

115 Henry Hicks Road
Saulnierville, N.S.
B0W 2Z0

August 5, 2020

Mr. Warden,

I am a taxpaying resident of the Municipality of Clare and have lived on the one-kilometer long Henry Hicks Road located in Saulnierville for the past 34 years.

I first moved to this permanent address in 1986. As a young naive twenty-nine-year-old, I was told by various individuals in government positions that as more people moved on the Henry Hicks Road, it would eventually be granted as a provincial road and that services enjoyed by the vast majority of Clare taxpayers, would be afforded to us. Although I do not have a paper trail to prove such discussions took place back in the day, our MLA who held the Transportation and Communications portfolio from 1987 to 1989, clearly indicated to me that would be the case.

I note that it is August 2020, there are currently ten taxpaying residences on the Henry Hicks Road **averaging one taxpaying residential property per .01 kilometers**. The Henry Hicks Road remains a private road with no services provided by the municipal and provincial governments.

Since the early/mid 1990's, the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, **located 2.1 kilometers from the Henry Hicks Road** has applied sodium chloride on a yearly basis, which we promptly pay following receipt of the bill. Initially, this service was provided in late June/early July, unfortunately in the past several years, mid July seems to have been the norm. Here we are eating dust in August while most taxpayers enjoy the benefits of paved roads or gravel roads which are graded and treated with chloride.

Given the tax revenue collected from residents on this road, I sincerely believe we are not asking for too much. We simply ask that sodium chloride, which we pay for, **be applied in a timely manner**. The past summers have become drier and dust has become unbearable. So much so, on hot sunny days we cannot open the windows due to the dust filtering inside our homes.

Please allow me to share with you a **sample** of unpaved government roads where sodium chloride has been applied. The table compares the distance of those roads and the number residences to that of the Henry Hicks Road.

| Road Name | Length in kms | Number of residences | Average |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Henry Hicks | 1 | 10 | 1 residence per .1 kms |
| John Comeau | .7 | 5 | 1 residence per .14 kms |
| Common Cross | 1.8 | 15 | 1 residence per .12 kms |
| P F Comeau | 1.8 | 1 | 1 residence per 1.8 kms |
| Second Division | 2.8 | 9 | 1 residence per .31 kms |
| Maza | 3 | 0 | 0 residence per 3 kms |
| Riverview Drive | .7 | 4 | 1 residence per .175 kms |

These are but a few examples, no doubt if I took the time to survey all of the Municipality of Clare area, several other examples could be added to the above table. I share these examples to demonstrate how we are treated unfairly, frankly it is an injustice.

I believe we have been very patient over the years and have been satisfied with very little. **We (the residents of Henry Hicks Road) simply ask that sodium chloride, which we pay for, be applied in a timely manner.** Again, sodium chloride which we pay, on top of the thousands of dollars you collect from us. In my case alone, several \$1000's per year.

As noted above, we are located 2.1 kilometers from the Transportation garage. Going up and down the one-kilometer Henry Hicks Road with their sodium chloride vehicle takes no more than 10 to 15 minutes. Surely, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal personnel could find 15 minutes towards the end of the day on their way to the garage to apply sodium chloride on our road.

I have been told by personnel at the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal office that this year's unusual delay is due to a shortage of product coming from Saint John, New Brunswick and applying sodium chloride this year cannot be guaranteed. Apparently, this is due to the Coronavirus. At face value, I must accept what they are telling me. However, I do find it somewhat strange. I do not recall commercial traffic being significantly delayed between the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia border.

In addition, if a shortage is being experienced, why would one instruct their crew to apply sodium chloride on the P F Comeau and Maza roads. **The combined kilometrage is 4.8 kilometers to serve one residence.** I contend that this is wasteful. Frankly, given our situation on our road, this is appalling.

Furthermore, the Maza Road serves leisure properties which branch off of it. In time of a shortage, how can someone find it justifiable to apply sodium chloride to a 3-kilometer-long road so that individuals may have cleaner vehicles on their way to their camps. Surely, I am not the only one who finds this to be unsettling. We live in our homes 365 days a year.

To be clear, I do not begrudge the service that is being provided to these individuals. What I am getting at is the following, if this can be done for these taxpayers, is it not time for you and other levels of government to re-evaluate present antiquated policies and bylaws. It is time to stop the discriminatory practices which is creating inequality amongst the residents of Clare.

The Henry Hicks Road residents and I are not looking for an answer which dismisses our request by telling us there is nothing you can do due to our decision to build a home on a private road. This is not the answer we are looking for. Doing so is irresponsible, especially when you happily collect our property tax dollars. **We want to know what you can do for us to ensure sodium chloride will be applied in a timely manner on a yearly basis, late June/early July.**

I have attached two photos which demonstrate the situation we experience throughout the summer/fall months. The first photo clearly shows the amount of dust generated when vehicles drive by. I invite you to enlarge the photo to gain a better understanding of our reality. The second photo further demonstrates the amount of dust after going up and down the road three or four times. As you will see, there is no need to wash our vehicles which is a simple pleasure many Clare residents enjoy during the summer months.

Looking forward to your response,

Sincerely,
Steven Gaudet, (902) 769-3609 (h) (902) 740-7984(c)