

March 25, 2020.

Hon Bill Blair,  
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness  
House of Commons, Ottawa, K1A0A6  
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Hon Carolyn Bennett  
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Hon Marc Miller  
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Dear Honourable Ministers

On behalf of Millbrook First Nation I respectfully request that the “competition” to determine the new location for the RCMP Occupational Communication Center for Nova Scotia be performed over again. Information recently made public reveals that the evaluations done by the RCMP in 2017 were distorted and biased. Millbrook First Nation provided a proposal in good faith but we now know that the competition was falsely stacked against our proposal. It is easy to see.

The **Estimated Costing Options** table attached prepared by the RCMP has an arbitrary expense of \$1,641,000 added to the Millbrook First Nation proposal. This expense has nothing to do with the Millbrook proposal or the Millbrook facility. This false expense of \$1,641,000 unfairly makes Millbrook’s proposal uncompetitive.

Ironically the same table shows **zero rent** for the Dartmouth HQ proposal. However, the Public Works “Occupancy Instrument” attached indicates that the rent on that building is actually \$547 per square meter for a total rent of \$10,498,133.40 per year. This “free space” cost \$113,000,000 to build in 2013. It is not free. No proposal anywhere can compete with false “free rent”.

The Dartmouth HQ option expenses were understated and the Millbrook option expenses are overstated. Millbrook calculates that if the expenses were assigned properly, the Millbrook proposal would have won the competition.

The **Criteria Ranking Matrix** table attached scores the Millbrook proposal with a low financial score because of this fabricated \$1,641,00 expense wrongly added to the expenses of the Millbrook proposal.

This table also gives Millbrook a low score on Human Resource Sustainability. On the contrary there has never been a shortage of emergency call center employees in this area since 2014. Further, the local Nova Scotia Community College has proposed to open a course to train emergency measures call center workers as well.

Finally, under Potential for Expansion, the Millbrook proposal received a “zero” score. When the Millbrook proposal was discussed with the RCMP we were told that they only needed half the building that Millbrook was proposing. Although the other half would be available for expansion, Millbrook was wrongly assigned a “zero” score for expansion.

The RCMP HQ option has additional available space available and it gets a top score of 10. The Millbrook option has additional available space and it gets a score of 0.

Please note that the Dartmouth HQ proposal received a perfect score in every department, including zero rent. Even though moving to the Dartmouth HQ would mean disrupting the lives of their 55 employees, their homes, their schools and their families, somehow this option gets a perfect score of 10 for Level of Disruption.

The current Government of Canada and its Prime Minister firmly state that they totally support the **United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People**; the findings of the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission**; and the **Murdered and Missing Women Report**.

The **United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People** states in Article 21 of the Declaration says... *“States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions”*. In this case, effective and special measures were taken to ensure that the Millbrook proposal is not competitive.

The **Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada** states that *“Aboriginal Communities must gain long-term sustainable benefits from economic development projects”*. Millbrook is just asking for a fair chance on this long-term project.

The **Murdered and Missing Women** report has the word *“economic”* in it 44 times. It recommends that the *“Federal Government examine options empowering Aboriginal people through economic development opportunities and jobs.”* As this report mandates, Millbrook is asking the government to *“examine the options”*, only objectively this time.

We are not asking for *“special measures”* .... we just want a level playing field and a fair chance to compete for this economic opportunity. The first *“competition”* was not a level playing field.

Indigenous Peoples everywhere were encouraged by the Prime Minister’s *“mandate letters”* which make reconciliation and economic opportunities a priority. Specifically, the 2015 mandate letters instructed ministers to *“implement the UNDRIP declaration”* which includes Article 21 on economic opportunities. Hopefully these are not hollow words.

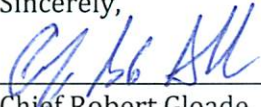
Millbrook leaders are constantly working to help our citizens by exploring and creating opportunities for them. We never stop. All we ask for is a chance to compete fairly.

Obviously the first competition was tainted in favour of one outcome. Millbrook First Nation is asking that this competition be repeated but performed by an objective assessment team with no

predetermined outcome. If the true focus is on safety and efficiency, we are confident that the Millbrook location will be very competitive.

Thank you for considering this request for fairness.

Sincerely,



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Chief Robert Gloade  
Millbrook First Nation