



June 6, 2009

Mr. Michael Traves, President
Nova Scotia Off Road Riders Association Federation
Mr. Neil Jennings, Representative
Nova Scotia Trails Federation
via e-mail: mtraves@ns.sympatico.ca

Dear Mr. Traves and Mr. Jennings:

My apologies for the delay in responding. Our party only just received this today when you sent in with a reminder of the due date.

1. NSTF can work together with government to be a leader in collaborative trail building to benefit all stakeholders. The OHV Ministerial Advisory Committee has been very effective in bringing these stakeholder together and supporting them financially. If elected will you continue support of the OHV MAC as it stands today?

Yes. It was a PC Government that set up the OHV Ministerial Advisory Committee and I know the staff involved are very committed to the issues at hand and look at all sides of each stakeholder's concerns when formulating policy on trail use. This committee would continue to guide, through collaborative work with all stakeholders, the envisioning of our province's trail system.

2. By establishing trail-building priorities for non-motorized trail users only, the Trans Canada Trail system will work against our efforts in Nova Scotia to promote co-operation and community amongst motorized and non-motorized trail groups. It is also contrary to Nova Scotia's potential for trails-based recreation and tourism, and is a lost opportunity for promoting an important form of active enjoyment of Nova Scotia's great outdoors. If elected, will you support non-motorized (anti access) groups with respect to Trans Canada Trails?

We have been working hard to support trail users through various means and departments. As mentioned above, we would continue to be guided by the work of the ministerial advisory committee.

Our government were proud to have fulfilled our 2006 commitment to support the creation of 500 km of new trails and have signed a memorandum of understanding to expand the trail system in Nova Scotia to make it the province most connected by trails.

These trails support a variety of uses, including walking, cycling, horseback riding, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, off road riders as well as all terrain vehicles (ATVs). Trails that are managed by community organizations currently have the ability to specify the types of uses based on input and agreement from the community.

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To learn what a community truly wants to use a trail for, there is opportunity for consultation and the identification of certain uses. Our government has and will continue to support that process. When those interested in using the trail come together there can be many made-in-the-area solutions or decisions made.

I believe that it is vital, because of the enthusiasm across the province, that all those interested in our trails have a voice in how those trails are used. As well, staff, including DNR and HPP are reviewing the current policy so that the needs of all users are taken into account in the process and we are able to ensure more discussion and, hopefully, many positive outcomes to those discussions in future.

3. Off Road Motorcyclists are looking for a slightly different type of trail experience than ATV and snowmobile operators. It is a desire of NSORRA to have sections of “single track” trail in distributed locations across the province that would allow Off Road Riders, mountain bikers, hikers and back wood skiers to have this alternate experience. In addition, we would like to have specific training areas to facilitate the “Dirt Bike School” program that we are currently using to train Off Road Riders in Nova Scotia to meet the OHV regulations. If elected, will you support the idea of having “single track” trails and off road training areas for motorcycle use?

Through our OHV Ministerial Advisory Committee, we would continue to work with groups like yours so that they have the facilities to adhere to the Off Highway Vehicle Act legislation and regulations as well as on issues such as “single track” trails.

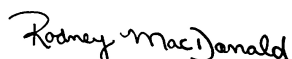
4. If elected, will you commit to a meeting with NSORRA leadership within your first 100 days in office?

Yes.

As I have noted, our trails system is a tremendous resource for all who wish to maintain and utilize it with care and respect for the surrounding environment and other users. As you both said in your letter, our trail system is not something that can be developed by a few individuals or one group on their own, it takes a community working together.

I want to take this opportunity to thank your membership for the work your riders do on the trails across this province. Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your questions as posed on behalf of the members of the NSORRA.

Sincerely,



Rodney MacDonald
Leader, PC Party of Nova Scotia