Sharon Slauenwhite <SNSLAUENWHITE@gov.pe.ca>; Dawn MacDougall <DTMACDOUGALL@gov.pe.ca>; Jamie Aiken <JAAIKEN@gov.pe.ca>

Subject: Re: Victoria Causeway Park - transfer of ownership request

Hi there Sharon and Dawn, and Jamie A,

I wanted to follow up on this letter. The municipality met with Jamie Aiken (Deputy Minister Economic Development), Innovation PEI and representatives from Amar and the PEI BioAlliance just a few days ago, to discuss Amar's development proposal for long-term future of this site. The question of who will retain ownership of the property in the long term is still not decided.

For the short term, the municipality also needs some answers about our use of the site. The 10-year lease between the province and the municipality runs out on August 3 of this year. **This end-date is right in the middle of tourism season.**

We have a summer student (grant-funded) who is planning to work for the months of July and August, that will allow us to have the Victoria Park washrooms open, and **local community members (just beyond the municipal bounds) are fundraising to ensure that we are able to keep the grass in the park mowed and in good condition, for this summer season**, until at least mid-September, if not the end of September.

I would like to have it in writing that the municipality will be able to use the park in the same manner as we are currently, this August and September (ie, a 2 month extension on our 10 year lease). I am operating on the assumption that this would be fine, but I also want to check my assumptions.

If you think there's a chance that come August 4, something is going to change dramatically, I'd appreciate knowing as soon as possible. 'No surprises' is such a lovely trust-building principle.

With thanks,

Anna K

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Anna Keenan (she/her or they/them)

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

Rural Municipality of Victoria 🌻

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On Fri, May 19, 2023 at 2:36 PM Victoria Municipality PEI <victoriamunicipalitypei@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you all, and congrats on your upcoming retirement Brenda. :)

Anna K

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Anna Keenan (she/her or they/them)

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

Rural Municipality of Victoria 🌻

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On Fri, May 19, 2023 at 10:52AM Brenda Boyle <BJBOYLE@gov.pe.ca> wrote:

Anna:

Just wanted to confirm receipt of this email. As you indicated below, discussions are ongoing.

I will be retiring sometime in the next month. I've cc'd my manager and supervisor so you can include them in any future correspondence.

Thanks and have a great week-end.

Brenda J. Boyle, SR/WA

Property Agent, Land and Environment

Transportation and Infrastructure

Phone: (902) 368-6397

Fax: (902) 368-5395

From: Victoria Municipality PEI <victoriamunicipalitypei@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2023 2:51 PM
To: MinisterHLC MinisterHLC <MinisterHLC@gov.pe.ca>; Jamie MacDonald <jevmacdonald@gov.pe.ca>
Cc: Jamie Fox <jdfoxmla@assembly.pe.ca>; Jamie Aiken <JAAIKEN@gov.pe.ca>; Brenda Boyle <BJBOYLE@gov.pe.ca>; Shelley Trainor <rmvshelleytrainor@gmail.com>
Subject: Victoria Causeway Park - transfer of ownership request

Dear Minister Lantz and Deputy Minister MacDonald,

CC Brenda Boyle FYI as Property Agent for this file

CC Jamie Aiken as Deputy Minister for Economic Development

CC Jamie Fox as our local MLA

CC Shelley Trainor as Mayor

Please see attached for a letter from the Rural Municipality of Victoria, requesting a transfer of ownership - or a long-term lease - of Victoria Park. This request was approved at Council on Monday night.

In the letter, we outline the benefits that this transfer of ownership would bring.

We would appreciate a response or a meeting on this topic with anyone at the provincial level. We understand that talks are ongoing, and would like to be involved in those discussions.

With thanks,

Anna K

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Anna Keenan (she/her or they/them)

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

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Victoria Park - ownership request letter, RMV.pdf

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