



Mayor Peter Kelly
1841 Argyle Street, PO Box 1749
Halifax NS B3J 3A5

January 24, 2011

Dear Mayor Kelly,

As you may know, the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) is a non-profit organization made up primarily of volunteers working toward equity and social justice with specific regard to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) issues. We are writing with respect to Halifax Regional Council's treatment of the former St. Patrick's Alexandria school site.

NSRAP was disappointed to learn that Council had acted in violation of its own policies by failing to show proper respect for the role of community groups in determining the future of the site. Moreover, it was quite distressing to learn that this has also been the case with respect to previous school site decisions.

As a community group itself, NSRAP firmly believes that community groups like the North End Health Centre, the Mi'kmaq Friendship Centre, and the Richard Preston Centre for Excellence play a vital role in shaping the future of Halifax. By ensuring that community groups are fully recognized and respected, Council guarantees that it hears the voices of the whole community, including minorities and those who otherwise have difficulty influencing political decisions. HRM has clearly recognized the importance of this in its policies, and when those policies are not followed, the whole community suffers.

We are hopeful that, in making decisions on this matter (and similar) in the future, Council will ensure that community groups are given the full respect they deserve.

Sincerely,

Matt Numer
Chair, Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project

Equality for All