

P.O. Box 1749 Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 12.1.2
Appeals Standing Committee
July 11, 2024

SUBJECT:	Appeal Report – Case CF-2024-012470 215 Fraser Road, Williamswood	
DATE:	July 3, 2024	
SUBMITTED BY:	Andrea MacDonald, Director, Community Standards and Compliance	
	Original Signed	
TO:	Chair and Members of Appeals Standing Committee	

<u>ORIGIN</u>

Appeal of an Order to Remedy the condition of a property pursuant to the Dangerous or Unsightly provisions of the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* (the "Charter").

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Sections 355, 356 and 3(q) of the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, S.N.S., 2008 C.39.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION

In accordance with Section 58 of Administrative Order One, the motion before the Appeals Standing Committee is to allow the appeal.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Appeals Standing Committee uphold the Order of the Administrator and thereby deny the appeal.

BACKGROUND:

There has been one (1) previous dangerous or unsightly case at the property. The case was closed by HRM completing the work to bring the property into compliance.

The property is zoned R-2 (Two Family Dwelling).

A review of the HRM database system shows no permits issued for the property.

A complaint was received by service request on March 4, 2022, the complainant stated that the property was unsightly and looks like a junkyard. Separate cases were opened for debris (case 369429) and derelict vehicles (case 369430). The property owner complied with the Order to Remove derelict vehicles.

In May of 2023 HRM was advised that there was a change in ownership to the property due to personal circumstances. Additional time was provided to the individual who was newly responsible for the property. The individual is identified in the chronology of the report as the executor/property owner.

In May of 2024, site inspections were conducted at the property and violations remained.

CHRONOLOGY OF CASE ACTIVITES:

05-Mar-2022	The Compliance Officer conducted a site inspection at 215 Fraser Road, Williamswood, PID 40519985, hereinafter referred to as "the property" (attached as Appendix B). The inspection revealed several derelict vehicles and an accumulation of debris including scrap metal and appliances.
20-Mar-2022	The Compliance Officer conducted a site inspection and noted a large amount of demolition debris which was snow-covered and not visible from the previous site visit. Violation notices were mailed to the property owner (attached as Appendix C).
13-May-2022	The Compliance Officer contacted the property owner via phone and advised him of the complaint and the violations noted during the site inspection. The property owner and Compliance Officer agreed to meet at the property on May 18, 2022.
18-May-2022	The Compliance Officer and property owner met on site. The property owner explained their plan to bring the property into compliance. The Compliance Officer was agreeable to the plan provided progress was being made to clean up the property. A 30-day Order to Remedy was hand delivered to the property owner (attached as Appendix D).
17-Aug-2022	The Compliance Officer attended the property and noted no change to the condition of the property.
22-Aug-2022	The Compliance Officer referred the file to a Remedy Analyst.
22-Feb-2023	The Remedy Analyst held a site meeting with a contractor to receive quotes and noted that scattered debris, tires, scrap metal and scrap wood remained.
16-Mar-2023	A subsequent complaint was received for the property. The complainant stated there were derelict vehicles, a deteriorated mini home, piles of wood, and garbage on the property.

3-May-2023	Due to inclement weather a second site meeting took place at the property with potential contractors. Violations remained including: scrap metal, scrap wood, propane tanks, tires, and an old outdoor swing. It was noted there was no change in the condition of the property.
26-May-2023	A representative of the property owner contacted HRM to advise that the property owner passed away. The executor (new property owner/responsible party) was calling as she didn't know if HRM had initiated a clean-up at the property. The executor stated that she arrived at the property to find that orange fencing had been installed and a contractor was on site doing work. She wanted a call back.
29-May-2023	Email received from the contractor to the Remedy Analyst advising that the executor/property owner arrived while work was being completed and asked them to leave and had phoned the police.
2-Jun-2023	The Compliance Officer contacted the executor/property owner and advised that HRM was conducting remedial actions on the property for debris and a derelict structure.
	The Compliance Officer advised the executor/property owner that she may take over the remedial actions and complete the remaining work herself, however there were costs already incurred for work at the property that would be billed back to the owner.
13-Aug-2023	The Compliance Officer attended the property. An inspection revealed a large junk bin (full) on site, however, debris violations were still present throughout the property.
30-Nov-2023	The Compliance Officer spoke with the executor and discussed the violations at the property. The executor requested copies of the Orders to understand the required work for the debris clean- up as they felt they had done enough work already. The Compliance Officer emailed copies of the Orders as requested.
	The Compliance Officer conducted a follow up site inspection and noted that no progress had been made since the last inspection. The Compliance Officer advised the property owner via email that as violations remained at the property, HRM would be completing the remedy to bring the property into compliance.
19-Jan-2024	The Compliance Officer received an email from a lawyer from Burton Law who advised they were representing the executor and wanted to discuss how best to move forward to expedite the case and the sale of the property.
2-Feb-2024	The Compliance Officer responded to the lawyer and advised the file was being sent to remedy as the work was not completed to bring the property into compliance. The Compliance Officer provided copies of the Orders to the lawyer as requested.
20-Mar-2024	The Compliance Officer attended the property and noted the debris violations still exist.
15-May-2024	Due to the change in ownership of the property and amount of time that has passed since the original orders were issued, HRM issued new Orders and an opportunity for the

executor to complete the work. The Compliance Officer called the executor to review the

Orders and compliance timeline.

22-May-2024	The Compliance Officer attended the property and noted the violations still exist. A 7-day Order for debris violations was posted on the side window of the dwelling as it faces the front of the property. A 7-day Order was also sent to the executor / property owner via registered mail (attached as Appendix E).
24-May-2024	The property owner submitted a Notice of Appeal to the Municipal Clerk's Office (attached as Appendix F).

29-May-2024 The Municipal Clerk's Office sent the property owner a letter advising the appeal was scheduled for the July 11, 2024, Appeals Standing Committee meeting (attached as Appendix G).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications if the owner complies with the Order. If the Municipality is required to complete the work, the costs will form a debt against the property which may be collected in the same manner as taxes pursuant to the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, S.N.S., 2008, C.39.

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

There are no significant risks associated with the recommendations in this report. The risk consideration rates low.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No environmental impacts identified.

ALTERNATIVES

The Appeals Standing Committee may vary or overturn the Order to Remedy and in doing so, must provide reasons to be recorded in the minutes of the committee meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

Legislative Authority – Halifax Regional Municipality Charter
Copy of the Nova Scotia Property Map
Copy of the Notice of Violation – Debris dated March 20, 2022
Copy of the Order to Remedy – Debris dated May 18, 2022
Copy of the Order to Remedy – Debris dated May 22, 2024
Copy of the letter of appeal dated May 24, 2024
Copy of the letter from the Clerk's Office dated May 29, 2024

A copy of this report can be obtained online at Halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared For: Ryan MacNeil, Compliance Officer II, By-law Standards, 902.478.1203

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter ('HRM Charter") Subsection 355 (1) 356 and 3 (q)

HRM Charter, subsection 355(1) as follows:

355 (1) The Council may, by policy, delegate some or all of its authority pursuant to this Part, except the authority to order demolition, to the Administrator.

HRM Charter, subsection 356(1) as follows:

356 (1) Where a property is dangerous or unsightly, the Council may order the owner to remedy the condition by removal, demolition or repair, specifying in the order what is required to be done.

HRM Charter, subsections 356(2), (3A), as follows:

- 356 (2) An owner may appeal an order of the Administrator to the Council or to the committee to which the Council has delegated its authority within seven days after the order is made.
 - (3A) Where the Council or the committee varies or overturns the order of the Administrator, the Council or committee shall provide reasons to be recorded in the minutes of the Council or committee meeting.

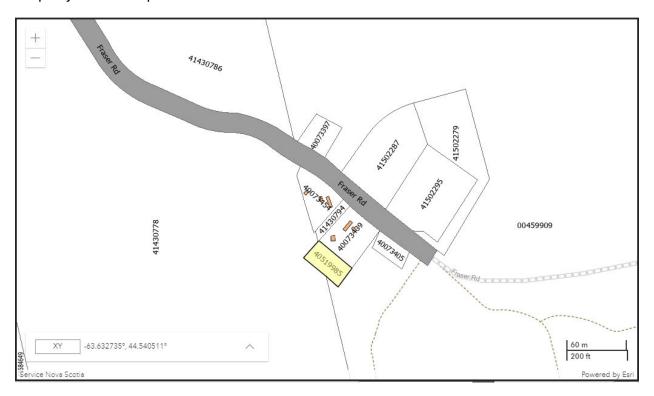
HRM Charter, subsection 3(q) as follows:

- (q) "dangerous or unsightly" means partly demolished, decayed, deteriorated or in a state of disrepair so as to be dangerous, unsightly or unhealthy, and includes property containing
- (i) ashes, junk, cleanings of yards or other rubbish or refuse or a derelict vehicle, vessel, item of equipment or machinery, or bodies of these or parts thereof,
- (ii) an accumulation of wood shavings, paper, sawdust, dry and inflammable grass or weeds or other combustible material,
- (iia) an accumulation or collection of materials or refuse that is stockpiled, hidden or stored away and is dangerous, unsightly, unhealthy or offensive to a person, or
- (iii) any other thing that is dangerous, unsightly, unhealthy
- or offensive to a person, and includes property or a building or structure with or without structural deficiencies
- (iv) that is in a ruinous or dilapidated condition,
- (v) the condition of which seriously depreciates the value of land or buildings in the vicinity,
- (vi) that is in such a state of non-repair as to be no longer suitable for human habitation or business purposes,
- (vii) that is an allurement to children who may play there to their danger,
- (viii) constituting a hazard to the health or safety of the public,
- (ix) that is unsightly in relation to neighbouring properties because the exterior finish of the building or structure or the landscaping is not maintained,
- (x) that is a fire hazard to itself or to surrounding lands or buildings.
- (xi) that has been excavated or had fill placed on it in a manner that results in a hazard, or
- (xii) that is in a poor state of hygiene or cleanliness;

Appendix B



Property Online Map



Property Information

PID: 40519985 Details

AAN: 10735645

Value: \$41,300.00 (2024 RESIDENTIAL TAXABLE)

Address: 215 FRASER ROAD

WILLIAMSWOOD

County: HALIFAX COUNTY

Owner: NATASHA LYNN DAWSON LR: NOT LAND REGISTRATION



Municipal Compliance

Notice of Violation

Notice Served Upon: Name		
or address 215 Fraser Rd		_
This is to advise that you are in violation of the f	llowing municipal and/or provincial legislation:	
☐ HRM By-law A-700 Animals	☐ HRM By-law S-300 Streets	
☐ HRM By-law C-300 Civic Addressing	☐ HRM By-law S-600 Solid Waste	
☐ HRM By-law C-501 Vending	☐ HRM By-law S-801 Temporary Signs	
HRM Charter, Part XV Respecting Dangerous or Unsightly Premises	☐ HRM By-law S-1000 Sidewalk Cafes	
☐ HRM By-law N-300 Nuisances	☐ HRM By-law T-1000 Taxi & Limousine	
	□ Other:	
Violation(s) to be rectified as per the following:	ne property.	
Notice of Re-inspection: A re-inspection will be performed onApril 19, rectified. If you have any queries regarding this matter.	2022 to confirm the above noted violations have been, please contact the issuing Officer prior to the re-inspec	
T. Murdoch	20/03/22	-
Issuing Officer	Date (dd/mm/yy)	
902-943-9213	0908hrs	-
Issuing Officer Phone Number	Time (hh/mm)	
	369429	
Issuing Officer Signature	Case Number	-

For information on municipal legislation visit the Halifax Website at www.halifax.ca/legislation or call the Citizen Contact Centre at 311. If calling outside the HRM but within NS call 1-800-835-6428 toll free.



ORDER TO REMEDY DANGEROUS OR UNSIGHTLY PREMISES

IN THE MATTER OF: Section 356 of The Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, S.N.S., 2008, C.39

Hereinafter referred to as the "Charter"

- and -

IN THE MATTER OF: Property located at 215 FRASER RD, WILLIAMSWOOD, NS,

PID # 40519985 Case # 369429

Hereinafter referred to as the "Property"

TO: EDMUND BUTLER WALSH

WHEREAS you are the owner(s) of the Property;

AND WHEREAS located on the Property is an unsightly or dangerous condition due to an accumulation of debris including but not limited to scrap metal, scrap wood, tires, wheels, indoor furniture, cable, barrels, propane cylinders, fuel containers, windows, pallets, plastic containers, baskets, tool cases, springs, chairs, grates, doors, appliance parts, freezer, discarded auto parts and accessories, snow blower, milk crates, litter, broken furniture, futon, bbq, piping, tubing, lawn tractor and other scattered debris and litter, in accordance with Section 3(q) of the Charter;

TAKE NOTICE that you are hereby Ordered to remedy the condition of the Property by removing the accumulation of debris including but not limited to scrap metal, scrap wood, tires, wheels, indoor furniture, cable, barrels, propane cylinders, fuel containers, windows, pallets, plastic containers, baskets, tool cases, springs, chairs, grates, doors, appliance parts, freezer, discarded auto parts and accessories, snow blower, milk crates, litter, broken furniture, futon, bbq, piping, tubing, lawn tractor and other scattered debris and litter, so as to leave the Property in a neat, tidy, environmentally compliant and safe condition;

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that you have the right to appeal this Order to the Appeals Standing Committee of the Halifax Regional Municipality ("HRM") by filing a Notice of Appeal with the Municipal Clerk by mail at City Hall, P.O. Box 1749, Halifax, NS, B3J 3A5 or by fax to (902) 490-4208, within seven (7) days after the Order is posted in a conspicuous place upon the Property or served upon you;

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that your failure to comply with the requirements of this Order within thirty (30) days after service, the Administrator, or any person authorized by the Administrator, may enter upon the Property without warrant or other legal process and carry out the work specified in this Order.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that the costs of complying with this Order, including the cost of completing the work specified herein, incurred by the Halifax Regional Municipality ("HRM") or its agents, is a debt payable by you to HRM and that HRM has a first lien on the Property in the amount of the debt which may be collected in the same manner and with the same rights and remedies as rates and taxes pursuant to the Charter;

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that upon service of this Order any person who aids, assists, permits or causes a dangerous or unsightly condition or fails to comply with the terms of this Order is liable on summary conviction to a penalty of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) and not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) and every day during which the condition is not remedied is a separate offense.

DATED at Halifax, Nova Scotia this 18th of May, 2022 AD.

Original Signed

THOMAS MURDOCH COMPLIANCE OFFICER Phone: (902)943-9213 x SCOTT HILL Administrator Halifax Regional Municipality



ORDER TO REMEDY DANGEROUS OR UNSIGHTLY PREMISES

IN THE MATTER OF: Section 356 of The Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, S.N.S., 2008, C.39

Hereinafter referred to as the "Charter"

- and -

IN THE MATTER OF:

Property located at 215 FRASER RD, WILLIAMSWOOD, NS B3V1B7;

PID # 40519985;

Case # CF-2024-012470;

Hereinafter referred to as the "Property"

TO:

WHEREAS you are the owner(s) of the Property;

AND WHEREAS located on the Property is an unsightly or dangerous condition due to an accumulation of debris including but not limited to tires, scrap wood, plywood, scrap metal, tarps, plastic buckets, broken chairs, metal drums, propane tanks, metal grates, pallets, gas cans, milk crates, freezer, doors, PVC piping, lattice, and other scattered debris, in accordance with Section 3(q) of the Charter;

TAKE NOTICE that you are hereby Ordered to remedy the condition of the Property by removing the accumulation of debris including but not limited to tires, scrap wood, plywood, scrap metal, tarps, plastic buckets, broken chairs, metal drums, propane tanks, metal grates, pallets, gas cans, milk crates, freezer, doors, PVC piping, lattice, and other scattered debris, so as to leave the Property in a neat, tidy, environmentally compliant and safe condition;

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AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that your failure to comply with the requirements of this Order within seven (7) days after service, the Administrator, or any person authorized by the Administrator, may enter upon the Property without warrant or other legal process and carry out the work specified in this Order.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that the costs of complying with this Order, including the cost of completing the work specified herein, incurred by the Halifax Regional Municipality ("HRM") or its agents, is a debt payable by you to HRM and that HRM has a first lien on the Property in the amount of the debt which may be collected in the same manner and with the same rights and remedies as rates and taxes pursuant to the Charter;

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that upon service of this Order any person who aids, assists, permits or causes a dangerous or unsightly condition or fails to comply with the terms of this Order is liable on summary conviction to a penalty of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) and not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) and every day during which the condition is not remedied is a separate offense.

DATED at Halifax, Nova Scotia this 22ND of May 2024.

Original Signed

TANYA PHILLIPS Administrator Halifax Regional Municipality

RYAN MACNEIL COMPLIANCE OFFICER Phone: 902-478-1203

Lovasi-Wood, Andrea

Subject: FW: [External Email] 213 +215

Attachments: PXL_20240524_184011853.jpg; PXL_20240524_184011853.jpg

From:

Sent: Friday, May 24, 2024 3:46 PM

To: Office, Clerks <clerks@halifax.ca <mailto:clerks@halifax.ca>>

Subject: [External Email] 213 +215

[This email has been received from an external person or system]

Good afternoon,

I am the personal representative for Edmond Walsh, the original property owner (my step father, deceased).

I am asking for an extension of time to have the property taken care of.

I am looking to have my situation heard in order to have a time extension in order to take care of the property.

Thank you, Natasha Dawson

HALIFAX

INTERNA		100
AN ORDER TO RE	OTICE OF APPEAL REGARDING	9
IN THE MATTER OF:	Property located at 213+ 215 Fraser Rd	
	Case # CF-2024-12468 /CF-2024-012470 PID#	BROCE
	Tax #	BROCK
1 Natasha Dawson		
Officer respecting the above noted	wish to file this Written Notice of Appeal in relation to d Property.	700
The reason for appeal is:		38
information, which is provided or obta	ained in relation to your appeal, will be a matter of public record.	3
Submitted by:		
☐ Property Owner(s) ☐ Guardian, ☐ Other, Please Specify*	Trustee, or Power of Attorney* ☐ Agent of Property Owner(s)*	
	*written authorization of property owner required	3300
DATED at Halifax, N	Jova Scotia this 24th day of May , 2024	
Natasha Dawson		
Legal Name of Appellant (please pr	rint) Signature of Appellant	
Preferred Name		
SEND TO:		
Office of the Municipal Clerk		
P.O. Box 1749 Halifax, NS B3J 3A5		
Fax: 902-490-4208		
Email: <u>clerks@halifax.ca</u>		12/1/2017
Deliver in person: City Hall, 1841 Ar	rgyle	
Street, Halifax (Mon-Fri, 8:30am-4:3		

City / Prov. / Postal Code

Address

REGISTERED

RECOMMANDÉ **RÉGIME INTÉRIEUR** REÇU DU CLIENT

CUSTOMER RECEIPT Destinataire

Adresse

1 888 550-6333

Ville / Prov. / Code posta

REGISTERED MAIL EMAIL -

Natasha Dawson

May 29, 2024

Re: Case CF-2024-012468, 213 Fraser Road, Williamswood and Case CF-2024-012470, 215 Fraser Road, Williamswood

This is to advise that your appeal will be heard by the Appeals Standing Committee on Thursday, July 11, 2024

This meeting will happen in-person in the Council Chamber at Halifax City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax. All visitors to City Hall must sign-in at the security desk and show government-issued photo ID; more detail is attached.

Please arrive for 10:00 a.m. but note that there may be other cases heard before yours on the agenda.

If you cannot attend in person and must participate using Zoom, please let me know no later than 4:30pm on the business day prior to the meeting.

The staff report for this matter will be posted online to the Appeals Standing Committee web page at Halifax.ca by end of day Friday, July 5, 2024. If you require a hard copy of the report, please contact our office.

If filing an appeal, be advised that your submission and appeal documents will form part of the public record, and will be posted on-line at www.halifax.ca. If you feel that information you consider to be personal is necessary for your appeal, please attach that as a separate document, clearly marked "PERSONAL". It will be provided to the Standing Committee and/or council members and staff, and will form part of the public record, but it will not be posted online. You will be contacted if there are any concerns.

Should you wish to include images, video or audio as part of your appeal presentation to the Standing Committee, you must notify me by end of day Tuesday, July 9, 2024 to allow for technical preparation and testing.

Should you be unable to attend, you may have a representative attend to present the appeal to the Standing Committee. Please note that your representative is required to have a letter signed by you giving permission. You or your representative may have witnesses or other evidence in support of the appeal and will be permitted up to 10 minutes to make a verbal submission. A copy of the appeals process is attached. If neither you nor a representative appears, the hearing will proceed and you will be advised of the Standing Committee's decision.



If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact me at 902-240-7164 and lovasia@halifax.ca.

Sincerely,

Original Signed

Andrea Lovasi-Wood Legislative Assistant Office of the Municipal Clerk

cc: Tanya Phillips, Manager, By-law Standards Scott Hill, Supervisor, Regional Compliance Vicki Aguinaga, Supervisor, Support Services Michelle LaPierre, Adjudication Clerk Blair Leger, Adjudication Clerk Ryan MacNeil, Compliance Officer

Enclosures:

Information – Attending In Person Meetings

Order of Proceedings for Appeals Standing Committee

Attending In-Person Meetings

There are sign-in procedures in place for everyone visiting Halifax City Hall for all meetings and events.

All visitors, including media, must sign-in at the security desk, located at the main (Grand Parade) entrance of City Hall. Visitors who use the accessible entrance on Argyle Street will be escorted to the security desk by staff.

All visitors must present federal, provincial, or territorial government-issued photo ID to security. They also must provide their first and last name and the reason for their visit. If a visitor does not have government issued photo ID, they may present two pieces of federal, provincial, or territorial government-issued ID, two pieces of documentation (e.g. bills) or a combination of two pieces of government-issued ID/documentation as long as they both include their first and last name.

For children younger than 18, one piece of government-issued identification, such as an original birth certificate, health card, passport or non-government-issued ID (e.g. student card) is recommended but not mandatory as long as the child is accompanying a parent/guardian.

Once signed-in, visitors will be given a visitor badge to wear while they're in City Hall. This badge must be visible during their entire visit and be returned to security staff as they're leaving the building

If visitors require the use of an elevator, they can notify a member of staff who can assist.

Visitors are reminded that no signs or placards are permitted in City Hall.

For questions about attending a meeting in City Hall, contact the Municipal Clerk's Office.

https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/regional-council/attending-person-meetings

Order of Proceedings for Appeals Standing Committee

The Chair will open each of the hearings and address the following:

- The Chair will ask the Appellant (property owner) to identify themselves and provide their contact information
- If a person is appearing on behalf of an Appellant who is not present (legal counsel, family member, friend), they must provide written authorization to act on the Appellant's behalf
- The Chair will briefly explain the hearing will proceed (as follows):
- <u>Staff Presentation</u>: The HRM staff presenter explains the basis for the order under review and presents evidence in support of the order (including any documents or recent photos of the property, if applicable)
- The Committee may ask questions of the HRM staff presenter for clarification
- The Appellant may ask questions of the HRM staff presenter for clarification
- Non-party witnesses* may be permitted to provide factual evidence relevant to the appeal
- The Appellant may ask questions of non-party witnesses for clarification
- Appellant's Presentation: The Appellant is granted reasonable time to present evidence in support of the appeal (documents/photos/witnesses)
- The Committee may ask questions to the Appellant and/or their witnesses
- The Appellant or their representative is then permitted up to 10 minutes to make a verbal submission in support of their case to reverse the order
- The Committee may ask questions to the Appellant and also further questions of HRM staff (subject to Appellant's response to the answers)
- Staff may ask questions to the Appellant (subject to Appellant's response to the answers)
- The Committee then debates their decision and renders a decision with the Appellant or their representative present
- Upon motion the Committee may move In Camera (In Private) to obtain confidential legal advice at any time during the process
- The Committee has four (4) options:
 - o cancel the order (allow the appeal)
 - amend the order (change the conditions)
 - keep the order as is (appeal dismissed)
 - o continue the hearing at a later date (defer)

*Non-Party Witnesses

Persons who are not parties to the appeal may be permitted to provide relevant evidence of factual matters within their personal knowledge to the Appeals Standing Committee. Non-party witnesses will be given an appropriate amount of time to present their information.

Hearings of the Appeals Standing Committee are open to the public and any information, including personal information, which is provided or obtained in relation to your appeal, will be a matter of public record.

The Appeals Standing Committee meetings begin at 10:00 a.m. and cases will be heard as they appear on the approved agenda.