



# CHEBUCTO CONNECTIONS

Strengthening Community in Spryfield and District

February 6, 2017

To Whom it May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support for the addition of a sidewalk to the 500 block of Herring Cove Road from Lynnett Road to 564 Herring Cove Road and on the west side from 505 to 581 Herring Cove Road.

As an organization focused on serving the needs of the Spryfield community, it is without a doubt to me that this particular area stands above others as being marginalized and could greatly benefit from this municipal infrastructure. The poverty related concerns that this community experiences provide the kinds of daily struggles that many residents of HRM remain oblivious to. On a daily basis I see seniors stumbling on jagged road shoulders in the 500 block, children walking and running to and from school, mothers wrestling baby carriages along the roadway and people in wheelchairs or with canes navigating the uneven surface. The number of people who walk in this area of the city is significantly higher than many other neighbourhoods as many residents cannot afford cars. Public transportation and walking are popular modes of transportation. Our own facility at Chebucto Connections hosts more than 300 students weekly in one of our programs, 95% of whom walk to the program.

While I understand ranking systems that may exist within municipal processes to identify priority areas for sidewalks and crosswalks, most of these processes do not include the measure of impact on people living in poverty. The municipality needs to prioritize contributing toward the alleviation of negative impacts on sidelined populations. Walking on a sidewalk in this community is a matter of safety, convenience, health and wellness and community pride. It is in alignment with the focus of the recent transportation sessions the municipality hosted whereby discussions took place around how to get more residents out walking instead of using cars. While answering the question, 'What would it take to have you use your car less?' was the key outcome, an additional question should be "How do we reward the people who don't use cars more?" Provide them with a sidewalk, so they can continue to walk safely.

There is no doubt in my mind that the community of Spryfield is in dire need of this physical asset and I offer my wholehearted support to the Community Association's request for a sidewalk.

Sincerely,

*Bonnie Ste-Croix*  
Executive Director

**Chebucto Connections**

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