

March 18/23

Mitchell Conrad  
Department of Public Works  
499 Jubilee Road  
Bridgewater, NS  
B4V 2A7

Hi Mitchell,

**Brush and tree mulching, Highway #12, Seffernville, Nova Scotia**

My name is Sharon Millett. As I am writing this letter, your mulcher machine is mowing down my living fence, as explained to several people on the phone from your department today, to no avail, keeps the road smog from my organic vegetable garden. As the machine came closer to the fence I spoke to several people on the sign crew and managing to catch up to the head told him that I had called the Dept., to voice my concerns and no one got back to me. I asked him if he could get the guy driving the machine to not mulch down my fence. He said it wasn't up to him, that he was just hired for the sign work and when asked if he could call the people to call off the mulcher he said he doesn't speak to those people, the people who hired him. I next went to see if I could speak to the person operating the mulcher and I finally got his attention. I explained the situation to him and he said he could go back 50 feet. I explained that we ourselves keep the bushes back because the Dept., doesn't. I asked him if he'd been speaking with anyone about my living fence, he had, and the response was only in regard to, we can go 50 feet from the center line and to make sure he stays within that. He also stated that he was just doing his job and that that's what he was hired for.

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Here's the problem I have. You have done no bush cutting on the sides of the roads for many years and then when it gets to the point of getting out of hand you bring in mulcher machines that require sign people, a huge machine that takes up half the road, rips and tears at the trees and leaves a mess behind. It takes several years to heal over the mess the machine makes. If you would do regular maintenance of the road you would not need the big mulching machinery, the noise, re-routing traffic, etc., Regular maintenance of the bushes on the road requires bush saws and chain saws and does not leave a path of destruction. Regular maintenance of the bushes means the trees and bushes do not get to the size that requires big machinery to come in and mow them down, does not require sign people as there is no machinery out in the road.

Here's the other problem I have. You have no respect for the people you serve, someone with respect would have called me back to address my concern, the people who are paying you to keep their highways safe by keeping the bushes and trees from growing out into the road, as stated by the head of the sign people, they are doing the work to keep the animals from coming out into the road. So nobody cared for the past 20 years as the growth was growing out into the road, just now? I also have a problem that there is no supervisor on hand to speak with today, every person I spoke with in person here today passed the buck to the next person. As I discussed with your mulcher driver today to keep him away from my living fence, we have been clearing the bushes ourselves because no one else has been, leaving our fence intact.

You have created a very unpeaceful situation here with your refusal to speak to me in person as I had to flag down the mulcher driver to get someone to speak to about my situation (to no avail). How safe is that?

Sharon Millett

Resident of highway 12