

The Holloway Report

made under the
House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act



May 30, 2017

Bruce Chaulk
Commissioner for Legislative Standards

INTRODUCTION

On January 12, 2017, Paul Davis, Opposition House Leader (MHA, Topsail - Paradise), by way of letter to the Commissioner's Office, requested the Commissioner review the matter of the alleged breach of the Code of Conduct by the member of the House of Assembly representing Terra Nova (hereinafter referred to as MHA Holloway).

MHA Holloway was elected as a member of the House of Assembly for the electoral district of Terra Nova in the November 30, 2015 General Election. In a closely contested election MHA Holloway won by a margin of 44 votes.

In his January 12, 2017 letter, MHA Davis requested a review and identified Principles 2, 3, 4 and 11 of the Code of Conduct. In support of the request, MHA Davis enclosed a copy of a letter received by his office from Ms. Veronica Broomfield, the current Mayor of the Community of St. Brendan's. Mayor Broomfield's letter, dated January 2, 2017, had also been sent to Premier Dwight Ball, and Mr. Earl McCurdy (Leader of the New Democratic Party of Newfoundland and Labrador).

In her letter, Mayor Broomfield alleges that she had been mistreated by MHA Holloway. Specifically, she stated "I can say with all confidence that I have never been treated with such disregard and partisan intimidation". Mayor Broomfield also indicated that during a text message exchange MHA Holloway indicated to her "Remember, you didn't vote for me".

This report and resulting opinion will address only the question of whether or not MHA Holloway has violated the Code of Conduct with respect to his interactions with Mayor Broomfield and the subsequent events arising from these interactions. As the jurisdiction of the Commissioner for Legislative Standards is limited to reviewing the conduct of members of the House of Assembly, the conduct of Mayor Broomfield is not under review.

There are two provincial statutes which establish the authority of the Commissioner for Legislative Standards to examine and comment on the actions of elected members of the House of Assembly. The House of Assembly Act R.S.N.L. 1990 c. H-10 [hereinafter referred to as the House of Assembly Act] and the House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act S.N.L. 2007 c. H-10.1 [hereinafter referred to as the House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act].

Section 36(1) of the House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act reads as follows:

36. (1) A member who has reasonable grounds to believe that another member is in contravention of the code of conduct adopted under subsection 35 (1) may, by application in writing setting out the grounds for the belief and the nature of the alleged contravention, request

that the commissioner give an opinion respecting the compliance of the other member with the provisions of the code of conduct.

As noted by former Commissioner for Legislative Standards, Victor Powers, in a report dated August 9, 2013, with respect to the conduct of David Brazil, MHA (Conception Bay East – Bell Island), on receipt of a request for an opinion it is incumbent upon the Commissioner to conduct an initial review of the matter to determine whether or not there is any substance to the allegations and whether or not it may be necessary to engage in a formal inquiry of the matter. A formal inquiry is generally a slow procedure that involves the expenditure of substantial public funds. Therefore, where possible the Commissioner will endeavor to investigate and review the matter in detail with a view to providing an opinion with respect to the member's compliance with the Code of Conduct and will only embark upon a formal inquiry when considered necessary by the Commissioner.

In the present case, upon receipt of the request for a review of MHA Holloway by MHA Paul Davis with respect to the alleged breach of the Code of Conduct, it was determined that a formal inquiry was not necessary and I exercised my powers pursuant to s. 36 of the House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act, to review the matter and provide an opinion as to whether or not MHA Holloway had contravened the Code of Conduct.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

On January 16, 2017 the Office of the Commissioner for Legislative Standards received a request to review the conduct of MHA Holloway.

The request for review involved a text message exchange which occurred between MHA Holloway and Mayor Broomfield on October 18, 2016.

On December 13, 2016, Mayor Broomfield participated in a radio interview on VOCM with Pete Soucy. (<https://soundcloud.com/vocm/tuesday?in=vocm/sets/vocm-backtalk>). During the interview with Pete Soucy, she indicated that MHA Holloway had indicated in a text message "Remember you didn't vote for me". (Appendix 2). Subsequent to that interview, Pete Soucy spoke with MHA Holloway. In that interview Pete Soucy canvassed the issue of whether or not he reminded Mayor Broomfield that she had not voted for him. (Appendix 3)

On December 14, 2016, Steve Kent (MHA Mount Pearl North), posted a copy of the text message exchange between MHA Holloway and Mayor Broomfield on Twitter.

On December 17, 2016 MHA Holloway posted a letter on Facebook confirming that he is committed to treating all residents of the Terra Nova District with fairness and openness. (Appendix 4)

On January 4, 2017, MHA Holloway posted an apology on Facebook (Appendix 5).

INVESTIGATION

Upon receiving the request for review from MHA Davis I wrote him on January 16, 2017 requesting clarification about contact his office was alleged to have had with other individuals and groups citing similar experiences with MHA Holloway. On January 26, 2017, MHA Davis responded that no other individuals or groups would come forward.

On January 27, 2017, I wrote to MHA Holloway providing a copy of the complaint and all documentation that had been provided to the Commissioner. The letter indicated that I was going to conduct a review of the matter and that MHA Holloway or his legal counsel may provide a written response to the allegations identified in MHA Davis’ letter by February 17, 2017.

MHA Holloway provided two submissions dated February 14, 2017 and February 17, 2017. In his responses he indicated that Mayor Broomfield was less than friendly towards him and that this issue was politically motivated as Mayor Broomfield was a known supporter of the Progressive Conservative Party.

Subsequent to the response from MHA Holloway I wrote MHA Holloway on March 13, 2017 asking a number of follow-up questions regarding the matter with a deadline of March 27, 2017.

MHA Holloway responded on March 17, 2017.

On April 4, 2017, MHA Holloway met with me on another unrelated matter and was provided with a transcript of the radio interviews from December 13, 2016.

It should be noted that MHA Holloway was cooperative throughout this entire process.

MHA HOLLOWAY’S RESPONSES TO THE ALLEGATIONS

As noted above, MHA Holloway provided three responses to me regarding this issue. These responses were dated February 14, 2017, February 17, 2017, and March 17, 2017.

In an effort to provide a complete record, MHA Holloway provided a transcribed copy of the text message exchange to me for review with his February 14, 2017 submission. This exchange took place on October 18, 2016. It is recognized that by the very nature of electronic media the timing of some of the answers to texts may not necessarily be in synch with the previous text message. However, we have transcribed the complete text exchange which was provided by MHA Holloway below:

| | | |
|--------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MHA Holloway | 07:34 | Good Morning. Since neither October 24-26 will work for our schedules, we will need to find a new date for the |
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| | | meeting. Could Oct.31 or Nov.1 be possible dates to consider? |
| MHA Holloway | 07:34 | I think I can get Shawn Marshall to come along with me. |
| Mayor Broomfield | 07:35 | Why can't the minister come |
| MHA Holloway | 07:35 | If you can get back to me on a preferred date, I will check with Shawn Marshall to see if he can attend. |
| MHA Holloway | 07:35 | Minister Hawkins is not available |
| Mayor Broomfield | 07:35 | Oh |
| Mayor Broomfield | 07:36 | Shawn marshal has already been here |
| MHA Holloway | 07:36 | But you asked for him to come to the meeting. Do you not want him to come out? |
| Mayor Broomfield | 07:37 | Of course but you know as well as I do the minister and max call the shots |
| MHA Holloway | 07:38 | Once I get confirmation of a meeting date from you, I will contact Mr. Marshall |
| Mayor Broomfield | 07:38 | I will give you a date when I find out but I asked for the minister as well |
| Mayor Broomfield | 07:40 | Taking our summer schedule is going back in time we always had a summer schedule and when you knew this you should had come to me |
| Mayor Broomfield | 07:40 | I will let you know what people want |
| MHA Holloway | 07:44 | You should have invited me to the meeting with the Ferry Committee. I saw your submission to the Dept of Transportation and Works. Scribbles on paper – I would have thought you would have taken this issue seriously. The fuel budget for all ferries has been cut by \$1 Million. Savings have to be found everywhere. |
| Mayor Broomfield | 07:47 | What do you mean scribbles on paper, we never got a word until that evening but you knew it all summer, and where did you see my paper at I did invite you you said it was to late but if you had told me when you know I expulsion had more time to call my meeting |
| Mayor Broomfield | 07:51 | I always take my job seriously and I always keep my people at heart, |
| MHA Holloway | 07:52 | I'm talking about the meeting you had with the Minister's Executive Assistant – Jody Fancy. You didn't invite me to attend that meeting. |
| Mayor Broomfield | 07:53 | We. Didn't call that meeting they did and you know that before I did so we invited no one you should had been with them |
| MHA Holloway | 07:54 | The ferry is costing the people of this Province \$2.5M to operate each year. It is 99 per cent subsidized. |
| Mayor Broomfield | 07:54 | They called and said they were comming we never invited them |
| Mayor Broomfield | 07:54 | So isn't this not our highway |
| MHA Holloway | 07:54 | I didn't know about the meeting until it was too late. |

| | | |
|------------------|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mayor Broomfield | 07:55 | Is that what you got elected for to cut our trips |
| Mayor Broomfield | 07:55 | You told someone this summer we were losing a trip |
| MHA Holloway | 07:55 | Remember, you didn't vote for me |
| Mayor Broomfield | 07:55 | It's me you should has told |
| MHA Holloway | 07:56 | I told everyone at the meeting in the spring you were losing a trip. |
| Mayor Broomfield | 07:56 | That got nothing to do with who you were for you are here to work for us all |
| Mayor Broomfield | 07:57 | At what meeting |
| Mayor Broomfield | 07:57 | You said no such thing |
| Mayor Broomfield | 07:57 | People are not very happy here over this |
| MHA Holloway | 07:57 | I am working for what is best for the District of Terra Nova and the Province of NL. |
| MHA Holloway | 07:58 | I did tell people at the Town Hall meeting I hosting there this spring. |
| Mayor Broomfield | 07:58 | So cutting us out is best |
| MHA Holloway | 07:58 | No, but we have to find efficiencies. The public demands it. |
| Mayor Broomfield | 07:59 | You you never and o will ask everyone when you gets here how many heard you and I am sure no did you told it to a person on the wharf |
| Mayor Broomfield | 07:59 | What public |
| Mayor Broomfield | 08:00 | We are public and we won't sit and takes this as easy as everyone thinks |
| Mayor Broomfield | 08:01 | So I didn't vote for you and you cut my service how do that sound and I wonder how it will sound for the public eye |
| Mayor Broomfield | 08:03 | Have a great day cause and when I am free to have a meeting I will be I in contact with you and like I said the public wants the minister |
| Mayor Broomfield | 08:14 | If the minister don't come we will go to him and when I gets a date the meeting will be 10:30 not 11:15 |
| Mayor Broomfield | 08:14 | But I will let everyone know what you had said |
| MHA Holloway | 08:15 | I didn't say the run was cut because you didn't vote for me. You always twist things around for your benefit. Be honest for once. The run was cut because the money wasn't in the Provincial Budget |
| Mayor Broomfield | 08:16 | I don't twist things that one thing I am is honest |
| Mayor Broomfield | 08:17 | I know what I said I have it on my phone good day and I am a honest person I can tell you that much I don't lie |
| Mayor Broomfield | 08:17 | Good day |

MHA Holloway's February 14, 2017 correspondence to me, reads, in part, as follows:

I have reviewed your letter of correspondence including the attached letters from Opposition Leader Paul Davis and

Mayor Veronica Broomfield. These letters reference a 37 minute text messaging exchange between me and Mayor Broomfield which took place during the early morning hours on October 18, 2016.

The basis of the exchange between Mayor Broomfield and me surrounded a request for a meeting between the Town Council and Mr. Allan Hawkins, Minister of the Department of Transportation and Works. The request is a result of a meeting in September 2016 between the Department and Mayor Broomfield whereby she was advised there would be a reduction in the number of ferry runs to St. Brendan's Island. This reduction was highlighted in the 2016 Provincial Budget and detailed in Section 4.02.06 of the 2016 Estimates Report (<http://www.budget.gov.nl.ca/budget2016/estimates/estimates.pdf>).

By way of background, during the more than 10 encounters with Mayor Broomfield, when she has been less than friendly towards me about a Provincial Government decision, the Mayor would often say, "We elected you...(to do something)." This phrase would be used whether or not it was an in-person discussion, a telephone call or an exchange on social media. Whenever, Mayor Broomfield, would say, "We elected you....", I would simply say, "you can't say We." In my mind, the only people who can say "We" are those who cast an "X" by my name in the 2015 Provincial Election. This does not mean I won't help you or anyone else living in the Terra Nova District, Frankly, I don't care how people voted in the last Provincial Election. I ran for public office so I could continue to help people, regardless of political persuasion. It is a challenging job, but a job that I am focused on doing each and every day.

During the October 18th, 2016 text messaging exchange, @8:15 a.m., I clarified for Mayor Broomfield that "the loss of a ferry run has nothing to do with whether or[sic.] she voted for me, it was a budget reduction decision. Unfortunately, Mayor Broomfield has not shared the full exchange, leaving others to believe that I am an uncaring and possibly bad person.

The truth of this matter is that my comment in the text messaging exchange was taken completely out of context. Social media platforms are dangerous places to try and

communicate sensitive issues. There is a high risk that statements can and often will be taken out of context. I have definitely learned this lesson.

To clarify the misunderstanding, on December 17, 2016, using my personal Face Book Page, I posted a public message to the residents of St. Brendan's Island (see Appendix A.). A copy of this message is contained in Mayor Broomfield's January 2, 2017 letter to Premier Ball. Immediately, individuals like Mr. Sandy Collins and Paul Oram called for immediate dismissal. The story was picked up by VOXM and CBC Radio and Television.

On January 4, 2017, seeing that this issue had resurfaced on VOXM Open Line and Back Talk Shows, I issued an apology to the residents of St. Brendan's Island and anyone else who felt my comments of October 18, 2015 were taken out of context (See Appendix B).

MHA Holloway provided a further response to the allegations dated February 17, 2017. In this response MHA Holloway highlighted the four sections of the Code of Conduct that MHA Davis identified and addressed the issue of the burden of proof.

As noted above, I contacted MHA Holloway on March 13, 2017 seeking clarification with respect to a couple of items relevant to the request for a review. In his March 17, 2017 response MHA Holloway stated the following with respect to the text message conversation:

Specifically, you have asked me to confirm that the text message exchange provided by Mayor Broomfield was a conversation between the Mayor and me. I am able to confirm that the copy of the text message exchange as attached to your letter of correspondence is a portion of the full message exchange between Mayor Broomfield and me. The full exchange was provided to you as an attachment to my letter of correspondence dated February 14, 2017.

The other issue that MHA Holloway sought to clarify in his March 17, 2017 response concerned MHA Holloway's interview with Pete Soucy on VOXM Backtalk on December 13, 2016. MHA Holloway was provided with a copy of the transcript (Appendix 3) of the program and asked to comment upon its contents. In order to put MHA Holloway's response into perspective it is necessary to repeat the relevant sections of the radio conversation below:

- Pete Soucy: Did you ever remind the Mayor of St. Brendan's, Veronica Broomfield that she didn't vote for you?*
- Colin Holloway: No. I mean the Mayor and I have had constant communication even when I was seeking election.*
- Pete Soucy: She said point blank that she asked you something and you reminder her that she did not vote for you.*
- Colin Holloway: No, I can tell you that we've had a tenuous relationship right from day one you know I've been in office a year...*
- Pete Soucy: Um-hum.*
- Colin Holloway: Unfortunately, I don't think that the Mayor has gotten pass the fact that you know I am the new MHA and the previous guy is not and unfortunately that is coming to the relationship that we have not on my part, I have thirty-eight communities and I work with them all quite well. I work with the residents of St. Brendan's on many issues. Even the Mayor knows I mean we've dealt with issues regarding Hurricane Igor in 2010.*
- Pete Soucy: Yes.*
- Colin Holloway: Anything that they have come to me and asked me for help with I have gone as their MHA, their advocate and represented them well and found a solution. And I will continue to do that.*
- Pete Soucy: Yeah and that's good to know.*
- Colin Holloway: I like to collaborate, I like to partner, I like to solve problems.*
- Pete Soucy: But I wanted to know and you're saying it never happened. She said that you know she was told or reminded that she hadn't voted for in the last election whatever that would imply but..*
- Colin Holloway: Yeah.*
- Pete Soucy: You are saying that was not something that you have ever done is remind her which way she voted last time.*
- Colin Holloway: I reminded her of when I knocked on her door and she slammed the door in my face. Like I said we've had a tenuous relationship, I've been over there for town hall meetings despite the fact the Mayor is saying that I haven't been and I've reached out and supported every issue that has been brought to my attention*

whether it's from the ferry to getting the roads graded to replacing the culverts from damage of Hurricane Igor to individual issues and I will continue to do so. I want to well with the Mayor and town council just like I do with all thirty-eight communities in my district.

Pete Soucy: Okay Mr. Holloway. I appreciate your time Sir. Thanks very much.

MHA Holloway addressed the VOCM interview in his March 17, 2017 letter to me. In his response he stated, in part, as follows:

Further, you have asked me to clarify my position as it related to the radio interview between Pete Soucy and me on December 13, 2016. I have reviewed the audio tape recording in detail. The reference highlighted in your letter of correspondence starts at 1:16:00 into the radio show
[\(<https://soundcloud.com/vocm/tuesday?in=vocm/sets/vocm-backtalk>\).](https://soundcloud.com/vocm/tuesday?in=vocm/sets/vocm-backtalk)

The interview between Pete Soucy and me covered two main topics: (1) the issue of snow clearing equipment for St. Brendan's Island and (2) the issue of how Mayor Broomfield voted in the 2015 Provincial Election. As I was not anticipating the question leading into the second issue, the first reference of the use of the word "No" is merely a transitional comment rather than an equivocal denial that the text message exchange took place. Pete and I had shifted our conversation from discussing the snow clearing issue into the second issue about the 2015 Provincial Election. My response was intended to make clear there was no connection between the snow clearing issue and the other matter respecting text messages pertaining to the 2015 Provincial Election.

My comments on Backtalk collectively were not intended to be a denial that the text exchange had occurred nor the contents therein. Instead, I believe I confirmed the comments when I explicitly mentioned, near the end of the call, that she closed a door in my face during the campaign. This comment was intended to acknowledge that the relationship with Mayor Broomfield was unfortunately acrimonious and that I communicated to her the fact that she did not support me. At the time, I thought

this was an adequate response to Pete's question. In hindsight, I wish I could have been clearer on the contents of the message exchange; however, I maintain that there was absolutely no intention to mislead.

As well, the second reference to the use of the word "No" is written incorrectly in the letter of correspondence. I ask that you listen to the tape recording carefully, specifically at point 1:16:30 in the tape recording. The word is not "No", but rather "Now".

MHA Holloway also provided a copy of a Facebook posting dated December 17, 2016 (Appendix 4). This message reads, in part, as follows:

It is not doubt you have heard about the differences between myself and your Mayor and the perception that I do not care about you, your future or your community.

I wish to assure you that this is not true. I care about the people living on St. Brendan's Island and I have worked very hard on your behalf since being elected as the MHA for the District of Terra Nova on November 30th, 2015.

Our differences has nothing to do with how people voted in the last election. I am committed to treating all residents of the Terra Nova District with fairness and openness.

.....

While I can appreciate that people do not always get along and sometimes things are said or taken out of context, I want to assure you that I have and will continue to work on behalf of all the residents of St. Brendan's Island.

In his February 14, 2017 response MHA Holloway also provided a copy of a Facebook posting dated January 4, 2017 (Appendix 5) which reads, in part, as follows:

By now many of you have heard about the exchange between myself and the Mayor of St. Brendan's Island, Ms. Veronica Broomfield.

I regret that a conversation which took place over text messaging has led to the perception that I do not care about certain communities.

In view of this, I wish to apologize for the poor choice of words I used in my message. I am the MHA for every

community in the District of Terra Nova, and I take this role very seriously.

As MHA I will continue to ensure that the residents of St. Brendan's get the representation they require and deserve, and I firmly believe that this is something both Mayor Broomfield and I are working towards.

COMMISSIONER'S OPINION

The Code of Conduct that is referred to in the Act is attached hereto as Appendix 1. Pursuant to section 35 of the House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act the Code of Conduct shall be treated as a standard against which the actions of a member may be judged for the purpose of censure by the House of Assembly. The issues raised by MHA Davis allege that MHA Holloway breached Principles 2, 3, 4 & 11 of the Code of Conduct. These sections are as follows:

2. It is a fundamental objective of their holding public office that Members serve their fellow citizens with integrity in order to improve the economic and social conditions of the people of the province.
3. Members reject political corruption and refuse to participate in unethical political practices which tend to undermine the democratic traditions of our province and its institutions.
4. Members will act lawfully and in a manner that will withstand the closest public scrutiny. Neither the law nor this code is designed to be exhaustive and there will be occasions on which Members will find it necessary to adopt more stringent norms of conduct in order to protect the public interest and to enhance public confidence and trust.
11. Members should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

As stated earlier in this report, the Commissioner's authority to investigate and comment on the matter under consideration extends only to the question of whether or not MHA Holloway violated the Code of Conduct with respect to his interactions with Mayor Broomfield. MHA Holloway's interaction with Mayor Broomfield prior to his election to the House of Assembly are not at issue nor is the conduct of Mayor Broomfield.

In reviewing this matter it is clear that the context of the text message exchange and the events arising there from must be examined in their entirety. While it is clear that MHA Holloway texted "Remember, you didn't vote for me", it would be inappropriate to

simply focus solely on this comment without placing it in context. A finding of a violation of the Code of Conduct is a serious matter and all of the surrounding circumstances must be taken into consideration.

The evidence establishes that MHA Holloway did text “Remember, you didn’t vote for me”. Examined in isolation it is easy for one to get the impression, especially via text message, that the manner in which an individual voted is directly related to the effectiveness of the representation he or she will receive from an MHA. However, when the entire text message conversation is examined it does appear that this was not the message or inference MHA Holloway wanted to communicate. MHA Holloway stated near the end of the text conversation that “I didn’t say the run was cut because you didn’t vote for me. You always twist things around for your benefit. Be honest for once. The run was cut because the money wasn’t in the Provincial Budget.”

When the evidence is viewed in its entirety it does appear that MHA Holloway and Mayor Broomfield have had a sometimes difficult relationship. MHA Holloway is adamant that Mayor Broomfield was not one of his supporters and it would appear that this fact is what he was attempting to communicate to her during the text message exchange. With respect, it is irrelevant how someone voted in a prior election and by making this statement MHA Holloway created an opportunity to be misunderstood. In his December 17, 2016 Facebook posting MHA Holloway stated that “I am committed to treating all residents of the Terra Nova district with fairness and openness”. This is the duty of all members of the House of Assembly and but for the text message conversation MHA Holloway would not have had to clarify his duty in the subsequent Facebook posting. As all members are elected to represent all individuals in their district, even those individuals who did not vote, the comment of MHA Holloway was inappropriate and should be discouraged.

All Members of the House of Assembly can learn from this case. The following submission of MHA Holloway is instructive:

The truth of this matter is that my comment in the text messaging exchange was taken completely out of context. Social media platforms are dangerous places to try and communicate sensitive issues. There is a high risk that statements can and often will be taken out of context. I have definitely learned this lesson.

By communicating via text message all members run the risk of being misunderstood or taken out of context. While it is recognized that in many ways we live in an instantaneous society, time should be taken by members who are addressing sensitive issues to ensure what they are communicating is clearly understood and that they are using the proper communication channel. Comments are often made in haste while sending emails, text messages or tweets and taking the time to reflect on what you are saying rather than feeling the need to respond immediately is a necessity. By proceeding in this fashion events similar to this incident can be avoided by all members in the future.

VOCM Radio Interview:

The subject of the text message exchange between MHA Holloway and Mayor Broomfield became an issue of the news show VOCM Backtalk hosted by Pete Soucy on December 13, 2016. The relevant excerpts of the transcript read as follows:

Pete Soucy: ***Did you ever remind the Mayor of St. Brendan’s, Veronica Broomfield that she didn’t vote for you?***

Colin Holloway: ***No. I mean the Mayor and I have had constant communication even when I was seeking election.***

Pete Soucy: ***She said point blank that she asked you something and you remind her that she did not vote for you.***

Colin Holloway: ***No, I can tell you that we’ve had a tenuous relationship right from day one you know I’ve been in office a year...***

With respect to the first “No” referenced above MHA Holloway indicated in his March 17, 2017 submission that this “No” “is merely a transitional comment rather than an equivocal denial that the text message exchange took place.” With respect to the second “No” MHA Holloway indicates that when you listen to the audio recording he said “Now” and not “No”.

The transcript of the radio program was reviewed and the audio recording was listened to on numerous occasions. Upon listening to the audio recording it does appear that the member may have said “Now” and not “No” in reference to the second time that the interviewer posed the question during the interview.

With respect to the initial response to the interviewer’s question, the answer provided by the member was clearly “No”. The member states that this “is merely a transitional comment” however the answer provided by the member was in response to a direct question regarding the text message exchange.

When the issue was canvassed again by the interviewer during the end of the interview the following exchange appears:

Pete Soucy: ***You are saying that was not something that you have ever done is remind her which way she voted last time.***

Colin Holloway: *I reminded her of when I knocked on her door and she slammed the door in my face. Like I said we've had a tenuous relationship, I've been over there for town hall meetings despite the fact the Mayor is saying that I haven't been and I've reached out and supported every issue that has been brought to my attention whether it's from the ferry to getting the roads graded to replacing culverts from damage of Hurricane Igor to individual issues and I will continue to do so. I want to well with the Mayor and town council just like I do with all thirty-eight communities in my district.*

Upon review of the radio interview it is clear that MHA Holloway had an opportunity prior to the interview concluding to address any misunderstanding that the interviewer may have had with respect to what MHA Holloway was suggesting with respect to the sending of the text message. MHA Holloway missed this opportunity to clarify or correct any misunderstandings and simply responded to the interviewer by focusing on the conduct of Mayor Broomfield rather than answering the interviewer directly with respect to this issue. Unfortunately for MHA Holloway, the manner in which he concluded the interview leaves the impression that he denied ever sending the text to Mayor Broomfield and left an inaccurate impression with the general public.

Subsequently, MHA Holloway posted a message to his Facebook page on January 4, 2017 wherein he stated, in part, as follows:

I regret that a conversation which took place over text messaging has led to the perception that I do not care about certain communities.

In view of this, I wish to apologize for the poor choice of words I used in my message. I am the MHA for every community in the District of Terra Nova, and I take this role very seriously.

As MHA I will continue to ensure that the residents of St. Brendan's get the representation they require and deserve, and I firmly believe that this is something both Mayor Broomfield and I am working towards.

When one examines the conduct of MHA Holloway in its entirety it is clear that he missed an opportunity to clarify the text message exchange with Pete Soucy on VOCM backtalk and rather than taking the opportunity to be direct, forthright, and to the point his actions left the impression that the text message had not been sent. While it is acknowledged that the member acted appropriately in issuing an apology and clarifying the matter on January 4, 2017, the distinct impression that remained following the VOCM interview was that the text message had not been sent. The question was asked directly to MHA Holloway and he could have responded in the affirmative and explained

the entire context of the text conversation as he did in his submissions to my office. However, by choosing to respond in the manner in which he did he caused unnecessary confusion and uncertainty.

Principle 2 of the Code of Conduct states that it is a fundamental objective of their holding public office that Members serve their fellow citizens with integrity in order to improve the economic and social conditions of the people of the province. Acting with integrity requires individuals to be forthright, candid, and honest in carrying out their role as a member of the House of Assembly with honour and dignity.

While MHA Holloway acted honourably in issuing an apology on January 4, 2017, this was only necessary as a result of the manner in which he had previously acted in sending the text message and then failing to be absolutely candid and direct when the issue arose during the radio broadcast. It is my conclusion that the evidence establishes on a balance of probabilities that MHA Holloway failed to act with integrity during the VOCM radio interview by failing to clarify any misunderstandings regarding his sending of the text message despite having the opportunity to do so throughout the interview.

Principle 11 of the Code of Conduct states that “Members should promote and support these principles by leadership and example”. Having found that MHA Holloway violated Principle 2, in my opinion MHA Holloway also violated Principle 11, by failing to lead by example. In failing to appropriately address the text message exchange during the radio interview MHA Holloway was acting less than forthright and candid and caused his integrity to be called into question. In doing so he failed to support the principles in the Code of Conduct by leadership and example.

However, it is recognized that MHA Holloway issued an apology on his Facebook page on January 4, 2017 in an effort to clarify the matter and to reassure the residents of St. Brendan’s that they will get the representation they require and deserve. It takes a brave individual to admit to having made a mistake and to apologize publicly. In my opinion, such conduct is a mitigating factor against the recommendation of a severe or harsh penalty in the circumstances of this case.

I am not prepared to make a finding that MHA Holloway violated Principles 3 or 4 of the Code of Conduct. There is absolutely no evidence of political corruption or illegality.

COMMISSIONER’S RECOMENDATION

While accepting the member has suffered embarrassment, and is no doubt remorseful for his actions, violating the Code of Conduct warrants a recommendation that the member be disciplined.

Section 39 of the House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity, and Administration Act sets out the penalties that the Commissioner may recommend when a member has failed to fulfil an obligation under the Code of Conduct. These penalties vary and range from the member being reprimanded to the member’s seat being declared vacant.

When one reviews the evidence it is clear that the member has apologized publicly and has recognized the importance of not debating sensitive issues on social media. The evidence also does not demonstrate any personal gain on the part of MHA Holloway. MHA Holloway appears genuinely remorseful for the manner in which he behaved and therefore a severe penalty is not warranted in this case.

In the particular circumstances of this case it is my recommendation that the member be reprimanded pursuant to s. 39(1) (a) of the House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act for violating Principles 2 and 11 of the Code of Conduct. In addition, while it is recognized that my jurisdiction to make recommendations is limited to the penalties enumerated in s.39, some consideration should be given by MHA Holloway to making a formal apology to the Mayor of St. Brendan's in the legislature.

Appendix 1

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Commitments:

Members of this House of Assembly recognize that we are responsible to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador and will responsibly execute our official duties in order to promote the human, environmental and economic welfare of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Members of this House of Assembly respect the law and the institution of the Legislature and acknowledge our need to maintain the public trust placed in us by performing our duties with accessibility, accountability, courtesy, honesty and integrity.

Principles:

1. Members shall inform themselves of and shall conduct themselves in accordance with the provisions and spirit of the Standing Orders of the House of Assembly, the House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act, the Members' Resources and Allowances Rules, the Elections Act, 1991, the House of Assembly Act and this Code of Conduct and shall ensure that their conduct does not bring the integrity of their office or the House of Assembly into disrepute.
2. It is a fundamental objective of their holding public office that Members serve their fellow citizens with integrity in order to improve the economic and social conditions of the people of the province.
3. Members reject political corruption and refuse to participate in unethical political practices which tend to undermine the democratic traditions of our province and its institutions.
4. Members will act lawfully and in a manner that will withstand the closest public scrutiny. Neither the law nor this code is designed to be exhaustive and there will be occasions on which Members will find it necessary to adopt more stringent norms of conduct in order to protect the public interest and to enhance public confidence and trust.
5. Members will not engage in personal conduct that exploits for private reasons their positions or authorities or that would tend to bring discredit to their offices.
6. Members will carry out their official duties and arrange their private financial affairs in a manner that protects the public interest and enhances public

confidence and trust in government and in high standards of ethical conduct in public office.

7. Members will base their conduct on a consideration of the public interest. They are individually responsible for preventing conflicts of interest and will endeavor to prevent them from arising. Members will take all reasonable steps to resolve any such conflict quickly and in a manner which is in the best interests of the public.

8. In performing their official duties, Members will apply public resources prudently and only for the purposes for which they are intended.

9. Members will not use official information which is not in the public domain, or information obtained in confidence in the course of their official duties, for personal gain or the personal gain of others.

10. Relationships between Members and government employees should be professional and based upon mutual respect and should have regard to the duty of those employees to remain politically impartial when carrying out their duties.

11. Members should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

12. This Code of Conduct has a continuing effect except as amended or rescinded by Resolution of the House of Assembly.”

Appendix 2

NO SNOW-CLEARING OPERATOR FOR ST. BRENDAN'S: St. Brendan's Mayor "Veronica Broomfield" is having trouble getting information from the Transportation Department on why there is no snow plow operator in place for the area. The operator they had in place had to go off work due to illness. And the job has been open to application for quite some time. Now winter is here. Mayor Broomfield says when she spoke to her MHA about an issue and they said to her 'Remember you didn't vote for me'. This shocks Pete because it doesn't matter who voted for who; it is the MHA's job to take care of their area. Mayor Broomfield is very upset that she cannot get an answer and she has trouble sleeping at night thinking about the fact they have no snowclearing for the community.

Program: VOCM - Back Talk
Aired: 2016/12/13 02:53:00pm
Duration: 00:07:30
Reporter: Pete Soucy
Ref Id: X6Q-7h6-13

PETE SOUCY: Ah, let's see. Let's go straight to the Mayor of St. Brendan's Veronica Broomfield. She is on line eight. Good Afternoon Mayor.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: Good day Pete.

PETE SOUCY: How are ya?

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: I'm not too bad and you?

PETE SOUCY: I'm pretty good.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: Um, we got a bitta snow out of it.

PETE SOUCY: That's alright. That's the time of the year.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: No I don't want to see it.

PETE SOUCY: Someone said the other day we are getting soft.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: I called to talk about snow.

PETE SOUCY: Yup.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: To a point. I, I'm calling concerning there is no snow plow here on the Island.

PETE SOUCY: No?

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: No.

PETE SOUCY: How do you plow?

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: There is a truck here, it's a sand truck.

PETE SOUCY: Right.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: Ah, with a blade on it.

PETE SOUCY: Yup.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: And I'll get into a little bit of what it's all about. Like we have a man here that always worked um, he was our you know he was employed with transportation and he was stationed here only cause he lived here.

PETE SOUCY: Mmm hum.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: So he is off this year due to, he had some surgery and I wish him well but ah, ah he is not going back to work that I can find out but I can't get the right information from Transportation that I wants. And I, and ah like I'm, I'm living in. Like no mans land. People are asking me and calling my home and, and like I don't work for Transportation but I think I'm a babysitter.

PETE SOUCY: Yeah. Ah how many -

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: And it's got me so worried -

PETE SOUCY: How long have you been -

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: It's over my head at night when I lie on my bed.

PETE SOUCY: Yup. How long you been looking for an answer?

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: Well I started back in October when I first learned that the man here like was off sick and had surgery. I've been asking questions. I ah this morning I called Clarendville again. I called Eastport yesterday. I know they did, there is a young fellow here did apply for the job.

PETE SOUCY: Mm hum.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: And he has been to Clarendville and did a test and he has been to Eastport and did one and the competition was out but I don't know how long they can push it. Now we got a man here from like Eastport, I'm assuming it's from Eastport.

He came in here last week and he did a couple of days and and stayed here and then he went back home again. And another guy came down here yesterday evening but I mean they got a truck. Like a stand truck with it's just a blade in the front of it. The roads are not cleared on the sides. People are complaining and, and I don't blame them because I will be complaining myself when I get out there.

PETE SOUCY: Mm hum.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: And like I don't know why I was told this morning that the competition is still ongoing but like we are not looking for a snow plow operator in July. We are looking for one now.

PETE SOUCY: Yup. I know it just seems like things take so long. The bureaucracy is so -

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: I mean the snow plow is not even here on the island. I don't know if they put her up on an auction and got rid of her.

PETE SOUCY: Ha.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: Because it's certainly not here. I mean it's December. You, do you think the plow would be brought in now? Whoever was going to operate it like the plow should be here.

PETE SOUCY: What's your MHA saying?

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: Ha ha ha ha ha ha. It's funny how you say what's my MHA saying.

PETE SOUCY: Yeah.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: There was a lady contacted him. I contacted him.

PETE SOUCY: Mm.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: And he said it was the first time he was aware of it but I, I try not to contact him a whole lot because anytime I have contacted him he came back and said to me, oh you didn't vote for me.

PETE SOUCY: What?

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: There you go.

PETE SOUCY: What? Are you serious?

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: Remember you didn't vote for me.

PETE SOUCY: No way.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: I have, oh yes, yes, yes.

PETE SOUCY: An MHA is telling the mayor that ah I don't want to hear from ya because you didn't vote for me.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: He didn't say he didn't want to hear from me. He didn't say it like oh, but he just said. Like in one of my -

PETE SOUCY: Oh what's that suppose to mean if it's not.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: When I had contacted him on the ferry issues and whatever, when they were cutting the trips and I was trying to get the Minister out here and we were trying to get a meeting with the minister and that, that's, that a story for another day.

PETE SOUCY: Well look this is their job.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: What he did when I contacted him and I kept my messages and it's here on my phone and he said like and you know we did one word to another and he said "remember you didn't vote for me" so I said well I didn't vote for you and you cut my services. He said "well I didn't say it like that" well what would you take out of it?

PETE SOUCY: Exactly. Why make the comment you didn't vote for me. Now regardless of who -

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: And how does he know -

PETE SOUCY: Mayor, Mayor Broomfield. Mayor -

[INAUDIBLE]

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: That we went inside -

PETE SOUCY: Mayor Broomfield.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: But I never said that I didn't vote for him.

PETE SOUCY: Mayor Broomfield. Do you always talk over people?

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: Yes I do cause I am so mad today I got no other choice.

PETE SOUCY: Well that's not a good way to be because it's a conversation here and I

start to say something and all of a sudden your right over top of me like -

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: Well I'm so -

PETE SOUCY: What I'm going to say doesn't matter.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: You would feel the same way if you was in a position here today.

PETE SOUCY: Well I listen, I might feel that way. It doesn't mean I have to behave that way.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: Well that's -

PETE SOUCY: You gotta -

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: You know when your upset -

PETE SOUCY: Doesn't matter -

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: Your upset.

PETE SOUCY: No, it doesn't matter. It doesn't give you a license -

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: Yup.

PETE SOUCY: To behave in a way that's not conducive to -

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: Ah, no you should listen first and let me speak.

PETE SOUCY: Beg your pardon.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: You listen first and let me speak.

PETE SOUCY: I let you speak. I was trying to get a word in edgewise and you -

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: [INAUDIBLE]

PETE SOUCY: Don't and you don't want to give me an opportunity. If we are not going to have a discussion then I don't want to talk to ya.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: Well okay you go ahead and speak.

PETE SOUCY: Okay thank you. I just wanted to say it's the MHA's job regardless of who voted for him to do the things that his constituents require and it doesn't matter if he's talking to a mayor or if he's talking to a regular person who has no position publicly

they have the same tasks and responsibly and they can't go around telling people. They shouldn't even know or bring up who might have voted for them or not. And it's infuriating I agree to get that kind of response and what else could it mean if they say that to ya?

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: Well, he came back with his message and he said "you twist everything around" ah he said " I didn't say that I cut your services because you didn't vote for me". What would you pick out of it if you said it, if he, if he said it you?

PETE SOUCY: Exactly. He implied that because he wants you to understand without putting himself in a position of being you know called to account for what he is saying so you can't be slippery like that. You speak it or you don't and you imply it or you don't and don't leave us to read between the lines. Just do your job.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: And I can't be always messaging my MHA if he's feeling that because I didn't vote for him that he can't, he can't do things that got to be done in my area.

PETE SOUCY: Ah I am putting in a call to your MHA and we are gonna have this discussion in the near future on the program. Unfortunately we do have to go now. Do you have anything else in the next twenty seconds -

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: No but I'd like -

PETE SOUCY: before we wrap up.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: To know when there is going to be a permanent operator present here on the island because you can't sleep at night. I don't sleep.

PETE SOUCY: I can understand absolutely. I'd have a difficult time myself.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: I, I, they, they also do our side roads like, like, like you know whatever with their own plow. Like we pay them to do whatever.

PETE SOUCY: Yup.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: But I mean I don't sleep at night knowing that there is a man here from Eastport or Gambo, he's going to probably go home in the day. Is the ferry going to get up in the evening? Is it going to be a gale of wind and she can't get back and would we have no plow operator? I got people that needs to get to and fro.

PETE SOUCY: Right. Well -

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: And you got kids that gotta go to school and you got older people that maybe needs to get into the clinic. Or the nurse needs to go to visit them or whatever the case might be. It's a headache for me all night long and you wonder why I

over topped you when you were talking.

PETE SOUCY: Yup.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: Like I am so disgusted with -

PETE SOUCY: Yeah but still there is -

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: I don't know where to even turn. I'm just getting the run around.

PETE SOUCY: Yeah but there is no excuse or talking over people, anyway -

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: [INAUDIBLE]

PETE SOUCY: Listen I gotta go. We gotta go to news. But I appreciate the call and we will put a call in ourselves.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: Okay, thank you very much.

PETE SOUCY: Take care, bye bye.

VERONICA BROOMFIELD: Bye bye.

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Email: production@nlnewsnow.ca

Tel: 709-726-6397

Web: www.nlnewsnow.ca

Appendix 3

LACK OF SNOWCLEARING IN ST. BRENDAN'S/ARGUMENT WITH MAYOR BROOMFIELD: Terra Nova MHA "Colin Holloway" says that he was contacted by a resident of St. Brendan's about three weeks ago about the position as snowclearing operator. He feels it would be ideal to have someone who lives on the island be responsible for the snowclearing. The Transportation Minister told him that they were in the process of recruiting someone for the position. He was told someone would be there to take care of the snowclearing until the position is properly filled, and he has had confirmation from residents that the snowclearing is going ahead. -- Mr. Holloway says he has had a tenuous relationship with St. Brendan's Mayor Veronica Broomfield from Day 1, but that he never reminded her that she didn't vote for him. He has worked with the community on many occasions and has worked hard for them.

Program: VOCM - Back Talk
Aired: 2016/12/13 03:35:25pm
Duration: 00:09:00
Reporter: Pete Soucy
Ref Id: X2K-3V9-13

PETE SOUCY: Well ask and ye shall receive. We reached out to the MHA for Terra Nova, also responsible and serving the constituents of St. Brendan's Colin Holloway and here he is on the program right now. Good Afternoon Sir.

COLIN HOLLOWAY: How are you Pete?

PETE SOUCY: Not bad at all. I don't know if you heard the comments of Mayor Broomfield or not but that's what we are hoping to talk to you about this afternoon.

COLIN HOLLOWAY: Yeah I didn't hear the comments. As you can appreciate the House of Assembly is sitting this afternoon.

PETE SOUCY: Um-hum.

COLIN HOLLOWAY: So that's where my responsibilities are but anyway I was, I had some understanding that you were looking to talk to me and clarify some things.

PETE SOUCY: Yeah.

COLIN HOLLOWAY: So I thought, yeah lets chat.

PETE SOUCY: Well there's two things first of all I guess the snow clearing situation on St. Brendan's. Apparently there some question about a proper vehicle and someone to operate it even it's there. What do you understand to be the situation and what can the people of St. Brendan's expect in the near future there?

COLIN HOLLOWAY: So I guess probably about three weeks ago I had gotten, I had been contacted by a resident of St. Brendan's, I hadn't been contacted by the town but I had been contacted by a resident living there to inquire about the position. The person who was in the position and without going into too much detail, he's off on sick leave.

PETE SOUCY: Right.

COLIN HOLLOWAY: And so as you can appreciate it's about forty-five minute ferry ride from Burnside so ideally it would be great to have somebody who is on the island and can be there and be responsive to snow clearing and any others needs from a Transportation and Works perspective.

PETE SOUCY: Um-hum.

COLIN HOLLOWAY: So when I became aware of it I immediately went to the Minister of Transportation and Works and said well what can you tell me about this situation and so I was quickly, I was immediately told that they were in the process, the Department was in the process of trying to recruit somebody to fill the position because this permanent employee had gone off on sick leave.

PETE SOUCY: Yeah.

COLIN HOLLOWAY: And of course winter as we all know, winter came upon us rather quickly so what are we going to do in this situation and immediately the response from the Department was we're going to have somebody go there and deal with you know the snow clearing needs as, as you know the situation warrants. Currently I am told by the Department that there is clearing the roads and I have confirmed that with some of the residents on St. Brendan's. That is happening and that person will be there until the position can be filled on a more longer term basis because we really don't know how long this permanent employee is going to be off.

PETE SOUCY: Right.

COLIN HOLLOWAY: So we need to have somebody there to be responsible right now and that's what the Minister has guaranteed me, that is exactly what has been happening and will continue to happen.

PETE SOUCY: So someone who lives on the island?

COLIN HOLLOWAY: No, we've had to bring somebody in my understanding is the person...

PETE SOUCY: What happens when they can't get in then? What happens when they can't get to the island?

COLIN HOLLOWAY: I think he's there. My understanding is that he's there and will stay there. Now as you can appreciate there are going to be days this winter when you know there are no snow events you know there's nothing going to trigger having somebody there to clear the road.

PETE SOUCY: Um-hum.

COLIN HOLLOWAY: That may be an opportunity for that person to actually go visit their family you know to come home on a day off or something like that so I wouldn't suspect that they have to live there but I have been guaranteed that they will be there to be responsive to the need for clearing snow and you know salting and sanding the roads just like the person who was there and would be called out in the event that there was need to have that kind of service right.

PETE SOUCY: And they have the equipment they need to ah, to do the job?

COLIN HOLLOWAY: Yeah. I haven't heard anything about whether the equipment that they are using is not appropriate or anything like that. That would be news to me. I can say that you know since we've had a couple of snowfalls last Friday and again today that I have been in constant contact with the Regional Director in Clarendville who covers off for St. Brendan's and all thirty-eight communities in my district and I've been kept up to date as to the equipment on the road, what time it's going on the road you know, I've been given a regular update, a status report so I would expect nothing less than what's, for that to happen in St. Brendan's.

PETE SOUCY: Ah any idea how long it's going to take to get somebody hired for the position?

COLIN HOLLOWAY: I'm not sure. I think they dealt with the immediate concern because after I heard from this one resident of St. Brendan's then I did hear from Mayor Broomfield.

PETE SOUCY: Um-hum.

COLIN HOLLOWAY: She did reach out to me and inquired about it and so right away we dealt with that issue because there was a snowfall event that was coming and but I suspect that the Department is going through their due process of filling the position with a qualified individual so I'm not part of that and I'm sure your listeners would understand as a MHA I would not be part of that process.

PETE SOUCY: Um-hum.

COLIN HOLLOWAY: My job is to advocate to find solutions to an issue and certainly that's what I have been doing.

PETE SOUCY: Alright so we'll hope sooner than later that somebody permanent on the

island so that somebody doesn't go back and forth and there'll never be a time when you know something occurs without much forewarning and they can't get there hence people are in a bad situation but...

COLIN HOLLOWAY: Absolutely. We don't I mean I don't have the details as to how long this permanent employee is going to be off I mean, whether it's another two weeks, whether it's going to be six months. I don't have those details nor do I want those details, that's personal information.

PETE SOUCY: Yeah.

COLIN HOLLOWAY: And so that impacts I guess you know the recruitment process and how long do you bring somebody in, do you bring them in for short term basis you know a week, two weeks or do you have to look at a longer strategy you know around four months, six months.

PETE SOUCY: Yeah.

COLIN HOLLOWAY: So only the Department can decide that right?

PETE SOUCY: The suggestion was though that this was known quite some time ago that the man who usually does this work was not going to be available and that you know it seemed to me that what was being said is that this should have been done long ago, long before any ah snowfall event could happen.

COLIN HOLLOWAY: Yeah, yeah. All I can say is that I became aware of it by a resident on the island. Nobody on the town council, I had not heard from the Mayor and I find that a little bit interesting because I was in the process at the Mayor and councils request, I was in the process of arranging a meeting with the Minister of Transportation and Works. Two meeting dates had been set up and her Worship had cancelled both times so she did not bring this issue to my attention you know as a MHA you can't act on or advocate for an issue on behalf of a town council if they don't bring those issues to your attention.

PETE SOUCY: Okay last thing is...

COLIN HOLLOWAY: Yeah.

PETE SOUCY: Did you ever remind the Mayor of St. Brendan's, Veronica Broomfield that she didn't vote for you?

COLIN HOLLOWAY: No. I mean the Mayor and I have had constant communication even when I was seeking election.

PETE SOUCY: Um-hum.

COLIN HOLLOWAY: You know I had been to St. Brendan's...

PETE SOUCY: She said point blank that she asked you something and you reminded her that she did not vote for you.

COLIN HOLLOWAY: No, I can tell you that we've had a tenuous relationship right from day one you know I've been in office a year...

PETE SOUCY: Um-hum.

COLIN HOLLOWAY: Unfortunately I don't think that the Mayor has gotten pass the fact that you know I am the new MHA and the previous guy is not and unfortunately that is coming to the relationship that we have not on my part, I have thirty-eight communities and I work with them all quite well. I work with the residents of St. Brendan's on many issues. Even the Mayor knows I mean we've dealt with issues regarding Hurricane Igor in 2010.

PETE SOUCY: Yes.

COLIN HOLLOWAY: Anything that they have come to me and asked me for help with I have gone as their MHA, their advocate and represented them well and found a solution. And I will continue to do that.

PETE SOUCY: Yeah and that's good to know.

COLIN HOLLOWAY: I like to collaborate, I like to partner, I like to solve problems.

PETE SOUCY: But I wanted to know and you're saying it never happened. She said that you know she was told or reminded that she hadn't voted for in the last election whatever that would imply but..

COLIN HOLLOWAY: Yeah.

PETE SOUCY: You are saying that was not something that you have ever done is remind her which way she voted last time.

COLIN HOLLOWAY: I reminded her of when I knocked on her door and she slammed the door in my face. Like I said we've had a tenuous relationship, I've been over there for town hall meetings despite the fact the Mayor is saying that I haven't been and I've reached out and supported every issue that has been brought to my attention whether it's from the ferry to getting the roads graded to replacing culverts from damage of Hurricane Igor to individual issues and I will continue to do so. I want to well with the Mayor and town council just like I do with all thirty-eight communities in my district.

PETE SOUCY: Okay Mr. Holloway. I appreciate your time Sir. Thanks very much.

COLIN HOLLOWAY: Alright. Thanks Pete. Have a good day.

PETE SOUCY: And I do appreciate him taking time out from the House to give us a shout and answer a few questions there.

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Appendix 4

Colin Holloway

December 17, 2016

Dear Friends on St. Brendan's Island:

It is no doubt you have heard about the differences between myself and your Mayor and the perception that I do not care about you, your future or your community.

I wish to assure you that this is not true. I care about the people living on St. Brendan's Island and I have worked very hard on your behalf since being elected as the MHA for the District of Terra Nova on November 30th, 2015.

Our differences has nothing to do with how people voted in the last election. I am committed to treating all residents of the Terra Nova District with fairness and openness.

As I reflect on the issues brought to my attention this year by your Town Council and by residents living in the community, I feel that together we have made a difference.

I am sure you will remember when the Grace Spakes went on drydock and the Norcon Galatea was placed in service for the ferry run between Burnside and St. Brendan's. Each morning, I would provide regular updates on the status of the ferry and I kept you all informed as the situation changed.

Earlier this year as you were preparing for St. Brendan's Come Home Year celebrations, I worked with the Town Council and the Department of Transportation and Works so that the main roads were upgraded in time for visitors to come to the Island.

In the spring I hosted a Community Forum to openly discuss Budget 2016 and to hear your concerns as well as answer any questions you had. Through the support of the Minister for Municipal Affairs, I was able to secure monies to repair the road in Dock Cove; an issue that has been outstanding since 2010.

Through the summer, I was also pleased to work with the Department of Seniors, Wellness and Social Development and to advocate for funding for Sarah's Community Garden.

In July, I was pleased to attend the Come Home Year Celebrations and to bring greetings on behalf of Premier Ball and MP Judy Foote.

In my estimation, since November 30 2015, my office has advocated for a solution to all issues which your Town Council has brought to my attention.

While I can appreciate that people do not always get along and sometimes things are said or taken out of context, I want to assure you that I have and will continue to work on behalf of all the residents of St. Brendan's Island.

On Tuesday and Wednesday this week, I reached out to your Town Council asking that we put our differences aside and to move forward and work together. I am pleased to inform you that we are actively working on finding a date for a meeting with the Minister for the Department of Transportation and Works to openly discuss issues such as proposed changes to the ferry routes and finding a long-term solution to snowclearing on the Island.

Your Town Council has also asked if I would come to St. Brenda's Island for another public meeting and I am always open to this idea.

I encourage everyone to give me a call if there is something you feel I can do for you. My office is always available to answer you calls and I look forward to seeing many of you soon.

Merry Christmas and have a wonderful New Year.

Appendix 5

Colin Holloway

January 4, 2017

Good afternoon,

By now many of you have heard about the exchange between myself and the Mayor of St. Brendan's Island, Ms. Veronica Broomfield.

I regret that a conversation which took place over text messaging has led to the perception that I do not care about certain communities.

In view of this, I wish to apologize for the poor choice of words I used in my message. I am the MHA for every community in the District of Terra Nova, and I take this role very seriously.

As MHA I will continue to ensure that the residents of St. Brendan's get the representation they require and deserve, and I firmly believe that this is something both Mayor Broomfield and I are working towards.

My office has reached out to Mayor Broomfield with a request to meet and focus our efforts on engaging in meaningful dialogue to focus on issues that are important to both of us and to the communities we represent. These are important discussions for us to have, and I look forward to maintaining this type of open dialogue with Mayor Broomfield moving forward.

I will continue to make myself available to the residents of Terra Nova at my office, over the phone, by email, and on social media. I look forward to advocating on your behalf in 2017.