

Deanne Chaulk  
Regional Vice President  
Bank of Montreal

January 21, 2025

**Re: BMO Bank of Montreal – Port Hawkesbury Branch Closure**

Dear Ms. Chaulk,

In response to your letter dated January 13, 2025, regarding the closure of the BMO Bank of Montreal - Port Hawkesbury Branch. At the Special Public Meeting of Council held on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the following motion was passed:

*MOVED by Councillor, P. Hart and SECONDED by Deputy Mayor, I. Langley “that Town of Port Hawkesbury send a letter to Deanne Chaulk, Regional Vice President, to express concerns and ask for reconsideration of the decision to close the BMO Bank of Montreal, Port Hawkesbury Branch.” MOTION CARRIED.*

Residents and businesses of the Town have expressed great concern with respect to closure of your Port Hawkesbury Branch. Over many years your clients have established long term financial commitments which will not be easily transferred to other institutions and certainly use of an alternate branch will not be accessible to many. Visiting your bank location is a necessity for many, especially seniors and small and medium sized businesses. They require the service of banking staff for personal attention for essential services. Many of these residents and businesses choose to live in the Town because of the accessibility of banking, and other professional services. The loss of your bank is a major loss to the offerings the Town provides as a service and logistical center, and there will be significant effects from the loss of your bank as an employer.

Town of Port Hawkesbury Council is very surprised that your decision was made at a time of growth. Unprecedented investments are being made in the Green Energy Sector, specifically around green hydrogen/ammonia, wind, and solar in the region. The availability of green energy in the region has also spurred on major interest from associated industries. The major effects of the sector development will follow in the coming years but growth in support of developments is already occurring. We ask that you reconsider existing and the potential economic growth in the Strait Region.

We thank BMO for a long history of serving the residents and businesses of the Town of Port Hawkesbury and the Strait Region but ask that you reconsider growth potential and

the impact on existing customers in your closure decision. We ask that you visit Port Hawkesbury, tour the Town and the Point Tupper Industrial Park which we support, and hear from Council about development and growth.

Sincerely,

Brenda Chisholm Beaton  
Mayor of the Town of Port Hawkesbury

Cc: Financial Consumer Agency of Canada

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