Outlook

FW: Statement from the Mayor- Rigs Certificate of Determination

From Jennifer Borne <j.borne@tantramarnb.com>
Date Wed 2026-09-23 8:29 AM
To Chris Hill <C.hill@tantramarnb.com>

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Tantramar
NEW BRUNSWICK

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From: Kristen Leblanc <k.leblanc@tantramarnb.com>
Sent: August 29, 2026 11:34 AM
To: Jennifer Borne <j.borne@tantramarnb.com>; Debbie Wiggins-Colwell <d.wiggins-colwell@tantramarnb.com>; Josh Goguen <j.goguen@tantramarnb.com>; Tori Weldon <t.weldon@tantramarnb.com>; Haidee Robertson <h.robertson@tantramarnb.com>; Allison Butcher <a.butcher@tantramarnb.com>; Barry Hicks <b.hicks@tantramarnb.com>; Alyssa Greene <a.greene@tantramarnb.com>; Wayne Wells <w.wells@tantramarnb.com>
Cc: Chris Hill <C.hill@tantramarnb.com>
Subject: Re: Statement from the Mayor- Rigs Certificate of Determination

Good morning everyone,

I hope that you're all having a great start to the weekend. I'm up early this morning; rather, I don't think I really had time to sleep last night with the number of messages and phone calls regarding the letter released to the public, re.: the RIGS projects' green-light and go-ahead.

While I find the letter to be generally written well, there are a lot of constituents who have provided feedback on the letter released to the public- with the main concern being the *first, second to last, and last paragraphs of the release.*

For the first paragraph, the main concern I have heard surrounding this paragraph, was the fact it was introduced with "from Mayor and Council". I am assuming that this is because our Mayor acts as our official spokesperson and it was a time sensitive issue. I understand this. Nonetheless, while we may understand this, while those unfamiliar with governance processes are not (I am learning myself).

The main concern that I have heard surrounding this paragraph, was who actually wrote the letter, as it was introduced "from Mayor and Council". While it may be a normal procedure, the public may not understand this. I believe maybe some confusion may stem from previous letters being introduced as "from the mayor vs. from mayor and council". I realize for the most part, it's been a "Mayor and Council" wording, but I have seen some press releases just stating, "From the Mayor". There are members of the public that believe councillors assisted in writing this letter or had input on the release. Maybe just my thoughts- but it's really important to maintain consistency within technical writing, because the public is always looking for something and do not interpret things the same way that we may. Many people are interpreting this line as councillors sitting down and writing a letter with the Mayor- this did not occur.

Regarding the second to last paragraph about Council's role being to consider matters that fall under municipal jurisdiction while respecting authorities of provincial and or federal/regulatory authorities"; I have heard feedback about this and many citizens are interpreting this as "the municipal government is surrendering their opposition". I realize that there is not much more that we can do except hold them accountable and I also realize that it's extremely important to stay in our lane. However, concerning matters that fall under municipal jurisdiction, there are numerous things that our municipal government advocates for, that are also a provincial jurisdiction. We have not rescinded our opposition.

The Pecks Cove Bridge- I understand this is a provincial bridge owned and managed by the Government of New Brunswick. We still advocate, and I totally understand why we do. We have constituents living on the other side of that bridge. In retrospect, we have constituents living beside the gas plant.

Healthcare in Tantramar- falls under provincial jurisdiction. Past council advocated against the closure of our hospital and really involved themselves in something that was within a provincial jurisdiction. Thank goodness they did, because we likely wouldn't even have 8am-4pm hours if council said "it wasn't within their jurisdiction" back then.

The education system within our community- completely provincial. I remember past council and advocacy groups actively challenging the provincial government on this. I remember during the election, this was actually a campaign topic- something provincial. Of course we should care as council about something like education, it impacts our community, right? Unfortunately, so will a gas plant. However, the news release states, "Council's role is to consider matters that fall under municipal jurisdiction while respecting authorities of provincial and or federal/regulatory authorizes." I absolutely understand why much of the public is upset about this and are taking the letter as a surrender from the municipal government. With this, another paragraph states that we need to ensure 45 conditions are kept- which may seem like a contradictory statement, while at the same time saying, "council needs to consider matters that fall under municipal jurisdiction".

Tolls. Totally provincial. Nonetheless, our citizens will be impacted by them. I believe we've advocated on this too and brought it to the Premiers attention.

As Premier Holt stated, *"municipal government members are constantly identifying how provincial shortfalls are harming local residents the most and using their unified political leverage to force the province to fix them"*. It's our job to advocate, to use our political leverage,

and again- with the above comparisons, I do understand why there are now people upset with the most recent release.

Concerns heard about the last paragraph- encouraging the public to rely on official sources of information for updates is always a good practice. Unfortunately, sometimes this information is provided to the public last minute and can be rushed. Please remember that this project was apparently "sprung" upon our municipality by surprise. With this said, it proves that we cannot always depend on official sources of information (especially if they're not readily available), and especially when there have already been lies told to the previous council and public, by the proponent (Indigenous partnership, etc). Fortunately, there are also many experts in our community and over 300 knowledgeable physicians who make up members of a local coalition and follow the project at every single turn- they also have some good information. Now, these folks are interpreting this paragraph with insinuation that their information is not reliable. I do understand why. Maybe it is possible there was another way to phrase this paragraph?

The good thing- we do have a great Council, including our Mayor and Deputy Mayor, who cares about the community. I am one of them, which is why I am bringing concerns I have heard since the release. Which is a lot.

Thank you all for taking the time to read my correspondence, which was just intended to share the thoughts and frustrations that have been shared with me, by the public.

With respect to the e-mail sent by our CAO this morning- not only do I feel it would be a good idea to delete the previous post; I personally believe it would be beneficial and also wise to re-write the letter for publishing, without any contradictory statements (or ones that people may feel are contradictory), while maintaining consistency.

Have a great and restful weekend!

Kind regards,

Kristen LeBlanc

From: Jennifer Borne <j.borne@tantramarnb.com>
Sent: August 28, 2026 3:44 PM
To: Debbie Wiggins-Colwell <d.wiggins-colwell@tantramarnb.com>; Josh Goguen <j.goguen@tantramarnb.com>; Tori Weldon <t.weldon@tantramarnb.com>; Haidee Robertson <h.robertson@tantramarnb.com>; Allison Butcher <a.butcher@tantramarnb.com>; Kristen Leblanc <k.leblanc@tantramarnb.com>; Barry Hicks <b.hicks@tantramarnb.com>; Alyssa Greene <a.greene@tantramarnb.com>; Wayne Wells <w.wells@tantramarnb.com>
Cc: Chris Hill <C.hill@tantramarnb.com>
Subject: Statement from the Mayor- Rigs Certificate of Determination

Good afternoon Mayor & Council,

With respect to news circulating in the community **RE: DELG approval of the RIGS certificate of Determination** the Mayor has asked for her public statement to be released. I am sending this to Council first and the statement will be posted live after this email.

Any questions please let me know.