
Fw: WREN Video Promoting Aquaculture and Deon's Oyster Business

From Nicole Albright <NALbright@munargyle.com>
Date Sun 10/26/2025 2:36 PM
To Chantalle Newell <cnewell@munargyle.com>
Cc Alain Muise <admuisse@munargyle.com>

Hi Chantalle,

Seeing as though we will discuss renewing our intermunicipal agreement with the WREN at our upcoming council meeting, I think it is important to add this piece of correspondence to the agenda item. It comes from a resident, but has several other residents attached so it's important that their voices are shared with the public about this issue.

Thank you,

Nicole

Nicole Albright
Warden
Municipality of Argyle
Councillor District 5



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Tusket, Nova Scotia B0W 3M0

902-307-4474

[mdeon@munargyle.com] nalbright@munargyle.com

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From: Chris Thibedeau [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 11, 2025 7:27 PM
To: Nicole Albright <NALbright@munargyle.com>; Malcolm Madden <mmadden@munargyle.com>; Ted Saulnier <tsaulnier@munargyle.com>; Greg Foster <gfoster@munargyle.com>; Kathy Bourque <kbourque@munargyle.com>; Gordon Boudreau <gboudreau@munargyle.com>; Darryl LeBlanc <dleblanc@munargyle.com>; Glenn Diggdon <gdiggdon@munargyle.com>; Racheal Surette <rsurette@munargyle.com>

Subject: WREN Video Promoting Aquaculture and Deon's Oyster Business

Dear Nicole and council,

Many of your constituents saw this video posted on Thursday: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BaS2sBJIn/?mibextid=WC7FNe>

For the record and for your clarity, we present a new issue to discuss and resolve. Here we have a marketing video promoting aquaculture and Deon's Oysters using our tax money, hosted by a recused CAO promoting aquaculture growth, ADA, and Deon's Oysters. All of this is at the expense of your residents and their tax money, yet MoDA continues to aggressively combat our concerns, refuse to properly perform meaningful and industry standard public consultation, channel funding for Deon's business with our tax dollars, and promote their business from your own personal Facebook pages, -all in full conflict.

There is something very wrong when MoDA staff and some (but not all?) councilors continue to market Deon's in full bias in the midst of 16 Conflicts of Interest under investigation. Councilor Boudreau said, "I don't want another ADA", yet here again is an internal agenda to combat the will of your constituency for the sake of one small business. I think you realize this video simply throws more gasoline on the fire. The ongoing bias for Deon's, prejudice for those cc'd on this string (your constituents and concerned residents), and your overall lack of neutrality at this very moment is most alarming. It's brazen and it looks to be done in bad faith. It's blatantly egregious and it's not becoming of a public servant. It violates ethics. It's also a poke in the eye to your constituents who are likely now more intent on poking back with their votes and your political capital. Council, we have to ask. Who is driving this agenda and how are they incentivized? Is it passion alone, a desire to be right, or other incentives we aren't aware of yet? And why are you going along with it at every turn instead of giving your constituents a fair opportunity to be consulted?

In addition, I'm not sure you have noticed, but the COI mini investigation by Rick Dunlop has started, at the same time the public has 30 days to respond to the nursery application for the province, and 30 days to respond to the first 5 ADA site applications. All at once. It's another advertent tactic to discourage constituents from responding on time and in writing so aquaculture expansion can be expedited with minimal friction. Ask around, our community does not believe this is a coincidence. Nor is it fair. It's another example of bad faith.

We therefore collectively ask that the Council immediately refrain from approving and using municipal taxpayer dollars towards marketing of aquaculture expansion in Argyle and/or for the benefit of Deon's Oysters business until further notice; and send a letter to the Western Regional Enterprise Network (WREN) accordingly. If a discussion and a motion is required, I will ask my councilor, Malcolm Madden to table the motion. If this occurs, the CAO should be recused from this motion and discussion.

The CAO has violated several sections of your Ethics and Code of Conduct in this video. Be advised that constituents will be filing a formal complaint with your appointed investigator, Mr. Charles Thompson, Burchell MacDougall Lawyers LLP. Through much internal and local discussion, I can tell you your constituents strongly feel CAO Muise has contravened the Municipal Ethics and Code of Conduct - Schedule A, Sections 8,12, and 14:

- 8 (1) A council member must not accept a fee, advance, cash, gift, gift certificate or personal benefit that is connected directly or indirectly with the performance of their duties of office.**
- The CAO has been offered a seat on a provincial committee (see emails attached) which will include a stipend and travel as a benefit. The CAO has openly become a champion of Deon's Aquaculture expansion and ADA and has been incentivized with this panel appointment. This indoctrinates him within a pro industry committee that includes their expansion agendas, with no representation from the public. It's a full-on conflict of interest as the CAO is not balancing his responsibilities in the municipality to represent the interests of the constituents who are affected. Instead, he continues to aggressively counter public concerns and minimize or refuse any opportunity for public engagement. The evidence and actions show it's biased and not neutral. See attached emails to support.
 - In addition, we ask that an investigator seek to have any emails between the CAO and Nolan Deon unredacted and reviewed. There are many email discussions of a Return on Investment (ROI) between these individuals, and these emails are publicly available on the municipal website for FOIPOP. They have also been fully redacted. Why is that? There is a perception something is being hidden. We ask that these emails be unredacted and reviewed by an investigator to ensure there is no pecuniary interests or real conflict that exists between Nolan Deon and the CAO or others.
- 12 (3) A council member must not act as an agent of a person or entity before council or a committee of council or any agency, board or committee of the municipality.**
- The CAO in this video is acting as an agent of Aquaculture expansion and of Deon's Oysters who are also in the video. We're concerned because he acted in a similar fashion on the ADA steering committee and will continue to do so on the pro aquaculture regulatory committee with the province.
 - The CAO recused himself from ADA and Aquaculture Expansion discussions and decisions in March 2025. He wrote this in an email responding to many constituents. This video shows he has violated his recusal.
- 14 (1) A council member must not give special consideration, treatment or advantage to any individual or entity beyond that which is given to all.**
- The video demonstrates the special treatment and advantage the CAO is giving to Deon's Oysters who are also in the video. It's overt. It's full bias for Deons and their aquaculture expansion agenda, providing a clear advantage over other farmers and businesses, while maintaining an ongoing prejudice for concerned and affected residents.
- 14 (2) A council member must not give special consideration, treatment or advantage to an organization or group because the council member, or a person closely connected to the member, is involved with the organization or group.**

The CAO is (and has been) promoting ADA and Deons. This video is only the most recent example. He included Deons on the ADA Steering committee, refused anyone from the public to join the steering committee, and now sits indoctrinated on the provincial industry aquaculture regulatory committee. While ADA was initiated clandestinely with the Deons, Charlene Leblanc, and AANS, The CAO is now overtly involved and supports the agenda of pro industry groups at the expense of the residents/constituents he represents and works for in Argyle. The CAO is certainly providing special consideration, treatment and an advantage for Deon's Oysters. Nolan Deon is Ex president of AANS. His son Colton Deon is on the AANS Board of Directors. Both are in the video. It's not a coincidence.

In small communities like Argyle, it can be common for public servants to not realize when they are conflicted. Many of us believe this may indeed be the case with the CAO. He honestly believes he is doing the right thing, but we also think he has an inability to understand how to balance stakeholders fairly or recognize when he has crossed the line, exposing bias or prejudice to one side or the other. Council, it's your job to receive his briefs and guide him (and yourselves) accordingly. He works for you. Not the other way around. If you don't operate as a check and balance, the conflicts will continue to compound as we see here. Council, you need to do better as these outcomes are taking place on your watch. You need to vet the CAO's decisions and intervene, asking him to explain why he is not conflicted across these sections of your code at the moment they occur or when you become aware.

Sincerely,

Chris Et Al.

Association for Responsible Aquaculture

From: Alain Muise
To: Hancock, Bruce H
Subject: Re: Link to TOR
Date: January 2, 2024 10:30:24 AM

I'll prefer face to face for sure!
Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 2, 2024, at 10:21 AM, Hancock, Bruce H <Bruce.Hancock@novascotia.ca> wrote:

They are in the city (mostly) and there is also the option to participate virtually.

From: Alain Muise <admuisse@munargyle.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 10:13 AM
To: Hancock, Bruce H <Bruce.Hancock@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Re: Link to TOR

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****
Exercice caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

I presume these are in the city. I would prefer the 23 but can manage the 17th
Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 2, 2024, at 9:54 AM, Hancock, Bruce H <Bruce.Hancock@novascotia.ca> wrote:

Hi Alain and Happy New Year!

I hope you had a good Christmas break.

That's great news that you are accepting the position on the Aquaculture Regulatory Advisory Committee. I will let the Minister know that you will accept and a formal letter will be sent to you acknowledging your participation.

recommendations from the regulatory review please visit [regulatory-review-final-report.pdf \(novascotia.ca\)](#).

We are proposing the following two options for meeting dates and we will select the one that works best for most committee members:

- 1. Option 1: January 17th 1:00 to 2:30
- 2. Option 2: January 23rd 1:00 to 2:30

Please let me know which of these date options works best for you and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Bruce

From: Alain Muise <admuisse@munargyle.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 30, 2023 4:58 PM
To: Hancock, Bruce H <Bruce.Hancock@novascotia.ca>
Subject: RE: Link to TOR

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Exercice caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

I will be accepting this request from the Minister, with great thanks!

Alain

From: Hancock, Bruce H <Bruce.Hancock@novascotia.ca>
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2023 11:18 AM
To: Alain Muise <admuisse@munargyle.com>
Subject: Link to TOR

Hello Alain,

As requested, here is the link to the Term of Reference for the Nova Scotia Aquaculture Regulatory Advisory Committee: [Regulatory_Advisory_Comm_TOR_Aug13-15_.pdf \(novascotia.ca\)](#)

From: Alain Muise
To: Chantale LeBlanc
Subject: FW: Return on Investment
Date: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 2:00:00 PM
Attachments: ROI Calculation.xls
ROI Calculation -2018rev sent 11.xls

Attachments were requested but not provided.



From: Nolan <nolandeor...>
Sent: Friday, 14 October 2016 3:50 PM
To: Alain Muise <admuisse@munargyle.com>
Subject: Return on Investment

Attached is the ROI from [redacted]

Have a great day!

EEL LAKE OYSTER FARM LTD.

[Large redacted area]

On Fri, Dec 23, 2022 at 10:13 AM Alain Muise <admuisse@munargyle.com> wrote:

Hi Nolan!

First, I hope you and your family have a Merry Christmas!!

In the new year, I have been asked to connect both you and [redacted] here about potential investment possibilities. I am happy to accommodate a meeting here for you both, and willing to provide any sort of support you may desire in the convo.

I am connecting you both to arrange such a meeting at a day and time that works for you. I hope that the meeting is a positive one that supports your future business plans.

Once you have identified the day and time, please let me know and I will accommodate!

Sincerely,
Alain

[Large redacted area]

Re: Alain Muise offered a

Lorelei Murphy <lorelei...>
To: Chris Thibedeau
Cc: a.lorde@juno.com; Chef@argyle.com

You replied to this message on 2025-0

Start your reply all with: [Thank you!](#)

Aquaculture Advisory Committee

- Jeff Bishop, Aquaculture
- Paul Budreski, Aqua Del
- Orlando Fraser, Depart
- Jeff Nickerson, Cooke A
- Alain Muise, Municipality
- Hana Nelson, ShanDapt
- Carl Purcell, Nova Scoti
- Lloyd Robicheau, Lobste
- Stewart Lamont, Tangier
- Shannon Arnold, Ecolog
- Councillor Caron Ann Po