



TOWN OF OXFORD

**Committee of the Whole Meeting**

Oxford Fire Hall, 115 Waverly Street, Oxford and Zoom

Monday, April 3, 2023

6 pm

**AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**3. Presentation**

- 3.1 Nova Scotia Power – Our Reliability Tie build in your community – **Mary Black**, Stakeholder Lead, Nova Scotia Power and **Terry Toner**, Senior Director of Strategic Environmental Projects, Nova Scotia Power– *presentation will be handed out at meeting.*

**4. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

- 4.1 Committee of the Whole Minutes – March 6, 2023

**5. Reports of Town Departments**

- 4.1 Public Works Report – *Nick Purdy presenting - report included in package.*
- 4.2 Fire Department Report – *Bruce Rushton presenting – report will be handed out separately.*
- 4.3 Municipal Physical Activity Leader (MPAL) Reports – *Jimmy Ward presenting – (OTA Quote for parking lot, gopher quote – pickleball, Wellness Policy, March into Spring Attendance, and March Report) are included in package.*
- 4.4 Administration Department Report – *Linda Cloney presenting – report included in package and will add a verbal report for minutes.*

**6. Reports of Committees and Boards**

- 5.1 Q4 update from PVSC – *Linda Cloney presenting – information included in package.*
- 5.2 Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee Update– Councillor Black – *approved minutes included in package.*
- 5.3 Northern Region Meeting Update – Councillor McNutt - *approved minutes and What we heard (C&D guidelines) included in package.*

## **7. Items of Discussion and Correspondence**

- 7.1 Clean up Downtown – *Councillor McNutt*
- 7.2 New Act – Off highway vehicles – *Mayor Henley – information included in package.*
- 7.3 Join Us In Cumberland – press release – *information included in package.*
- 7.4 Transfer Station / Curbside discussion on public input – *discussion*
- 7.5 Sustainable Services Growth Fund (SSGF) – *Mayor Henley – information included in package.*

## **8. Adjournment**



## Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting

Place: Council Chambers, Zoom, streamed-live to Facebook  
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023  
Presiding Officer: Mayor Greg Henley  
Councillors Present: Carla Black, Paul Jones, Chrystal McNutt, Brenton Colborne, and Deputy Mayor Arnold MacDonald.  
Regrets: Nil

***A quorum was present throughout the meeting.***

Staff in attendance: Linda Cloney - CAO, Stan McDougall - Admin Assistant (recording secretary), Bruce Rushton (Fire Chief), and Nick Purdy (Public Works)

### **Announcements Prior to Call to Order:**

Prior to calling the meeting to order, Mayor Henley made the following announcement:

Nominations for the open council seat closes March 7, 2023, at 5:00 PM. Mayor Henley discussed that it does take some time to prepare the paperwork so if interested, do not wait until the last minute to file. On Wednesday, the candidates' names will be released and it is the day that a candidate may take his/her name off of the list.

The Festival of Colours will be held at the Oxford Legion Saturday March 11, 2023, and Mayor Henley called on Councillor Black to review. Councillor Black presented that the festival of colours will be from 1:30 to 3:30 PM. Wear a white T-Shirt, colour will be thrown and international food and music to celebrate. The event is free of charge.

Next week is march break for the kids. A calendar was published through Jimmy Ward, MPAL and a variety of activities are planned for all ages.

### **1. Call to Order**

At 6:01 PM, Mayor Henley called the meeting to order.

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Deputy Mayor MacDonald

that the agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting for March 6, 2023, be approved, as presented.

***Motion Carried***

### **3. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

3.1 Committee of the Whole Minutes – February 6, 2023

***Approved by*** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mayor Greg Henley, Chair, on March 6, 2023**

### **4. Reports of Town Departments**

4.1 Public Works Report – *Nick Purdy presenting - report included in package.*

4.2 Fire Department Report – *Bruce Rushton presenting – report included in package.*

4.3 Municipal Physical Activity Leader (MPAL) Report – Councillor McNutt *presenting – report included in package.*

4.4 Administration Department Report – *Linda Cloney presenting – report included in package.*

Moved by Councillor Colborne and seconded by Councillor McNutt to accept the reports as presented.

***Motion Carried***

### **5. Reports of Committees and Boards**

5.1 Intermunicipal Poverty Reduction Update – *verbal report from Councillor Black*

5.2 Accessibility Committee – *January minutes in package – verbal update from Deputy Mayor MacDonald*

5.3 Library Report – *report included in package.*

5.4 Public Works Committee – *verbal update – Councillor Jones*

5.5 All Saints Community Health Care Foundation – *report included in package – Linda Cloney presenting.*

5.6 Solid Waste Management Report – *included in package – Linda Cloney presenting.*

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacDonald and seconded by Councillor Jones to accept the reports as presented.

***Motion Carried***

## **6. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:18 PM

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**Mayor Greg Henley, Chair**

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**Stan McDougall, Admin Assistant**

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**Date Approved**

DRAFT

## **Public Works Report March 2023**

**Salted and plowed street and sidewalks as needed.**

**Greased all machines.**

**Safety meeting**

**Topped up salt bins.**

**Filled pot holes with reclaim (Water street, Main street, Eureka Street, Station street and Foundry street)**

**Repaired electrical on sewer pump at main street lift station.**

**Street clearing from March 3<sup>rd</sup> storm.**

**Cleared snow away from fire hydrants.**

**Cleared snow away from fire exits on town buildings.**

**JCB backhoe broke down for most of March.**

**Made adjustment to wing on 624 plow.**

**Cleared snow at wells, chlorine building and water storage tanks.**

**Repaired lights on 544 loader.**

**Repaired water meters.**

**Weekly garbage collection.**

**Removed wreath at town hall.**

**Weekly water checks.**

**Kubota tractor sent away for repairs.**

**Salt truck down for repairs.**

**½ ton truck broke most of the month.**

**Water meter reads for house closings.**

**Repaired stop sign at school.**

**Added more reclaim in potholes around town.**

**Cleared brush around town shop.**

**Installed new lock at transfer site.**

**Removed manure at exhibition.**

**Repaired door hinge at theatre**

**Installed new floats at water street lift station.**

**Repaired lids on main street lift station so they can be locked**

**Water break foundry street**

**Added reclaim to sidewalk on water street.**

**Started spring clean up around town.**

**Added new stop and street signs to sevenlee way.**

**Used 544 loader to back drag (meadow lane, sunset ave, station street)**

**Pylon jammed in sewer chamber on water street.**

**Any questions feel free to reach out, Thanks.**

**Nick Purdy**

**Public Works Supervisor**

**902-397-3002**



*Quality work with attention to detail*

# QUOTE

Jackson's Lawn Care Services  
**910 Cove Road, Oxford**  
**902 297-2953**  
**jacksonblack@eastlink.ca**

DATE: 24/02/2023  
 EXPIRATION DATE  
 N/A

**TO Oxford Trail Association**

SALESPERSON	JOB	PAYMENT TERMS
Jackson Black		30 days from date of invoice

DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	LINE TOTAL
Trail parking an privacy fence		
Float fee		\$200
excavation	\$100 hr	\$1000
10 loads of fill taken out	\$100 per load	\$1000
10 loads of gravel. 7 class A. 3 granite crusher dust	~\$450 per load	\$4500
labor		\$500
Privacy fence		\$1500
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,700</b>
		<b>\$1,305</b>
	<b>TOTAL W/HST</b>	<b>\$10,005</b>

Quotation prepared by: *Jackson Black*

(Proof of liability insurance and personal workers compensation will be available prior to service starting date)

To accept this quotation, sign here and return: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your business!



# Shipping Confirmation

Order #: OR260830  
Your PO:  
Customer Number: 1338820  
Order Date: 27-Mar-2023  
Shipping Date: 28-Mar-2023

**Ship To:**

Town of Oxford  
105 Lower Main Street  
Oxford NS B0M1P0  
Canada

**Shipping Contact:**

Est Ship Date		Qty Ordered	Qty Shipped
27-Mar-2023	<b>56-008</b> ClassPlus PaddlePro Pickle-Ball Set - Premium 4-Court, High School	1	1
27-Mar-2023	<b>01-286</b> Deluxe ClassPlus Before and After School Pack - 160 Pieces	1	1
27-Mar-2023	<b>70-049</b> ClassPlus Agility Pack	1	1
27-Mar-2023	<b>21-824</b> Gopher Dry-Erase Sports Clipboards - Football	1	1

Customs, duties, and clearance fees are included in the Shipping, Handling & processing total.

Thanks for your order! Tracking numbers are below for your reference.

XPO-STANDARD : 946976052. Unable to link to carrier tracking.

Tracking details must be processed by the carrier and are not available immediately. Orders with multiple items, over-sized items or items directly from the manufacturer will arrive separately.



**Unconditional 100% Satisfaction Guarantee**

**Unconditional 100% Satisfaction Guarantee**

Your satisfaction is our #1 concern. If you are not satisfied with your purchase for any reason at any time, contact us and we will replace the product, credit your account, or refund the purchase price. No questions. No hassles. No exclusions. No kidding!

Phone: 800-533-0446

Fax: 800-451-4855

customer@gophersport.com

Phone: 507-451-7470

International Customers:  
globalservices@gophersport.com

Fax: 507-451-4755



369809



# Workplace Wellness Policy

**The town of Oxford is committed to providing a healthy and safe work environment for its employees.**

## **1. TITLE:**

1.1. This policy may be referred to as “Workplace Wellness Policy”.

## **2. PURPOSE:**

2.1. A healthy workplace leads to improved satisfaction, employee morale, and a more effective workplace. The purpose of this policy is to encourage, support and offer health related programs that will assist employees and elected officials in improving their own physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing.

## **3. OBJECTIVE:**

3.1. The objectives of this policy are to:

- Improve understanding of workplace issues that impact the health and wellbeing of municipal employees and elected officials.
- Provide a work environment that will foster employee health and wellbeing.
- Build the knowledge, skills, and ability of employees to take ownership of their wellbeing by helping individuals become actively involved in improving their personal health.

## **4. INTERPRETATION:**

4.1. In this policy:

- Physical Environment (workplace) refers to health, comfort, and safety factors of a workplace such as noise levels, toxic substances, air quality, light levels, equipment and design or workspace.
- Health Practices refer to individual lifestyle practices that affect health such as physical activity, eating habits, sleeping habits, as well as smoking, alcohol, and drug/substance abuse.
- Social Environment refers to psychological factors of a workplace that affect health and employee stress levels such as respectful work environment, reasonableness of deadlines, organization and design of work, opportunities to influence how tasks are done, adequacy of training and development and the interplay of home and work responsibilities.



## Workplace Wellness Policy

- Personal References refers to the means in which individuals cope with stress, the sense of control they have over their work and health and the perception there is support available during times of illness, distress, or unhappiness.
- Senior Management refers to the Chief Administrative Officer and the directors of each department.

### 5. POLICY GUIDELINES:

- 5.1. This policy applies to all full-time employees and elected officials of the Town of Oxford.
- 5.2. The Town of Oxford recognizes that it's ability to achieve its goals and objectives is dependent upon the well being of employees and elected officials.
- 5.3. The Town of Oxford acknowledges that the key elements of a healthy workplace include the physical environment, health practices, social environment, and personal resources. It is also recognized that these broad factors are independent and must be considered as part of a holistic approach to a healthy workplace and employee wellbeing.
- 5.4. To facilitate this policy, the Town will:
  - Provide a healthy and safe physical workplace environment.
  - Support flexible work arrangements as operation allows.
  - Administer program funds and provide support for a healthy workplace.
  - Facilitate an employee's efforts to make improvements in their health practices.
  - Organize wellness education sessions relating to mental, physical, and emotional wellness.
  - Improve employee access to healthy snack options in the workplace by providing healthy food options during events, meetings, etc.
  - Support access to the Employee & Family Assistance Plan (EFAP) which provides confidential help for a wide range of concerns at no cost or minimal costs to the employee.
  - Encourage friendly fitness and wellness competitions.
  - Develop resources for employees to help them cope with the social and professional aspects of their lives.



## Workplace Wellness Policy

- 5.5. Full-time municipal employees are eligible for receiving a financial incentive of up to \$200.00 per year (April 1<sup>st</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>) towards a membership or program that is intended to improve the employee's wellness. Eligible expenses/programs include but are not limited to:
- Fitness center membership.
  - Structured exercise classes.
  - Healthy eating programs.
  - Tobacco cessation programs.
  - Team or individual sport registration.
  - Fitness equipment.
  - Any other reasonable wellness expenses that are not listed which will be taken to Senior Management for review.
- 5.6. Receipt of payment and completion of expense claim form referencing this policy is required for reimbursement.
- 5.7. Participation in the program is voluntary and requires a sign-up form to be filled out by the employee.

### **6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- 6.1. The following outlines the roles and responsibilities of staff in regard to the Workplace Wellness Policy.
- 6.2. The Workplace Wellness Committee at the Town of Oxford will be responsible for:
- Assess employee wellness needs by actively seeking input from employees and Council.
  - Develop and implement wellness initiatives to address the needs of employees and council.
  - Provide information that can support decisions to participate in health promotion programming.
  - Administer the workplace wellness budget.
  - Meet on a quarterly basis.



## Workplace Wellness Policy

### 6.3. Senior Management Team Responsibilities:

- Keep employees up to date on healthy workplace activities and programs.
- Support and encourage employee involvement in the wellness program as a component of professional development.
- Contribute ideas, opinions, and expertise to the work of the Workplace Wellness Committee.
- Participate in the program, activities, and resources provided through the wellness program and provide healthy food options for meetings, training and other events associated with the Town.
- Review and revise human resource policies that impact employees' health to ensure that they support and are consistent with the Workplace Wellness Policy.

## 7. COMMUNICATION, TRAINING AND IMPLEMENTATION:

7.1. A healthy workplace policy requires organization-wide participation. Employee participation can include developing, implementing, and reviewing health actions and policies, involvement in planning lifestyle health promotion programs at work, identifying problems, devising solutions, and then implementing and evaluating these solutions.

- Employees are encouraged to participate in any or all programs that are made available to them and that help them meet their individual and collective wellness needs.
- On an annual basis, employees and Council will be surveyed to determine which wellness initiatives are important to them. These results will be compiled and analyzed by the Workplace Wellness Committee to recommend sessions and initiatives for the coming year.
- Any workplace wellness initiatives will be communicated through email and departmental promotion.

## 8. EVALUATION:

8.1. The workplace wellness policy will be evaluated through use of data and trends indicating outcomes. A program review will be conducted on an annual basis by the Workplace Wellness Committee and a report provided to the Senior Management Team and Municipal Council.



# Workplace Wellness Policy

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## CAO's Annotation for Official Policy Book

Date of Notice to Council Members of Intent

To Consider (Minimum 7 Days): **April 03, 2023**

Date of Passage of Current Policy:

I certify that this Policy was adopted by the Council as indicated above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# March Into Spring

## Oxford's Stars on Ice

Need's more planning next year

Get the Fire Dept involved earlier

## Planting

- 16 kids, 6 adults - great space - 2 hrs was too long

Supply list: Seeds Trays, Soil, Labels, Plastic wrap, Elastic bands,

Markers, Spray bottles/small watering can

Should have plant labels and better pots to make it easier for people to take him

Ideas - cover the tables with plastic first for easier clean-up

Future classes - different stages of growing, harvest season, etc...

## St. Patricks Day Free Skate

- 18 attended - not really able to dress up

## Sledding

Not able to do due to the weather

## Photo Scavenger Hunt

- 9 kids - was very cold, better turn out if it was warmer

## Low Impact Senior Fitness

- 2 seniors

## **Family Movie**

- 50 + people - have popcorn, chocolate bars, water - all \$1.00 each (movie was free)

## **Cooking Camp**

- 10 kids pre-registered, 9 attended

Bring scissors, garbage bags, paper towel, wipes, dish cloth/towels/detergent

2 hrs was perfect - baked goods first, then meal, then eat & a couple of games

## **Sports Days**

- No one show probably due to the weather

## **Bunny Trail Hike**

- Weather not great - only 5 - maybe P-6 next year

Bird Feeder Supplies:

Lard, two packs

Bird seed

Cotton string/twine to hang

Paper tubes (toilet paper/paper towel) with holes pre-punched

Egg cartons with holes pre-punched

Paper plates for kids to work on

Butter knives to spread the lard

Wipes for hands

Garbage bag

Should do next year - the "What do you see/hear/feel" treasure hunt sheets

Ideas for next year - earlier in the week (other camps) make bird seed cookies for the hike and paint rocks and place them on the trail

## **Neon Nights Glow Dance**

- Over 100 kids attended

No free food as it gets dumped out and makes a mess

No balloons, no hanging lights

Don't say it's a glow dance as some kids brought their own glow sticks that got "stolen"

Legion may be a better location (if we can get it for free)

Maybe a canteen, if the kids have to pay maybe they wouldn't dump food out????

Could possibly have a dance for pre-primary

## **Family Curing Day**

2 families attended

**Jimmy Ward**

**Municipal Physical Activity Leader**

### **March Board Report**

- **March Into Spring**

- March into Spring Week (During March Break) there were offerings every day from March 11<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Attached is a list of events with a rundown of what was used, notes on how the event went and the number of people that attended each event.

- **Holi Festival of Colors**

- March 11<sup>th</sup> at the Legion.
- The Town of Oxford Welcoming Committee and the Recreation Commission partnered with the SOAR health board, Multicultural Association of Cumberland and Y Reach.
- Multi-Cultural Event which celebrates a popular Festival held in India and Nepal.
- Music, food, dancing and throwing of powdered colors to celebrate the changing of seasons.
- Approximately 60 people in attendance

- **Access-Ability Grant**

- Grant of \$10,000 to the Oxford & Area Trails Association
- Work to be done on the parking lot by the Water Street Gazebo.
- See attached quote from Jackson Black (Little River Landscaping)
- Property is Town Land, no building permit needed (As per Andrew Fisher)
- Approval from council to move forward with the project?

- **District Grant**

- Purchased Pickleball and sports equipment from Gopher Fitness.
- See attached Shipping Confirmation for complete list of equipment ordered.

- **Workplace Wellness Policy**

- Please see attached Policy for review and approval.

- **Health and Safety Committee**

- Voted in as Head of the committee on March 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Meeting with the leads of each department to prioritize action items on the list according to budget.

- **Basketball and Pickleball**

- Happening at the school every Tuesday from 8 – 9:30pm. Cost is \$2 per person each night which will go toward covering the school's rental fee.

- **Walking Group**

- Meet every Wednesday at 6pm at the Gazebo for a gentle walk. Everyone is welcome.

To End of March 2023:

- **Medavie Blue Cross Health Plan** – meeting with Linda, Ruthann and Staff regarding signup for the plan. Organized applications and submitted list of names of those starting the plan April 1 to Linda. Data entry into the plan portal to follow.
- **Updating Water Meter Sheets** – updated and printed the water meter reading sheets so to prepare for readings to be taken for the next water Bill.
- **Town of Oxford updated website training** – virtual session with Jeff Hanshaw on the new website – to go over any questions we might have.
- **Special Election 2023** – Filed papers for two Councillor candidates, met with both candidates to review the candidate’s package, forms, and basic requirements. Email correspondence with the two candidates up to withdrawal day. Assisted one candidate in filing out the forms to remove their name from candidacy resulting in an acclamation for the other. Contacted the acclaimed candidate – Councillor Oliva Canning, and posted the ad for the acclaimed Councillor on Town website and social media. Notified the newspaper and reviewed the acclamation with Linda. Signage was removed from external postings. Posted Acclamation notice on town hall windows. Sent, reviewed and approval of acclamation advertisement to be printed in the newspaper on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Filed all Election paperwork in safe. Created a copy of the master Councillor Orientation Information package into a binder for Oliva. Went over final signing of paperwork with Oliva and returned election deposit to Oliva prior to Councillor orientation with Linda.
- **IT Assistance** - setup a laptop for the mayor and reset the mayor’s ipad to be given to Councillor Canning. Setup Councillor Canning with a GMAIL email address and used this address to setup iCloud as well. Directed Councillor Canning to Tammy Teed to get her password for her email reset. Other IT assistance/desk-side support requests for application/printing/email assistance from staff as required.
- **Town Hall Roof** - assist public works, Linda as per a request from Councillor Jones to coordinate further information for references from a roof quote submitted by Mario from NewBrunswick. Forwarded a roof quote sent by Nick to Linda from Fosco Roofing.
- **Health & Safety Meeting Agenda’s** – updated and prepare the agenda package for the Health & Safety Committee Meeting and completing minutes for the meeting held March 9, 2023.
- **Public Works** – IT assistance to Public Works Superintendent David Mattinson, for SCADA access and updates to laptop – SCADA computer rebooted, obtain new credentials for TeamViewer for David and test with David’s laptop. Install updates to David’s laptop that were pending.
- **Tax Sale 2023** – Created Tax Sale Packages of each property listed on the tax sale notice (to be available for people coming in wanting information). Posted Tax Sale packages on the Town of Oxford Website under Town Hall / Tax Sale. Assisting to laminate notices to be posted on stakes and buildings, assembling of letters of notice of sale, creating of mailing labels and checking addresses and applying postage, etc.

- **AMANS Backup Basics – Best Defenses** – Teams Webinar from Truro IT Manager for backup strategies to defend against Ransomware.
- **Vendor Inquiries** – to obtain statements to compare against invoices submitted. [Scott's Independent], etc.
- **Grants** – keeping a watchful eye out for funding announcements and grants to help with budget and availability of funds for the Town of Oxford to apply for to improve services and facilities.
- **Bill Payments** – Accounts Payable - Paid bills through Scotia Bank as required (Bell Alliant, Bell Mobility, NS Power, Eastward Energy, etc. Alignment of receipts against statements for Irving, Scott's Independent and others as required.
- **Eastlink upgrades** – assisted with Linda, Eastlink Tech Support and Amherst IT in upgrades to the Internet at the Town Hall, Public Works garage, and Oxford Fire. Coordinate Eastlink through to Nick to install an Internet signal booster at the Public Works garage as per Linda and Nick's request to allow for coverage in the entire garage.
- **Interest Posting** in TownSuite for Property and Water taxes for March 1, 2023.
- **Payroll** - Analysis and review of recent approval of wage increases to Oxford Staff and Public Works regarding the recently signed CUPE contract to cover back pay and co-ordinate with Connie's Financial for wage increases April 1, 2023. Entry of hours submitted via paper timesheet by all employees and analysis thereof in payroll spreadsheet. Inquiring at times for clarification of hours (when required) from employees. Requesting information from Connie's Financial. Submission of payroll sheet to Connie's Financial and then processing payroll into Scotiabank online banking for pays. Payroll time allocation tracking for Public Works to assist Ruthann with current and future budgets. Setup of new employees including new Councillor in Payroll and on ScotiaBank as required.
- **Mid-Month Reporting** for Payroll (Manulife Pension, Union Dues, Workman's Comp, Source Deductions (Revenue Canada), and payment of these online.
- **Deposits to Sage**– posting deposit batches into Simply Accounting/Sage ongoing – generally daily.
- **Bills posted to Sage** – analysis and posting to Simply Accounting General and Water Operating for paid online, by cheque and by Visa as well as posting 58xx/1303 Due to Invoices to Water Operating.
- **Covering at the front desk** – when required - customer service for tax and water payments and general inquiries when Cathy or Cheryl are not at the front desk (lunches, etc).
- Committee and Council/COW meetings, printing packages, taking minutes, scanning, and uploading minutes to the website and to the file server for each (Health & Safety, COW, Council, Accessibility, Policing Services Review, etc.).
- Other administrative/clerical and general duties as required and on-going.

## Quarter 4 Update

### 31-day Appeal Period:

Between January 9 – February 9, PVSC received 8,548 inquiries, up 26% from last year. This was not unexpected based on the market, and we planned accordingly to manage the calls.

Results from a survey on the new PVSC website indicated that visitors found the information they were looking for and it was easy to navigate.

With the appeal period over, we now turn our attention to reviewing the 13,651 appeals received. With the increased volume of appeals (up 79% from last year), we are working to prioritize and organize the work to ensure appeals are processed in a timely manner.

For more information about the appeals in your municipality, please review the reports that were provided on the secure FTP site on March 1:

1. 2023 Appeal Summary
2. Appeal Inventory Report
3. 2023 Provincial Appeal Totals

The Appeal Summary and Appeal inventory reports are updated and posted monthly.

### Boundary Review:

With new municipal district boundaries being confirmed, we ask that you please inform the Service Desk of any changes once they are approved. This ensures that our systems and maps are updated accordingly.

### PVSC Service Desk

Property Valuation Services Corporation

1-800-380-7775 | F. 902-893-6101

[servicedesk@pvsc.ca](mailto:servicedesk@pvsc.ca) [www.pvsc.ca](http://www.pvsc.ca)

## 2023 PROVINCIAL APPEAL TOTALS Appeal Received within Appeal Period

	Taxable Residential / Resource	Taxable Commercial	Apartments	Exempt	Land Registry Related	Total Number of Appeals	Taxable Assessed Value
<b>WORK UNIT 1</b>							
20 ANNAPOLIS COUNTY	277	41	4	19	4	345	\$62,840,800
21 ANNAPOLIS ROYAL	15	5	0	0	0	20	\$5,211,600
23 DIST OF DIGBY	112	17	0	0	3	132	\$15,764,300
24 TOWN OF DIGBY	18	7	1	0	0	26	\$4,681,500
25 MIDDLETON	17	6	2	0	0	25	\$6,177,400
59 HANTS EAST	238	21	4	5	4	272	\$97,181,100
60 HANTS WEST	233	19	5	11	5	273	\$85,961,800
69 KINGS	436	39	8	6	3	492	\$187,035,700
70 BERWICK	42	1	7	0	0	50	\$17,965,000
71 KENTVILLE	47	17	7	0	0	71	\$36,849,500
72 WOLFVILLE	52	5	25	0	1	83	\$28,009,300
74 DIST OF CHESTER	185	20	0	6	1	212	\$66,901,200
75 DIST OF LUNENBURG	463	22	0	7	8	500	\$129,871,700
76 BRIDGEWATER	82	14	5	1	1	103	\$54,161,600
77 TOWN OF LUNENBURG	47	10	5	0	0	62	\$23,450,900
78 MAHONE BAY	26	2	0	0	0	28	\$9,275,300
87 BARRINGTON	75	10	0	0	1	86	\$17,840,600
88 CLARKS HARBOUR	4	0	0	2	0	6	\$1,491,700
89 QUEENS	364	22	0	6	1	393	\$59,679,400
91 LOCKEPORT	23	2	0	0	0	25	\$5,096,100
92 DIST OF SHELBURNE	112	12	0	1	1	126	\$15,806,500
93 TOWN OF SHELBURNE	28	7	0	0	1	36	\$3,293,900
95 ARGYLE	91	16	0	1	22	130	\$15,321,900
96 CLARE	95	17	0	6	10	128	\$13,839,800
97 DIST OF YARMOUTH	119	3	1	2	2	127	\$22,216,400
98 TOWN OF YARMOUTH	42	17	8	0	1	68	\$22,863,400
<b>WORK UNIT 1 TOTALS</b>	<b>3,243</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>3,819</b>	<b>\$1,008,788,400</b>
<b>WORK UNIT 2</b>							
54 HRM	3,987	724	882	14	24	5,631	\$8,465,845,600
<b>WORK UNIT 2 TOTALS</b>	<b>3,987</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>5,631</b>	<b>\$8,465,845,600</b>
<b>WORK UNIT 3</b>							

## 2023 PROVINCIAL APPEAL TOTALS Appeal Received within Appeal Period

	Taxable Residential / Resource	Taxable Commercial	Apartments	Exempt	Land Registry Related	Total Number of Appeals	Taxable Assessed Value
27 ANTIGONISH COUNTY	184	19	0	3	7	213	\$58,326,700
28 TOWN OF ANTIGONISH	22	8	0	0	1	31	\$14,726,400
30 GUYSBOROUGH	131	10	0	0	2	143	\$16,726,500
31 MULGRAVE	4	1	0	0	0	5	\$542,500
32 ST. MARYS	64	2	0	1	1	68	\$7,136,500
33 CBRM	593	63	7	4	14	681	\$249,052,800
43 COLCHESTER COUNTY	381	37	6	8	14	446	\$114,909,400
44 TRURO	72	25	11	2	2	112	\$91,904,700
45 STEWACKE	20	1	0	0	0	21	\$5,390,800
47 CUMBERLAND	305	36	3	13	12	369	\$52,692,500
48 AMHERST	59	29	6	0	0	94	\$49,500,700
49 OXFORD	16	4	4	0	0	24	\$27,198,700
64 INVERNESS	257	26	0	4	4	291	\$45,036,100
65 PORT HAWKESBURY	23	11	0	0	0	34	\$17,760,500
66 RICHMOND	171	9	5	1	3	189	\$26,092,000
67 VICTORIA	122	6	0	1	1	130	\$25,109,300
80 PICTOU COUNTY	355	15	1	8	10	389	\$74,186,000
81 NEW GLASGOW	119	12	8	0	1	140	\$39,401,600
82 TOWN OF PICTOU	39	11	0	0	0	50	\$17,797,000
83 STELLARTON	32	4	3	0	0	39	\$21,428,500
84 TRENTON	30	1	0	0	0	31	\$8,240,600
85 WESTVILLE	53	1	3	0	2	59	\$8,563,800
<b>WORK UNIT 3 TOTALS</b>	<b>3,052</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>3,559</b>	<b>\$971,723,600</b>
<b>REPORT TOTALS</b>	<b>10,282</b>	<b>1,407</b>	<b>1,021</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>13,009</b>	<b>\$10,446,357,600</b>

**TOWN OF AMHERST**  
**Advisory Committee to Reduce Poverty Issues**  
**Minutes**

**Date:** February 23, 2023  
**Time:** 4:30 pm  
**Location:** Council Chambers, Town Hall

**Members Present** Leon Landry, Town of Amherst, Deputy Mayor, Chairperson  
Carla Black, Town of Oxford Councillor  
Jennifer Houghtaling, Cumberland County, Councillor  
Evelyn Pollard, Town of Amherst, Citizen Representative  
Helen Read, Town of Oxford, Citizen Representative

**Members Regrets** Karen LeBlanc, Town of Amherst Citizen Representative  
Rachel Sovka, Cumberland County, Citizen Representative

**Members Absent** Alison Lair, Cumberland County, Citizen Representative  
Michele Cann, Town of Oxford Citizen Representative

**Staff Present** Natalie LeBlanc, Town of Amherst, Municipal Clerk  
Cindy Brown, Town of Amherst, Administrative Assistant  
Linda Cloney, Town of Oxford, CAO  
Stanley McDougall, Town of Oxford, Office Assistant  
Sharon Bristol, Town of Amherst, Director of Community Living  
Jason MacDonald, Town of Amherst, CAO

**Staff Absent** Shelley Hoeg-Eaton, Cumberland County, Municipal Clerk

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**1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

**1.1 Approval of Agenda**

**Moved By Jennifer Houghtaling**

**Seconded By Carla Black**

**That the agenda of the February 23, 2023 Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee Meeting to be approved as circulated.**

**Motion Carried**

**1.2 Approval of Minutes - January 19, 2023**

**Moved By Jennifer Houghtaling**

**Seconded By Carla Black**

**That the minutes of the January 19, 2023 Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee Meeting be approved as circulated.**

**Motion Carried**

## 2. Presentations

### 2.1 *In the Works - Ericka Caissie-Stone*

Ericka Caisse-Stone presented her 16-week program that offers support to young people ages 16 - 30 who are in recovery from mental illness and/or addictions. In The Works is Cumberland County wide organization, but the home office is in the Town of Amherst.

**Councillor Black**, asked if someone leaves the 16-week program can another person take that spot. Ericka stated they are working on what that will elaborate for the organization. The project they are working on is modeled on one that is in PEI called Expanding Your Reach. If someone removes themselves from the program, they do not necessary replace that person but they are not excluding that person from ever attending again either. It does depend on the timing of the person who removes themselves from the program, if it is early enough on if they can be absorbed and added to. But In the Works is not a continuous intake, we would be chunking into a specific time frame so we can have a structured program that people move through offerings of training sessions so we can maximize the sessions.

**Sharon Bristol**, wanted to know if anyone is living at the house currently. Sharon also asked how many people can be involved in the 16-week program and how they will be referred to the program. Ericka answered it is only be used as a means to provided the programing. When they started the permit the zoning for it became commercial. Ericka also said they will start the program off with ten people, and the she is currently working with a few partners like the Department of Community Services who has been the primary number of cases so far. They are also working with Mental Health and Addictions and they have had some self referrals. Sharon wanted to know besides working in a greenhouse, what other employment skills will be available through the 16-week program. Ericka stated they are refreshing work place skills. Sharon asked after 16 weeks is there more support for those finishing the program. Ericka replied that there will be help with transition and help with navigating where they can find additional support.

**Evelyn Pollard**, wanted to know if In the Works was collaborating with any other retail organizations and other workplaces for any training programs. Ericka answered yes, it is part of their forward planning. Evelyn asked about what support system is out in the greater community once they finished the 16-week program. Ericka said there are already support in the community for them but they will help them navigate where to go for additional support.

**Councillor Houghtaling**, wants to share In the Works report to her council. She also wanted more information regarding the greenhouse, if there was a specific program to go along with it. Ericka said one of their board members will take on the project specifically both in the construction and leading the construction and the development of it. Ericka hopes to partner up with Community Organizations as well. Councillor Houghtaling asks if Ericka is aware of the Cumberland County Grant Program, Ericka stated yes. Councillor Houghtaling stated that is how In the Works can approach Cumberland County for funding.

**Jason MacDonald**, asked about the zoning, was it the organization preference not to have anyone not living upstairs unless it was a building codes issue. Jason suggested they meet later to discuss to make sure the building is being used for its full potential. Ericka said she would like that. Jason asked about the people who will be providing these services if they will be employees of In the Works. Ericka replied there will be two types of employees, staff that work for the organization and participant employees who will work for the organization, the social enterprise. Jason was wondering if they had other funding as their financial statement didn't add up. Ericka answered they have a number of other funding applications out to apply from other organizations for additional funding. Jason asked if they have applied to Cumberland County for funding? He feels it would be ideal to work with the municipal partners for funding. Jason MacDonald suggested they meet for further discussions regarding funding.

**Sharon Bristol**, asked about the revenue from the Department of Community Services Move to Work Program. Is this what the participants receive? Ericka says that is correct.

**Deputy Mayor Landry**, wanted to know about how they plan on mitigating the various levels of recovery. Ericka said they plan on having a policy/support structure to enable the clients to work through things in a safe place and a safe space.

**Evelyn Pollard**, wanted to know to know if the candidates have a secure living space. Ericka answered not necessarily, and that they are trying to form a partnership with Cornerstone as a way of providing work opportunities for their clients as well. Ericka stated they are trying to work within the Community to try to find ways to bridge the gaps between people and their multiple needs.

## **2.2 Mitacs - Hailie Tattrie**

Hailie Tattrie gave her presentation Pathways to Resiliency which pertains primarily with the Youth in the Community. This will be emailed to Poverty Advisory Committee.

**Councillor Houghtaling**, asked about the timeline of the project. Hailie replied she would be beginning this spring/summer starting probably in the fall of 2023 with the data collection. It should be about a two-year research project in its entirety.

## **3. Discussion Items**

### **3.1 2023 Summit for Strength - Bristol**

Sharon Bristol presented the details for the Virtual 2023 Summit for Strength Conference through the Tamarack Institute scheduled for April 25 - April 27. There are two available free spots for each paid CEP Members. If you are interested, please let Sharon know.

### 3.2 **Round Table - Landry**

**Councillor Houghtaling**, we have been through a lot of discussion regarding the application thinks this would be a great idea. It will give us the data/information to help support youth. She did think the timeline would be shorter. May have to defer till we have funding.

**Deputy Mayor Landry**, wonders about the funding, do we need to fund the whole thing or just in blocks? Does the completion of her project rely on us being successful throughout the duration of the time line of research. Before we present a viable request to Council, we need to be able determine if we have to fund the whole thing.

**Councillor Black**, is concerned about the timeline as well.

**Jason MacDonald**, if it is a one- or two-year program, do we know what the cost will be?

**Deputy Mayor Landry**, the way Mitacs works it is in blocks of four months with \$15,000.00 per block. The MOU states as a municipality we are only required to pay one block at a time. But we don't want to waste money on a project if we are not going to fund it any longer. We may not be committed contractually with Mitacs to fund the research but if we run out of resources mid project. We don't want to enter an agreement without understanding that it won't reach its competition regardless of our contribution.

**Jason MacDonald**, Let's say our contribution is \$15,000.00 over three times for a year (\$45,000.00 for a year) and Mitacs is paying something as well.

**Deputy Mayor Landry**, says the total amount is \$45,000.00 and Mitacs pays for half of that.

**Councillor Houghtaling**, says the committee contribution is \$15,000.00 per block which makes the total \$30,000.00 with Mitacs paying half of that.

**Jason MacDonald**, said that Hailie said it could take one year so that would \$30,000.00, why would our funding run out? If Mitacs approves it, our Councils in theory could approve \$15,000.00 each for the year or if it is 18 months, they could approve that as well. As opposed to ask for block to block ask them for \$50,000.00 or whatever the price is.

**Deputy Mayor Landry**, reads from the proposal: grants are four months in length, \$10,000.00 - \$15,000.00 of which 50% and HST comes from the municipality. Which means we pay \$7,500.00 per block and \$22,500.00 for the year.

**Sharon Bristol**, if it is two years the total will be \$90,000.00 of which Mitacs pays half. So that would be \$45,000.00 split between three municipalities.

**Deputy Mayor Landry**, says that is the worse case scenario if the research takes that long.

**Jason MacDonald**, what we could do is tell Hailie she has certain amount of money and time and see what she can get done.

**Deputy Mayor Landry**, says we can tell her beyond this level of funding you are on your own to complete it. He personally would like to see it through its completion.

**Councillor Black**, the first four months will be just getting the ethics, that will be the first block you are paying for will not have any data at that this point.

**Deputy Mayor Landry**, we need to clarify the financial component for that part of it (Ethics). Do we pay a researcher to do the groundwork that is required for her to conduct her research.

**Councillor Black**, agrees especially as it may take that long.

**Evelyn Pollard**, feels that the price is not bad considering the amount of work that will be required and she will be keeping us up-to-date as she progresses. If there are any surprises, we can negotiate around those as they come up. As this will benefit the entire of Cumberland County there are two significant foundations in the county, we should go to them as well to see if they are willing to put some money forward as it will benefit the whole county. She feels it is a research project worth supporting.

**Deputy Mayor Landry**, agrees some of these questions are more a prediction of what conversations might look at Council levels, so they can anticipate what they would want to hear from us.

**Councillor Houghtaling**, for next steps what about determining the actual cost to the municipalities and bring a budget back to the committee. We could have a special meeting so can have it done sooner just that we are clear on amounts. Maybe we can do the special meeting through Zoom so we can get it moving forward. She was hoping to move it forward tonight but didn't understand the timeline and funding.

**Deputy Mayor Landry**, feels that it would be reasonable to defer this to staff.

**Sharon Bristol**, will reach out to Hailie for clarifications. Her understanding is that the costs will be \$7,500.00 per year, per municipality up to the maximum of \$15,000.00 but we can definitely contact Hailie over the next few days. We will figure what specifically that would be. Getting back to Councillor Black's question, she is quite sure one of those blocks would be the ethics review because that would be part of her research project. She needs to go through that process in order to do the research which will be included in one of the blocks.

**Linda Cloney**, would like to see this done soon as it is almost budget time for Oxford.

**Deputy Mayor Landry**, will need to bring this back to the Committee so we can make a motion.

**4. Next Meeting - March 16, 2023 at 4:30 PM**

Sharon Bristol has emailed the Committee the Draft Intermunicipal Poverty Reduction Advisory Committee Strategic Plan for the members to review and get back to her with any changes prior to the next meeting so she can present the finalized version.

**5. Adjournment**

**Moved By Jennifer Houghtaling**

**Seconded By Carla Black**

**To adjourn the meeting.**

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Natalie LeBlanc  
Municipal Clerk

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Deputy Mayor Leon Landry  
Chair

**TOWN OF AMHERST  
Advisory Committee to Reduce Poverty Issues  
Minutes**

**Date:** March 6, 2023  
**Time:** 12:00 pm  
**Location:** Zoom Virtual Meeting

**Members Present** Leon Landry, Town of Amherst, Deputy Mayor, Chairperson  
Karen LeBlanc, Town of Amherst, Citizen Representative  
Carla Black, Town of Oxford, Councillor  
Jennifer Houghtaling, Cumberland County, Councillor  
Evelyn Pollard, Town of Amherst, Citizen Representative  
Helen Read, Town of Oxford, Citizen Representative  
Rachel Sovka, Cumberland County, Citizen Representative

**Members Absent** Alison Lair, Cumberland County, Citizen Representative  
Michele Cann, Town of Oxford, Citizen Representative

**Staff Present** Natalie LeBlanc, Town of Amherst, Municipal Clerk  
Cindy Brown, Town of Amherst, Administrative Assistant  
Linda Cloney, Town of Oxford, CAO  
Sharon Bristol, Town of Amherst, Director of Community Living  
Jason MacDonald, Town of Amherst CAO  
Peter McCracken, Cumberland County, Deputy CAO

**Staff Absent** Stan McDougall, Town of Oxford, Administrative Assistant

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**1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

**1.1 Territorial Acknowledgment**

Deputy Mayor Landry gave the Territorial Acknowledgement.

**2. Discussion Items**

**2.1 Mitacs Funding**

Rachel Sovka arrives at 12:02, Evelyn Pollard arrives at 12:03.

**Moved By Jennifer Houghtaling**

**Seconded By Karen LeBlanc**

**Whereas the Mitacs proposal will engage youth from all over the region to obtain data that will help local government understand how our youth see their communities and what barriers prevent them from working and living here in Cumberland County and;**

**Whereas The committee is of the opinion that the above is useful / beneficial in achieving the goals of the draft strategic plan related to youth engagement and education, and increasing the opportunities for youth engagement and would like this proposal to be considered prior to the approval of the Strategic Plan due to the timing involved in the application process and;**

**Whereas The total project budget is \$60,000 with 50% of this total covered by MITACS and the 3 municipal units responsible for \$30,000 plus HST, over a 16 month period.**

**I move that the funding of the Mitacs project “Pathways to Resiliency” be recommended to the three participating municipal Councils and that the municipalities collaborate, through the respective CAOs, to determine a mutually agreeable funding formula.**

**Motion Carried**

- 3. Adjournment  
Moved By Jennifer Houghtaling  
Seconded By Carla Black  
To adjourn the meeting.**

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Natalie LeBlanc  
Municipal Clerk

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Deputy Mayor Leon Landry  
Chair



## Solid Waste Resource Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: February 3, 2023  
Time: 10:00 a.m. Virtual Meeting

### Present

#### Elected Officials

Eldon Hebb, Municipality of the District of East Hants  
Chrystal McNutt, Town of Oxford  
George Baker, Town of Amherst  
Jennifer Houghtaling, Mun. of Cumberland  
Eric Boutilier, Mun. of Colchester  
Jim Flemming, Town of Truro  
Mayor George Lloy, Town of Stewiacke

### Present

#### Staff

Ishamar Senior Gentles, Municipality of Colchester  
Brenda Rioux, Cumberland County Solid Waste  
Andrea Trask, Municipality of the District of East Hants  
Jesse Hulsman, Municipality of the District of East Hants  
Jessica Rushton, Mun. of Colchester

### Regrets

Jason MacDonald, Town of Amherst  
Greg Herrett, Municipality of Cumberland

### Call to Order and Welcome

The committee held a moment of silence in honor of Chair, Mary Commo.

### 1. Approval of Agenda

**Moved by** Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Boutilier to approve the agenda as circulated.

**Motion carried.**

### 2. Approval of Minutes

- a. October 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes

**Moved by** Councillor Boutilier, seconded by Councillor Hebb to approve the minutes as circulated.

**Motion carried.**

### **3. Regional Chairs update**

#### **a. Divert NS Board Update**

Jeff MacCallum has resigned from Divert NS to take a position with Circular Materials; Jeff will be overseeing the EPR program for New Brunswick.

Funding for litter programs.

Divert NS has room in their budget to purchase bins for regional litter interventions. Divert currently is working with Pictou County Solid Waste where they are purchasing drive thru bins for Pictou's intervention project. If any municipalities are interested in having bins purchased for a fast-food restaurant, they are encouraged to reach out to Kathryn with Divert NS.

#### **b. Northern Region Chair Representative**

The NR Committee is looking for an elected official to take over the role of Chair of the NR Committee.

Mayor George Lloy updated the committee on the representation for the Town of Stewiacke by informing members that a by-election will be held at the end of February. Once a new Councillor is appointed, the council will appoint an elected official to the NR Committee. Mayor Lloy will fill in until a replacement has been appointed from the Town of Stewiacke.

The committee thanked Councillor Houghtaling for offering to fill the role of Chair until the committee is able to find a replacement.

### **4. Regional Coordinators- Brenda Rioux**

Divert NS informed the Regional Chairs committee that Divert will be focusing on litter in the spring and fall and that they are also looking at a "Back to the Basics" recycling campaign where we go back to the basics and remind residents how to sort properly. The Regional Coordinators reported that they can look at making this a focus as well.

#### **Waste Audits**

The project was scheduled to begin in April, however there were no responses to the initial statement of work that had been sent out to hire a consultant. Jeff reported that they reissued the statement of work and that it just closed last week.

### **5. NS Managers/Directors Committee Update – Andrea Trask**

#### **a. C&D Regulation Changes**

Andrea Trask reported that a number of facilities/municipalities responded to the C&D engagement package related to the new guidelines. NSECC is currently reviewing all of the feedback they received and they are moving to get guidelines distributed by late February. NSECC will be circulating a "What We've Heard" document once they have had a chance to review all of the feedback that they received.

A one-year notification was circulated to the municipalities related to cost associated with the C&D changes. Since the notification was sent out later than anticipated,

municipalities will see a staged implementation to allow the 1 year for budgeting purposes.

It has been communicated to municipalities that the focus of the first year after the regulations are implemented will be on targeted education, with the second year having more of a focus on compliance and enforcement.

## **6. Municipal/Provincial Priorities Update- Andrea Trask**

### **a. EPR For PPP Consultation Update**

NSECC reported that they continue to collaborate with internal staff drafting the regulations. Ashley reported that we will likely have EPR for batteries, lighting, and additional electronics (BLAE) prior to EPR for PPP, as BLAE easier to move forward on.

East Hants pointed out that it would be helpful to know soon, as municipalities will be putting out RFPs for contracts as to where materials are going.

### **b. 300 kg Disposal Target**

Bob Kenny with NSECC is leading this project. There is a Legislative requirement that a plan is in place by the end of the year to outline how we will reach this target by 2030. Currently, the province is at 400 kgs/person/yr., East Hants is at 310, Colchester 520, and Cumberland 510kgs. Early thoughts are that NSECC will be looking at targeted/public engagement that would outline ideas with the department looking for feedback. The current focus for NSECC is construction & demolition, followed by EPR and then the 300kg target.

## **7. Divert NS**

### **a. EPR Summit**

The EPR Summit took place on December 6 where a lot of valuable information was shared. Individuals from BC and Ontario shared their experiences with those who attended.

At the end of the Summit there was an opportunity for attendees to discuss the information presented throughout the day and prioritize what they feel the next steps should be. Divert has summarized the feedback and are looking at next steps, which will be discussed at an upcoming Priorities Meeting.

The slide deck from NSECC was included in the package for information purposes.

What was surprising to a lot of people was the number of municipalities that opted out of collection. One of the take-aways was that there is a lot more to learn about EPR.

### **b. Datacall**

Divert NS is now in charge of the datacall. Divert NS is in the process of reviewing submissions and are requesting clarifications as required.

There will be a debrief on **Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>** on the datacall for regional coordinators.

**c. Diversion Credit Smoothing**

Divert reported that they have never seen projections so high. The commodity markets are declining but not as quickly as expected and the recovery rates are down.

Jeff reported that likely next year, won't look at positive which is why the smoothing is great, it helps Divert provide somewhat consistent funding.

The smoothing amount for funding received in 2022/2023 is 5 million and 5.5 million for funding received in 2023/2024.

**8. Regional Partners Education & Operational Programs**

- a. Colchester – Ishamar Senior Gentles
- b. CJSMA – Brenda Rioux
- c. East Hants – Andrea Trask
- d. Other Community Updates

**9. Other Business**

- a. Meeting Time, Dates & locations  
March 31, 2023

**10. Correspondence**

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

[Nova Scotia](#)

# New act in N.S. will provide off-highway vehicle operators more options

## Social Sharing

Road Trails Act was introduced Friday

[Anam Khan](#) · CBC News · Posted: Mar 24, 2023 5:05 PM ADT | Last Updated: March 24



New legislation introduced Friday in Nova Scotia aims to provide off-highway vehicle operators improved trail connections. (Mike Heenan/CBC)

New legislation introduced Friday in Nova Scotia will establish a set of rules around off-highway vehicle operations and will allow riders better trail connections.

The legislation, called the Road Trails Act, relates to all-terrain vehicles, multipurpose off-highway utility vehicles and recreational off-highway vehicles.

An off-highway vehicle pilot project began in 2018 and will conclude later this year.

The rules for using parts of provincial roads will remain the same as they were under the pilot project. Off-highway vehicles will have access to the shoulders of roadways from one trail to another in seven areas — Ship Harbour, Porters Lake, New Germany, Weymouth, Walton, Sherbrooke and Gabarus.

Riders will be required to have a valid driver's licence, insurance, registration and a licence plate. The vehicles may not go faster than 25 km/h on selected highways where speeds are 80 km/h or less.

Public Works Minister Kim Masland called the pilot project a tremendous success.

She said the new act will also allow municipalities to permit off-highway vehicle use in locations they choose as long as they follow the safety criteria developed by the province.



Kim Masland is Nova Scotia's minister of public works. (Robert Short/CBC)

"At seven sites across the province, we saw that riders can use portions of provincial roads safely and responsibly and to benefit our economy," said Masland.

"Trail connections were improved, giving OHV enthusiasts better access to services like gas stations and restaurants."

## **Increase in local business**

Barry Barnet, executive director of the ATV Association of Nova Scotia, says ATV riders in the province have been waiting for this act for a long time.

He also said many communities have been able to reap the benefits of the pilot project after seeing an increase in business.

He said many municipalities like Oxford, Yarmouth and Pugwash are trying to select areas to allow ATVs.

"It's important to them because they know that our riders, our members, will be travelling through their towns, buying their food and fuel, and staying in their overnight accommodations, and it's a big piece of the economy," said Barnet.

He said the association's recent economic impact study shows that ATVs contribute to millions of dollars to the provincial economy.

"It's a big sport, it's growing, and we want to do it in a safe, responsible way," said Barnet.

He said creating connections between trails continues to be a challenge.



Barry Barnet is the executive director of the ATV Association of Nova Scotia. (Robert Short/CBC)

"Nova Scotia is a beautiful place, but we're criss-crossed by rivers, expensive bridges and infrastructure that would be required to make simple connections ...," said Barnet.

He said while it's not possible to spend a significant amount of money on infrastructure between trails, it is possible to create an interconnected trail network through the new act.

He said that the new act only permits a rider to connect from trail to trail in designated areas that have signage.



# JOIN US IN CUMBERLAND

Official Campaign  
Press Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

For those of us who live here or have visited frequently over the years, the fact that Cumberland is an incredible place to live, work, and play is not a secret. But the problem is that to everyone else in the world, it is a secret... at least until now.

We are located in the center of the Maritimes and are the only land entrance to Nova Scotia. We are surrounded by picturesque beaches with the warmest waters north of the Carolinas. We have a world-class ski hill, a 5-star resort, and a colourful community of small businesses. We are blessed with an abundance of natural beauty and immensely kind people. We have farmers' markets, award-winning vineyards, outdoor adventures galore, and activities for the whole family year-round.

We have hardly any traffic, extremely low crime rates, and daily sunsets that will take your breath away! You can experience all 4 spectacular seasons, and do so while enjoying outstandingly affordable real estate, low cost of living, a world-class quality of life, and a community that will welcome you with open arms.

There are people all over Canada and the world who are looking to make a fresh start or begin a new chapter in their life, and we believe that Cumberland is the perfect place to do so... they just don't know it yet! And that is where we come in. We want to start appearing on their radar and make Cumberland an option for all of those people considering somewhere new. These people love the idea of joining a kind, safe, affordable, and welcoming community like ours, so it's *our duty* to inform them about us.

With your help, we can start spreading the word about all the amazing things there are to do, see and experience right here in Cumberland County, Nova Scotia. In doing so, we sincerely believe that we will start to move the needle on some of the issues we are currently facing as a small rural community. The team behind this initiative will do everything in our power to recruit and attract healthcare professionals, construction workers, entrepreneurs, and developers, in a sincere attempt to contribute towards significant progress in these areas that continue to challenge our community.

For decades, Cumberland has been overlooked – we were simply the county that people drove through while travelling from New Brunswick to Halifax, Cape Breton, Annapolis Valley, or Lunenburg. For too long, millions of cars have passed us by without a thought. The “Join Us In Cumberland” campaign is here to start putting a stop to all of that.

How can you help? It's easy! Just follow our social media accounts and share our posts to your pages. We all have friends outside of Cumberland, Nova Scotia, and even Canada, so by sharing our posts about how great this place is, our message can reach so many more people outside of our community and give them the opportunity to become aware of what a wonderful life they can build here.

After the mass movement of people caused by the pandemic, countries around the world, and provinces, towns, cities, and municipalities around the country are spending

millions of dollars in an effort to attract people to their area. So one thing is for certain; if we don't act and act fast, we *will* get left behind.

It's time to stand up and fight for the place we love. We must link arms, commit to becoming fortified, and creating a unified front to actively work towards progress.

Together we must. *Together we can.* **Together we will!**

As a community and as a team, let's work together to inspire people all around the world to come and join us in Cumberland, where you really can have it all!

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## LINKS & CONTACT INFORMATION:

- SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLE: @JOINUSINCUMBERLAND
- OFFICIAL HASHTAG: #JOINUSINCUMBERLAND
- OFFICIAL WEBSITE: [WWW.JOINUSINCUMBERLAND.CA](http://WWW.JOINUSINCUMBERLAND.CA)
- CAMPAIGN EMAIL: [INFO@JOINUSINCUMBERLAND.CA](mailto:INFO@JOINUSINCUMBERLAND.CA)
- CAMPAIGN LEADER: RON FURLONG - PHONE: (902) 667-8186  
EMAIL: [RFURLONG@AMHERSTCHAMBERNS.CA](mailto:RFURLONG@AMHERSTCHAMBERNS.CA)
- CAMPAIGN MARKETING LEADER: PATRICK MANIFOLD  
PHONE: (902) 209-4646 EMAIL: [PATRICK@NOVASOCIALMEDIA.CA](mailto:PATRICK@NOVASOCIALMEDIA.CA)
- FACEBOOK: [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JOINUSINCUMBERLAND](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JOINUSINCUMBERLAND)
- INSTAGRAM: [WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/JOINUSINCUMBERLAND](http://WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/JOINUSINCUMBERLAND)
- TWITTER: [TWITTER.COM/JOINCUMBERLAND](http://TWITTER.COM/JOINCUMBERLAND)
- YOUTUBE: [WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@JOINUSINCUMBERLAND](http://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@JOINUSINCUMBERLAND)
- OFFICIAL LOGO (ATTACHED)

\*\*\*end of message\*\*\*



**Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Office of the Minister**

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PO Box 216, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2M4 • Telephone 902-424-5550 Fax 902-424-0581 • [novascotia.ca](http://novascotia.ca)

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March 31, 2023

Gregory Henley, Mayor  
Town of Oxford  
VIA E-Mail: [gghenley@oxfordns.ca](mailto:gghenley@oxfordns.ca)

Dear Mayor Henley:

I am pleased to advise the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing has approved a grant of \$275,151 to support infrastructure investments in your community under the new Sustainable Services Growth Fund (SSGF).

The SSGF can be used to support Municipal services by investing in municipal infrastructure needed to serve a growing population, improve sustainability and provide increased resiliency.

Please refer to the attached Terms and Conditions for more information on the funding approval. If you accept this offer, please sign the Terms and Conditions, and send to the program email listed below.

Should you have any questions, please contact Ahmad Shahwan, Manager of Infrastructure Programs at [Ahmad.Shahwan@novascotia.ca](mailto:Ahmad.Shahwan@novascotia.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Lohr'.

Honourable John A. Lohr  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c Linda Cloney, Chief Administrative Officer, [lcloney@oxfordns.ca](mailto:lcloney@oxfordns.ca)

Attachment