



October 09, 2026

Minister Chuck Chaisson
Department of Transportation
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Premier Susan Holt
Office of the Premier
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Subject: Formal Protest Regarding the Closure of the "Free Sand Program"

To: Premier Susan Holt, and Minister Chuck Chaisson:

I am writing to formally express my strong opposition and outrage regarding the recent decision by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI) to discontinue the "Free Sand Program" at our local DTI garage and across multiple communities in the province.

This vital community resource is funded directly by the taxpayers of these communities, and its sudden cancellation removes a crucial public safety tool that residents rely on every winter.

The closure of this program introduces significant safety risks and financial burdens to our community, when residents have access to this sand for private walkways, steps, and driveway entrances, it directly reduces slip-and-fall injuries. Furthermore, ensuring driveway entrances are properly treated prevents vehicles from sliding out into public roadways, lowering the risk of motor vehicle collisions.

The provincial healthcare system is already facing immense strain. A single bad fall on the ice can result in broken bones, concussions, or severe long-term injuries. When citizens require emergency services, surgeries, and weeks of hospital recovery, it costs the province a substantial amount of taxpayer money. Eliminating a preventive measure like the free sand program is counterproductive and will ultimately shift a much heavier financial burden onto our healthcare infrastructure.

For many everyday homeowners, seniors, and renters, the free sand program provides an essential safety barrier. Purchasing commercial bags of sand or de-icer throughout a long winter is a cost that many low-income families and individuals on fixed incomes simply cannot afford. Taking away this program forces vulnerable residents to choose between their financial security and their physical safety.

While I understand that managing public resources requires addressing operational challenges and preventing abuse by commercial entities, punishing everyday citizens by shutting down the program entirely is not the solution.

I strongly urge the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to reconsider this decision and find an alternative approach to restore this critical service before the winter season begins.

Thank you for your time and your attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to your prompt response and to seeing a resolution that prioritizes the safety of New Brunswick residents.

Sincerely,

Carl Price
Mayor
Village of Doaktown

Cc: MLA Kevin Russell
MP Mike Dawson
Darren Matchett – DTI