

August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Ms. Margaret Miller  
Environment Minister's Office  
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Ms. Miller,

I am very excited that the LaHave River straight pipe program has started. I think I am the only kid who cheers when I see new septic tanks being delivered to people's yards! I am so happy that the program is happening and that three levels of government came together to make such a great thing happen in my community. I have a book coming out in September called 'My River: Cleaning up the LaHave River' and I hope you will buy a copy. It is a celebration story for all of us. The book launch is at the Bridgewater Library at the Lunenburg County Lifestyle Center September 23 at 1pm. I hope you can make it.

Now that the LaHave River has a straight pipe clean up plan, I have turned my attention to other waterways. I am still very bothered that a house can be sold in Nova Scotia with a straight pipe and no one enforces the change to a legal septic at that time. It totally seems like the perfect time to stop many illegal straight pipes from flushing waste into our waterways. I am still not happy that the resolution for this to happen was 'swept under the rug.'

I have read the response you gave me on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 many times, and it is lacking in good reason for NOT enforcing ILLEGAL straight pipes to be fixed at the time of a house sale. Yes, everyone knows that the cost is a factor. Money is always a factor, but every homeowner, whether on water or not, has a responsibility to make sure they have a working septic system. If they don't comply with this responsibility, they should be forced to meet requirements. Human waste in our waterways is disgusting and wrong.

For now, I will continue to train other youth to test their waterways and keep doing presentations to share my passion for cleaner waterways. Thankfully I have received the Government of Canada Rising Youth Grant to help me continue my testing and training program. I think it is kind of funny that the Government of Canada is funding my kits to train kids, so I can draw attention to the government to enforce their own laws?

The NS government has a responsibility to make sure illegal straight pipes are eliminated province wide. Why is there even a law if there is no enforcement? Please reconsider the resolution to enforce the replacement of illegal straight pipes when a house is sold. This would be a very good move in the right direction for our waterways and future generations along our coast.

I would appreciate an opportunity to meet with you in the next few weeks to discuss how we might work together to ensure Nova Scotia's waterways are protected and safe for all Nova Scotians to enjoy. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stella Bowles". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Stella" and the last name "Bowles" clearly visible.

Stella Bowles