



105B Walker St., Truro, NS, B2N 4B1

October 4, 2021

Mayor Christine Blair  
Municipality of the County of Colchester  
1 Church St., Truro, NS  
B2N 3Z5

**Re: Land available for development**

Dear Mayor Christine Blair,

The Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce is actively engaged with its membership on issues that are impacting their ability to grow and thrive in this region. We are writing to you today to share feedback from our members which clearly indicates a desperate lack of housing options in the area is hampering their ability to attract staff from outside the region to fill critical workplace voids.

At the April 15 Council Committee meeting former Colchester County Councillor Tom Taggart addressed Council speaking about the urgent housing crisis facing our region.

Our Chamber fully echoes his assertion that we are in a housing crisis. We frequently receive calls from members looking to fill job vacancies, across many sectors, only to have hiring impacted by a lack of housing options. We can offer example after example of people who have been recruited by local businesses to fill good-paying jobs in our community that could not relocate here due to a lack of housing.

Developers have expressed interest in investing in Truro and Colchester. Truro has recently been flushed with interest, however, competing agendas have stalled some key development projects. Having viewed with interest the barriers that developers are facing in Truro, we believe looking at the development process through a different lens may facilitate the process.

We respectfully ask if the Municipality of the County of Colchester has undertaken a land-use planning review lately to identify core areas in the county that would be suitable for residential or commercial development. For example, areas with infrastructure suited to growth (shovel ready). Identifying and marketing these areas may facilitate rapid development to fill housing needs.

Truro and Colchester County is in an enviable position to attract development interest, which is a prime opportunity to combat the current housing crisis in this region. It will take collaboration from all levels of government, non-profits and private sector to combat the present housing crisis.

This crisis is impacting business, residents, and is further holding the region back from attracting multiple workforce sectors, from physicians, educators and healthcare workers, to professionals, tradespeople and labourers, just to name a few.

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We have a shared responsibility to seek solutions. Developers continue to express and demonstrate interest in investing in the area. How we collectively solve the housing crisis will define how the region looks and feels in the not-too-distant future.

On behalf of our 450 members, we ask that you make every effort to support developments that meet or exceed current policies and guidelines while working with these key community investors to support our economic growth.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Mossman".

Matthew Mossman  
President  
Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce

CC: Rob Simonds, CAO, Municipality of the County of Colchester