

October 15, 2017

To The Mayor and Council of the Town of Sackville,

Re. The Future of the Pickard Quarry Site

I wish to acknowledge the recent discussions and proposal for the Pickard Quarry site with members of the Department of Geography and Environment here at Mount Allison University, as well as the UNESCO/United Nations University Regional Centre of Expertise for Education for Sustainable Development (RCE-Tantramar). We have since been copied on the proposal from Mr. Peter Manchester and Mr. Sandy Burnett. I write to support this proposal, as I believe it has a number of significant benefits for this community and its people.

The Department of Geography and Environment and the RCE-Tantramar have a well-established role in promoting education for sustainable community development, with the early development of the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, known as *Sustainable Sackville*, as well as a longer-term regional sustainability plan, known as *Tantramar 2040*. Through various hands-on approaches to education for sustainable community development, our environmental science, environmental studies and geography students have been able to engage in community-based development, sustainability, climate change awareness, and other related projects, with the wide-based support of community partners such as EOS Eco-Energy, the Town of Sackville, the New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government, Ducks Unlimited, and the New Brunswick Environmental Network.

Mount Allison students have been able to be part of the development of public policy, as well as action-oriented project-based learning across the community, including student-led efforts to encourage the conservation of nature and the interpretation and preservation of our local history and historical sites, as well as community-based experiential learning activities. Over the past five years, we have been awarded close to \$500,000 for community-based sustainability projects in the Sackville and Tantramar region, with effective outcomes and educational opportunities at every step in the process. I believe that education is a critical part of this current proposal and I would be highly supportive of the transition of this property from the University to the Town.

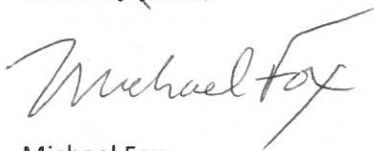
If this proposal were to be approved, we would be delighted to work in partnership with the Town, the University and other partners in developing a specific educational profile and student learning program, from the early days of the project until its full implementation and on-going role in the overall sustainable community program we could offer in this space. Having the ability to have a project like this integrated into our community would provide a wholesale change in our ability to teach and learn in collaboration with a real-world, small-scale water catchment and retention research and instruction, as well as a readily accessible natural area for experiential learning. The educational value of having an integrated community learning and outdoor education project like this would be unique in Canada, to be sure. The ability to demonstrate theory and practice in developing a sustainable community through and with the municipality, the university and the schools within Sackville would be truly phenomenal, as well as truly sustainable.

The Department of Geography and Environment, as well as other academic departments and programs, are currently offering a number of community-based courses that would fit well with this proposed project, particularly our focus on community-based experiential learning in environmental science and environmental economics, education and policy development. Here are just some of the courses that would have direct connections to this hands-on project:

- Natural Resource Management
- Sustainable Communities
- Community Planning and Development
- Canadian Environmental Policy
- Contemporary Environmental Issues
- Environmental Planning and Management
- Local Adaptations to Climate Change
- Geographic Information Systems
- Energy Policy and Planning
- Education for Sustainable Development
- Freshwater Ecosystems
- Environmental Economics
- Natural Resource Economics
- Energy Production and Transfer
- Place Matters: Interpretation of Local History

It was noted in our meetings that our students and faculty researchers might be included in the development of this project, with the ability to engage in the entire transition and development process, with opportunities for applied research and experiential learning opportunities, including internships and course-based field experiences in this new space. I see this as a major opportunity for education for sustainable development and a true commitment to local, small town, sustainable community development and the reality that these approaches could come together in Sackville. This proposal offers enormous educational, environmental and cultural/historical benefits to our students, our community and the province of New Brunswick. Please accept my support and full commitment to the Pickard Quarry transition proposal.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Fox". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Michael Fox,
Professor of Geography and Environment
Coordinator, RCE Tantrammar
Sackville, New Brunswick