

For Immediate Release
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Community liaison committee coming for proposed new asphalt plant

DARTMOUTH – Local community leaders in the St. Margaret’s Area will soon have a new chance to engage with the Nova Scotia company that’s proposing to locate a mobile asphalt plant for the western part of Halifax Regional Municipality.

Scotian Materials is looking for members of a community liaison committee it is convening to provide the company with local guidance.

“Our company recognizes that many people in the community have concerns about our proposal to operate an asphalt plant,” said Robert MacPherson, President of Scotian Materials. “We feel it’s important to have a community liaison committee in place so that we can keep community leaders – as well as the broader community – informed about the work our company is doing and hear from them, first-hand, concerns local residents may have. As someone who has lived in Nova Scotia my entire life, the last thing I would advance is a project that’s harmful.”

To provide neutral, independent facilitation of the Community Liaison Committee, Scotian Materials has hired local resident Ken Donnelly of Beyond Attitude Consulting. Donnelly has extensive experience in Nova Scotia and across Canada on similar community engagement exercises, most recently working with the Otter Lake Community Monitoring Committee.

“Even when people are opposed to a development, it’s still better to have regular dialogue, so that both sides can learn more and appreciate where the other is coming from,” said Donnelly. “I look forward to working with the Community Liaison Committee to allow for transparent dialogue around Scotian Materials operating in the community, especially with this proposed project.”

Since 2013, Scotian Materials has operated a quarry on land north of Highway 103 between Exits 5 and 6. Operating under all Nova Scotia Environment and other regulatory approvals on health, environment and safety, the quarry produces aggregate material used in Nova Scotia highway construction projects. A nearby asphalt plant would help keep costs competitive for the Nova Scotia government as it proceeds with more highway and roadwork. This was the case in 2014 when asphalt was supplied for the paving of Route 3 from Highway 103 (Exit 4) westerly to Route 333. While the asphalt plant has been long approved by the provincial government to operate, it requires a site-specific zoning change by the Halifax Regional Municipality.

A proposed charter for the Community Liaison Committee is available at www.scotianmaterials.ca. Once the committee membership has been finalized, it will be released publicly.