



Waste Check

P.O. Box 577
Yarmouth, Nova Scotia
B5A 4B6

Telephone: (902) 742-1312
Toll Free: 1-800-569-0039
Fax: (902) 742-4147

June 11, 2024

Honourable Kim Masland
Minister
Nova Scotia Department of Public Works
P.O. Box 186
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2N2

RE: Brush Cutting on Secondary Roads

At the May 14, 2024, meeting of Waste Check (the Western Region Solid Waste Resource Management Authority) the topic of brush cutting on secondary roads was discussed. It was noted that, while your department always chips the brush and leaves the roadside tidy on the 100 series highways, this is not always the case for other roads. On secondary roads branches, limbs and tree trunks are being left in the roadside ditches. We believe that this creates an unsightly and dangerous condition. Additionally, our residents are complaining that it makes it nearly impossible to pick up litter from the roadside. A unanimous motion was passed to express our concern over this practice in a letter to your department.

Chapter 2-Roadside Maintenance of Nova Scotia Highway Maintenance Standards states that the purpose of brush cutting is "To remove undesirable roadside vegetation in order to maintain sight distances, control roadside growth, ensure proper drainage, and to provide a reasonably neat appearance to the highway right-of-way." The practice of leaving material in the ditch impedes draining and does not achieve a "reasonably neat appearance". The standard also states that the material will be removed, mulched or chipped and clearly that is not being done.

It is our hope that you can end the practice of leaving brush cuttings, limbs and tree trunks in our ditches, so they are aesthetically pleasing and safe to pick up litter. Thank you for your consideration on this matter and we look forward to your response.

Kind Regards,

Linda Gregory, Warden, Municipality of Digby - Chair
Waste Check

- cc. Municipality of Argyle
Municipality of Clare
Municipality of Digby
Municipality of Yarmouth
Town of Digby
Town of Yarmouth