



February 25, 2019

A/Commr. Lee Bergerman
Commanding Officer "H" Division
Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Nova Scotia
80 Garland Avenue
Dartmouth, NS B3B 0J8

Dear Sir:

Re: RCMP Operational Communications Centre in Truro

I wish to thank you for your letter of February 7, 2019 regarding the move of the Operational Communications Centre (OCC) in Truro.

I do, with respect, want to bring to your attention several concerns we here in Amherst have with this decision.

Being involved with our regional emergency management organization here, I am acutely aware of how vitally important communication capability is. I am aware of two key points that have to be addressed when locating communication centres. Firstly, centres should never be placed near or in any hazardous areas and secondly, multiple centres should be sufficiently distanced from one another so that they will not be impacted by any single event that might damage or destroy a centre.

In this specific case, the two policing call centres, one for the Halifax Regional Police Force and the second for your RCMP will now be in close proximity. They will now both be in close proximity to the ammunition depot in Dartmouth as well as the navy base which can harbour nuclear powered vessels. This most certainly constitutes a potentially hazardous environment. The primary concern then, is in regard to the safety of Nova Scotians living anywhere in the province should both police call centres become incapacitated simultaneously.

Of secondary importance is that this is another example of centralizing resources in the Halifax region and taking economic opportunities away from more distant areas of the province. This further burdens rural Nova Scotia economically. Your letter states the move will not have an impact on jobs however my reading says differently.



Our local federal representative, Mr. Bill Casey, MP, has been extremely vocal about this issue and we here in Amherst completely agree with Mr. Casey's position on the matter.

I am most certain I have not told you anything of which you are unaware but do wish to say, with utmost respect, that I/we disagree with the decision to move the OCC from Truro to Dartmouth. It is hoped that this decision could be reconsidered going forward.

I sincerely thank you for your time and attention to this very important issue.

Best Regards,

David Kogon, MD
Mayor
Town of Amherst

