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August 29, 2018

Rob Simonds  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Municipality of the County of Colchester  
1 Church Street  
Truro, Nova Scotia  
B2N 3Z5

Dear CAO Simonds,

**Re: Kennel Development By-law**

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to comment on the proposed legislation cited as Municipality of the County of Colchester Kennel Development By-law. The Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce is committed to ensuring the Colchester business community is collaborative, connected and thriving.

While we support efforts to establish clear legislation governing the development of kennels, which is not currently specifically addressed in areas of the county not covered by the *Central Colchester Land Use By-law*, we have concerns the proposed Kennel Development By-law will not achieve those goals.

Of particular concern to our members is the lack of timeline associated with the implementation of the By-law which council has indicated would be temporary.

The wording of the purpose that “this By-law is intended to prohibit any kinds of kennels for the boarding of dogs in the Municipality of the County of Colchester” is creating a perception that the county is closed for business.

If this By-law were to be accepted by council, there is potential for wide-spread negative impacts to local business of all kinds, from real estate to existing kennels, veterinarians, breeders, groomers, pet supply businesses, trainers, boarding facilities, dog daycares, kennel clubs, professional dog handlers and many others.

Colchester County has attracted high-caliber canine events drawing thousands of people to this area and has been home to dogs trained as international champions. The pet industry is a multi-billion dollar business and needs the support of council to continue to provide economic benefits to this region.

The wording of the proposed By-law does not allow for existing kennels to expand their locations or to sell while it is in effect. It would be unreasonable to expect business to wait an undetermined timeframe for the county to lift a moratorium directly impacting their livelihoods.

According to Euromonitor International pet care in Canada is expected to see steady growth over the next year, presenting many interesting business opportunities for players. Since 2013 the pet industry has grown 3.8 per cent and was worth more than \$7 billion in Canada, with 52 per cent of households having a pet. Colchester County boasts a wide variety of pet-related businesses and is well positioned for economic growth.

The Chamber recommends that council delay the second reading of the Kennel Development By-law and further direct staff to complete a comprehensive consultation with industry members and the public prior to implementing any further legislation regarding kennel development in the county.

It further recommends the Municipality of the County of Colchester:

1. Rather than introduce new temporary legislation, the municipality consider revisiting the *Central Colchester Land Use By-law* with an eye to improving the ability of new kennels planning to operate in that jurisdiction to comply.
2. Undertake a comprehensive review of the present land-use By-law so business of all types are not impacted by temporary By-laws preventing growth or resale.
3. Give thorough consideration to by-laws that reflect practical solutions to issues for business development, while addressing unique circumstances in the distinctly different rural and urban environments within the county.
4. To reduce future regulatory burdens on business, consultation with Truro, Stewiacke and Millbrook should be undertaken to develop a fair, streamlined and consistent application process for kennel development, along with other types of regulated business.
5. Clearly outline how proposed new legislation would be enforced and the estimated cost to tax payers.

Colchester has been home to many longstanding businesses that have professionally served pet owners for decades. The urgency and rigidity of the proposed legislation has left business operators anxious and filled with uncertainty.

Council has an opportunity to be a leader in crafting legislation that is encompassing and inclusive by collaborating with the public and industry members on solutions. Rather than attempt to achieve this goal through legislation alone, government should act as a resource and a steward, seeking partnerships with industry leaders. While we have seen progress in recent years growing our local economy, businesses require greater clarity, tools, and guidance to go further.

The Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce is committed to working cooperatively with government to better educate businesses about their legislative obligations and we look forward to engaging with the government on this critical issue in future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joanne McRae". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joanne McRae  
President