

Nova Scotia Road Naming Policy

Policy Statement

This policy provides direction on what names are acceptable, the road naming process and which road surfaces must be named.

Rationale

All provincial roads are named so they can be clearly identified, allow for emergency response and aid in the delivery of mail and other goods and services.

Policy Objectives

To ensure consistent and uniform naming standards and practices on all provincial roads.

Application

This policy applies directly to the Area Managers responsible for the naming of roads.

Accountability

The District Directors are accountable for the administration of this policy.

Monitoring

The District Directors will monitor the implementation, performance, and effectiveness of this policy.

Directives

1 Application

- 1.1 All roads must be assigned a name and listed in the Provincial Road Listing Database. This includes all road classifications, both maintained and unmaintained.
- 1.2 Roads include 100-series highways, trunks, routes, local roads, service roads, median crossovers, ramps, roundabouts, connectors and unmaintained roads.
- 1.3 All roads will be assigned a unique authority number.

2 Naming and Renaming of Roads

- 2.1 The naming and renaming of a road must be coordinated by the Road Listing Coordinator, Maintenance and Operations. The renaming of a road and naming of an unlisted road must be approved by the Executive Director, Maintenance and Operations. The Minister must approve road names of newly acquired roads.
- 2.2 The renaming of a road must only be considered when duplication of the name occurs within the county, locating the road poses a problem for emergency responders, for historical reasons or for other reasons that are deemed acceptable by the Department.

3 Rejected Road Names

- 3.1 Municipalities are encouraged to provide two alternate road name choices on the petition to resident(s). If the primary road name choice is rejected, an alternate name can be used instead.
- 3.2 If the proposed road name information provided is inaccurate, incomplete or does not agree with the evaluation criteria, the submission will be rejected. If a submission is rejected, the rationale will be communicated to the local Area Manager.

4 Evaluation Criteria for Name Selection

- 4.1 The road name must embody the following criteria:
 - easy to pronounce
 - recognizable words or acceptable combinations of words
 - easy to spell
 - must be in good taste
 - consideration must be given to the long-standing local usage of the name by the local public
- 4.2 Names submitted with special characters (ie. hyphen, genitive apostrophe, etc) will be accepted only if the special characters are found in a subset of the extended ASCII character set. This subset does not include stylized symbols such as #, %, etc.

- 4.3 Qualifying words must be avoided but may be accepted in cases where the qualifier has been applied in an official context (ie. Nova Scotia Gazetteer). For example: upper, lower, new, old, etc.
- 4.4 The road type must be chosen from the standard list of prefixes and suffixes as outlined in section six (6) of this policy. All names must have an associated road type.
- 4.5 Road names may be displayed in French or English or both, in the following five Acadian Regions:
- 1 The Municipality of the District of Argyle
 - 2 The Municipality of the District of Claire
 - 3 Pomquet - the area bounded by: the southside Harbour Road to the west, Highway 104 to the south, Pomquet Harbour to the east, and the Northumberland Strait to the north
 - 4 Cheticamp - the area along the Cabot Trail from St. Joseph du Moine to the Highlands National Park boundary
 - 5 The Municipality of the County of Richmond

if the request is supported by a Resolution of Council, from the Municipal Council of the community in which the road is located.

- a) Wherever possible, a bilingual road name sign will be placed in a format that displays:

Ch. ROADNAME Rd

or

Rue STREETNAME St.

- b) Where the residents of a road/street, prefer the name to be displayed only in a translation of the official name as listed in the Department's Road Listing Database, the residents will be required to apply to have the official road name changed. A request for a change to the official road name must be presented in the form of a Resolution of Council, from the

Municipal Council of the community in which the road is located. In Halifax Regional Municipality, the Municipal Administrative staff approves it.

- 4.6 Road names, including road type, must have no more than 35 characters (including special characters and spaces).
- 4.7 A personal name (a combination of given name and surname) must not be applied to a road unless such application is in the public interest. The person commemorated must have contributed significantly to the area where the road is located. The adoption of a personal name during the lifetime of the person concerned must only be made in exceptional circumstances. Ownership of land must not in itself be grounds for the application of the owner's name to the road. In fact, ownership of the land must not confer upon the owner the right to name the road without consultation with the other resident(s).
- 4.8 No formal titles of distinction will be associated with the personal name ie. Captain, Major, Reverend, etc.
- 4.9 Company or commercial product names, as well as names associated with copyright or trademarks must be avoided.
- 4.10 Fifty percent plus 1 of property owners must agree on a name for it to be approved. A signed petition by property owners acts as agreement of a road name.
- 4.11 The spelling and accenting of names must agree with the rules of the language in which they are written.

5 Comparison and Checks

- 5.1 Where a new road is a continuation of an existing road, the new road will be given the same name as the existing road.
- 5.2 There will be no duplication of road names within a county.

5.3 There must be no like-sounding names within a county such as Smith, Smyth, Smythe and Smith's.

5.4 If the road is named after a geographic feature, the name must reflect the official name as found in the Nova Scotia Gazetteer.

6 Road Types

6.1 Road type designations, depending on roadway function, length and configuration exist to define the character of a road. The following designations should be used:

Prefixes: Allee, Autoroute, Avenue, Boulevard, Carre, Carrefour, Cercle, Chemin, Cote, Croissant, Esplanade, Parc, Promenade, Ruelle, Rue, Terrasse, Vale.

Suffixes: Alley, Avenue, Boulevard, Branch, Bypass, Circle, Close, Connector, Corner, Court, Crescent, Cross, Dell, Diversion, Drive, Estates, Extension, Gate, Glen, Green, Grove, Heights, Hill, Landing, Lane, Line, Loop, Park, Parkway, Path, Place, Ramp, Ridge, Road, Rotary, Route, Row, Run, Street, Square, Terrace, Trail, Walk, Way, Wood.

Guidelines

None

References

TIR Manual - "Nova Scotia Road Naming Procedure" (PR5105)
Nova Scotia Civic Address File Pilot Project Final Report - Road Naming Guidelines

Enquiries

Road Listing Coordinator, Maintenance and Operations, Highway Programs
Director Operation Services

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