



Maggie's Place
A Resource Centre for Families

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December 12, 2018

Mayor David Kogon & Town Council
Town of Amherst
98 East Victoria St.
Amherst, NS, B4H 1X6

The Honorable Randy Delorey
155 Main Street, Suite 202
Antigonish, Nova Scotia
B2G 2B6

Warden Allison Gillis & County Council
Municipality of Cumberland County
1395 Blair Lake Road
Upper Nappan, NS B4H 3Y4

The Honorable Lloyd Hines
9996 Highway 16, Unit P-1
PO Box 259
Guysborough, NS
B0H 1N0

Dear Mayor Kogon, Warden Gillis, Minister Delorey & Minister Hines

Maggie's Place – A Resource Centre for Families fully supports accessible, inclusive communities and believe that a sidewalk from town to the Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre (CRHCC) is necessary to help break down barriers and encourage healthier lifestyles.

With over 300 employees, dozens of volunteers, lab services, diagnostics, prenatal, specialists and patient visitors, it is used by more than most buildings in the county. The proximity of the CRHCC to the Town of Amherst, the County of Cumberland Municipal Building and seniors housing makes it an attractive distance for many to access by foot however with no pedestrian infrastructure it is a hazardous.

Along with the health benefits, a sidewalk from town to the hospital would also reduce barriers and provide a safe inclusive passage for all users. At the recent Poverty Lives Here forum, we were reminded that we have a high rate of poverty and that the majority of those living in poverty are single mothers and unattached seniors. According to Statistics Canada 2016 "72% of female lone parent families with children 0 to 5 years live in poverty." Offering walkable transportation would provide safe passage for everyone, including, moms with strollers, wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

Social isolation for those living in hospital could be another positive impact of a sidewalk if family and friends could walk to the hospital to visit or volunteer; thus improving the quality of life for patients.

We are proud to live in a county where all municipalities have made health a priority and hope you will consider working together to bridge this gap.

Sincerely,

Sarah MacMaster
Executive Director

cc: MLA Cumberland North Elizabeth Smith McCrossin