



**Transportation and Public Works
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 186, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2N2

July 9, 2007

Mr. Graham Steele, MLA
Halifax Fairview
7071 Bayers Road, Suite 319A
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3L 2C2

Dear Mr. Steele:

Thank you for your July 3, 2007, letter concerning CN's Notice of Discontinuance of the Chester Subdivision and the Lakeside Spur rail lines located in Halifax Regional Municipality.

On June 1, CN gave notice of their plan to discontinue these lines. Pursuant to the *Canadian Transportation Act*, CN is requesting parties interested in purchasing the lines as an operating railway line to respond by July 31, 2007. The Province does not have any plans for these lines and therefore will not be expressing an interest in acquiring them.

The primary customers on these lines are located in the Bayers Lake and Lakeside Industrial Parks. These parks, as you know, are owned and operated by the Halifax Regional Municipality. I understand the Municipality may be exploring options regarding the future use of these properties.

We would be pleased to share any additional information we obtain as the divestiture process proceeds. In this regard, I would encourage you to contact Mr. Steve Newson, Policy Advisor (424-6728), at your pleasure.

Sincerely,

Ronald Chisholm
Acting Minister

/mam

cc: Steve Newson