

Environment and Climate Change Office of the Minister

PO Box 442, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2P8 • Telephone 902-424-3736 • novascotia.ca

File number: 10700-40-58380

October 24, 2022

Warden Yvon LeBlanc Municipality of Clare district8@munclare.ca

Dear Warden Yvon LeBlanc:

I am responding to your September 28, 2022 letter regarding the aerial herbicide spraying of glyphosate in Concession on property PID 30051759 and specifically the community notification.

Thank you for bringing this issue to our attention. Clare is an important and valued Acadian community and the Province understands our obligations to communicate in French with Acadian and Francophone Nova Scotians.

An approval from Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change is required before conducting aerial herbicide treatments. Operational conditions such as buffer zones and wind speeds are included in these approvals, as well as notification requirements. In addition to the approval holder notifying the Department prior to spraying, they are also required to provide written notice to the owners/occupiers of buildings within 500 metres of the treatment site at least 30 days prior to spraying and publish notice in the newspaper at least 20 days prior to spraying. Language is not currently specified in this notification process. Because of your letter, I have requested my staff to look into the concerns that you have raised.

As you noted in your correspondence this public notification program also involves the posting of signs (at access points) and both the *Pesticide Regulations* and approvals describe the requirements for the signage. Issues of noncompliance may be reported to the Department at: 1-877-9ENVIRO (1-877-936-8476).

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All approvals for aerial pesticide spraying and a spreadsheet with the site details of each approval are available on our website at Pesticide Applications Approvals | Pests and Pesticides | Nova Scotia Environment. We make it a priority to notify municipalities and First Nations when pesticide approvals have been issued for sites in their communities. The Department also issues a media release prior to the spray program starting: 2022 Pesticide Spraying Approvals Issued Government of Nova Scotia, Canada.

Thank you for bringing your concerns around the notification of your community to my attention. We will take your concern regarding the notification of the Francophone/Acadian community under consideration. Should you have any further questions regarding pesticide approvals, please contact Tanya MacKenzie at tanya.mackenzie@novascotia.ca. Questions regarding pesticide management in general can be directed to Dawn MacNeill at dawn.macneill@novascotia.ca.

Sincerely,

Honourable Timothy Halman, MLA

Minister of Environment and Climate Change

c: Tanya MacKenzie, ECC, District Manager Dawn MacNeill, ECC, Pesticides Specialist