



Town of Oxford
Committee of the Whole
Council Chambers and Zoom
Wednesday, June 11, 2025
6:00 pm

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Agenda

Pages 1 - 2

3. Presentations

Nil

4. Approval of the Minutes – May 14, 2025

Pages 3 - 7

5. Town Departments Reports

5.1 Public Works Department – presented by Nick Purdy, Public Works
Supervisor

Pages 8 - 9

5.2 Fire Department – presented by Bruce Rushton, Fire Chief and Kyle Purdy,
Deputy Fire Chief

Page 10

5.3 Municipal Physical Activity Leader (MPAL) Report – presented by Marion
Abbot, MPAL

Pages 11 - 13

5.4 Administration Reports – presented by Linda Cloney

Pages 14 - 16 – Administrative Assistant Report

6. Council Committees and Boards Reports – Linda Cloney presenting

6.1 Audit Committee

Pages 17 – 19 – May 28, 2024, approved minutes

6.2 Accessibility Advisory Board

Pages 20 – 21 – February 10, 2025, approved minutes

6.3 Road Trails Act Review Committee

Verbal presentation

6.4 Cumberland Municipal Alcohol Project Committee

Page 22 – June 3, 2025, draft minutes

Page 23 – Province Looks at Where Alcohol Sold, Consumed – News release

Pages 24 - 26 – Alcohol Availability and Access – Current Evidence

Pages 27 – 29 – Alcohol Use and Impacts

Pages 30 – 32 – sample letter template for stakeholders

6.5 Northern Region Waste-Resource Committee

Pages 33 – 36 – March 7, 2025, approved minutes

7. Items of discussion and correspondence

Nil

8. Adjournment



Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting

Place: Council Chambers, Zoom, streamed live to Facebook
Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025
Presiding Officer: Deputy Mayor Carla Black
Councillors Present: Brenton Colborne, Mayor Greg Henley, Padraic Moore, Chrystal McNutt, and Paul Jones
Councillor Regrets: Olivia Canning-Sweet

A quorum was present throughout the meeting.

Staff in attendance: Linda Cloney – CAO, Ruthann Brookins (Manager of Finance), Stan McDougall – Admin Assistant / Recording Secretary, and Nick Purdy – Public Works Supervisor (via Zoom).

Presenters in attendance: Anas Alawar YMCA Immigrant Services - Settlement, and Hailie Tattrie, PhD Candidate, Sociologist (via Zoom)

Media in attendance: Nil

Gallery in attendance: Nil

1. Call to Order

At 6:00 PM, Deputy Mayor Black called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

2. Approval of Agenda, Pages 1 -2

Moved by Mayor Henley and seconded by Councillor Jones that the agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting for Wednesday, May 14, 2025, be approved, as presented.

Motion Carried

3. Presentations

3.1 YREACH Program - presenter Anas Alawar, YMCA Immigrant Services – Settlement Staff - verbal presentation

Deputy Mayor Black introduced Anas Alawar, YMCA Immigrant Services to give his presentation.

Highlights of the presentation:

- YMCA Immigrant Services Settlement helps newcomers from all over the world, including those from other provinces of Canada with questions and direction to services for Housing, Nova Scotia Health Cards, Social Insurance Numbers, bank account creation information and more.
- Community Services including multicultural festivals and events, sporting events, and other activities in the area.
- Anas, through YMCA Immigrant Services Settlement provides coverage for areas outside of the HRM.
- Between Pugwash and Oxford, Nova Scotia, 180 people have been assisted in the past year.

Deputy Mayor Black thanked Anas for his presentation.

Anas left the meeting at 6:12 PM

3.2 “Give me a reason to stay” Understanding Youth Outmigration in Rural Nova Scotia – presenter Hailie Tattrie, PhD Candidate, Sociologist, Pages 3 - 17 – a copy of the presentation

Deputy Mayor Black introduced Hailie Tattrie, PhD Candidate, Sociologist to give her presentation.

A copy of this presentation is filed with the Council Package.

Deputy Mayor Black thanked Hailie for her presentation.

4. Approval of the Minutes – April 9, 2025, Pages 18 – 22

5. Town Departments Reports

5.1 **Public Works Department** – presented by Nick Purdy, Public Works Supervisor (via Zoom). Pages 23 - 24

5.2 **Fire Department** – presented by Greg Henley on behalf of Bruce Rushton, Fire Chief and Kyle Purdy, Deputy Fire Chief (sent regrets). Page 25

5.3 **Municipal Physical Activity Leader (MPAL) Report** – presented by Councillor McNutt on behalf of Marion Abbott, MPAL (sent regrets). Pages 26 - 28

5.4 **Administration Reports** – presented by Linda Cloney. Pages 29 - 30 – Administrative Assistant Report

Linda shared with the Committee of the Whole and those in attendance via Zoom that there is still a vacancy on the Audit Committee for a community member with a background in accounting.

Deputy Mayor Black thanked all town departments for their respective reports.

6. Council Committees and Boards Reports

6.1 **All Saints Community Health Care Foundation Committee** – Stan McDougall

Pages 31 - 35 – Approved March 26, 2024, AGM Minutes

Pages 36 - 37 – Approved March 26, 2024, Special Board Meeting

Pages 38 - 39 – Approved March 11, 2025, Minutes

Page 40 – April 29, 2025, Regular Board Meeting, AGM and Special Meeting Highlights

6.2 **Police Advisory Board** – Linda Cloney

Pages 41 - 44 – Approved January 21, 2025, Minutes

Pages 45 - 48 – RCMP Report – January 1 – March 31, 2025, Quarter

6.3 **Communities in Bloom Meeting** – Linda Cloney, *Verbal Report*

Linda reported to the Committee of the whole that a meeting was last held on April 28, 2025.

Highlights discussed from the meeting:

- There was a seed giveaway from Plant-Grow-Share a Row, Compost Council of Canada, and Harrowsmith had generously offered FREE veggie and herb seed packages to help us kickstart plantings. This was organized by the Provincial Communities in Bloom – we applied for this and was successful. The box of seeds to give away just arrived.
- Organizing the rain barrels to be set back up, removal of old community garden beds as they were unsafe with broken wood and nails. Plan is to get new one built, may take a couple of years, but its being worked on.
- Planning a Garden Tour
- Hanging heart shaped flower baskets along the privacy wall at the Trail head. Al and Maxine Clarke have kindly donated the wire baskets, the flowers, and their time to water them.
- CIB organized a workshop on companion and succession planting by Megan Baker on June 5 at 6:30 pm at the Fire Hall. What you will learn, which plants to grow together to get the most out of your garden plot and how to plan and time your planting so that you can harvest for longer. The event is free as we received a grant (Community Health Board) to assist with this.
- CIB organized another workshop by Suzanna Ballah from Ursa Farmstead about food forests and doing some hands-on work to add to the fruit trees and bushes we planted last year. The date is tentatively set for May 24 from 10 am – noon at the Black River Park. What you will learn is how to choose perennials to accompany your fruit trees, biodynamic and permaculture principles in planting a food forest.

7. Items of discussion and correspondence

Nil

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Deputy Mayor Carla Black

Stan McDougall, Admin Assistant

Date Approved

DRAFT

Public Works Report May 2025

Weekly Water samples.

Monthly Lagoon samples.

Weekly water checks.

Weekly garbage collection.

Cleaned lift station floats weekly.

Cleaned out overgrown ditches around town.

Checked sewer mains around town.

Spring cleanup around town, lawn care from plow damage.

Cleaned well chambers.

Replaced burnt out lights in well chambers.

Adjusted sump pumps in well #4.

Cut asphalt for water break patches.

Weekly mowing and whipper snipping.

Fixed damage to skate park parking lot.

Repaired stop sign on Horton Street, ongoing issue.

Repaired concrete step at town hall.

Dump truck to Truro for fault repair.

Topped up water break patches.

Turned water on at the ball field, repaired shut off.

Cleaned soil out of garden bins at corner park.

Installed rain barrels at community gardens.

Located shut off at a resident on Thompson Road.

Filled potholes with cold patch around town.

Locate water shut off at a resident on Lower Main Street.
Provided a sewer connection for a home on Horton Street.
Exposed water shut off for a new home on Horton Street.
Dropped plywood off for communities in bloom projects.
Dropped off loads of soil for ball field maintenance.
Provided a water and sewer connection to a new home on Thompson Road.
Cleaned shop.
Water tank inspections.
Street sweeping.
Water leak Little River Road.
Nick attended the MPWANS conference in Truro (3 days)
Nick attended EMO conference in Springhill.
Generators started and checked.
Worked on Transfer site approval.
Replace the sewer lateral at 144 crescent Ave.
Repaired sidewalk on Main Street.
Completed multiple customer request forms.
Started painting crosswalks around town.
Annual hydrant flushing.

Nick Purdy

Public Works Supervisor

902-397-3002

The fire department has responded to 10 emergency calls in May...*59 calls since Jan 1st.*

- 3 Motor Vehicle Collisions
- 1 Medical Call
- 1 call for smoke sighting
- 1 Structure Fire
- 3 Woods Fires
- 1 Chimney Fire

- 3 Calls in Town
- 2 Calls in our coverage area
- 5 call assisting other departments (mutual aid) = 50% of the calls for the month.
- Note – 2 calls were on highway 104

Training:

We have our regular training session this Thursday evening.

Membership:

Congratulations to our newest Level I trained firefighter, Shelley Landry who recently completed her training.

We had 1 member retire after 30 years of volunteer service. Trueman started his career as a firefighter in Collingwood before moving to Oxford and joining this department. He served as a Captain, Deputy Chief and as Fire Chief. We want to thank Trueman for his dedication and his years of service.

We recently had a retired member move back to Oxford and has rejoined the department.

Congratulations to the Springhill Volunteer Fire Department and the Municipality of Cumberland on the completion of the new Springhill Fire Station. It is quite an impressive building and there is an open house on Saturday, June 21st.

Kyle and I attended the Chief's meeting with the County chiefs on Monday evening.

A couple of reminders for residents...

Once again, Wildland fire season is here...several areas of the province have already had grass fires and woods fires. If you plan to burn and have a permit, please use caution and ensure you have a water supply available if needed and advise your local fire department on the day you plan to burn.

We have our annual horse pulls coming up on June 14th.

Respectfully submitted,

Fire Chief, Bruce Rushton and Deputy Chief, Kyle Purdy

Hello!

I am presenting this virtually because I'm at the Arena running the Creative Play program.

Note to future self: stop scheduling things on Wednesdays when there are Council meetings!

Lots has been happening so I'll move as quickly as I can.

Since my last report, we have had our Town-Wide Yard Sale. Over 25 households and groups participated and there was a fantastic sense of community and fun the entire morning. Kaden was providing live music at the Main Street Gazebo, but we found out the hard way that I didn't have access to the ground-level power outlets, so he wasn't amplified. I have since sorted that out with Public Works and will be looking to put live music in that Gazebo this summer regularly. It was a beautiful thing to watch people of all ages come and listen and groove and sing along. Music is such a healer.

Cumberland Performing Arts presented their production of Frozen Jr to huge crowds at the Capitol. It was heartbreaking to see two seats filled with buckets because the roof is leaking. I will be getting drone footage shortly to see what's happening up there and what we can do about it. The production was lovely and everyone was very pleased with the result.

Basketball, Floor Hockey and Creative Play began at the Arena. Basketball is being organized and led by Mike Hudson. We're so grateful for his leadership, and the kids are having an amazing time. Creative Play has ten kids in Grades 1 & 2, and we're having a fantastic time reading stories and doing related songs and crafts. Floor Hockey has been a puzzle. It was made very clear to me when I started that this was a program that was desperately needed and wanted. About a third of the kids whose parents registered them online have yet to appear. We couldn't find an adult to lead the program, so my husband was 'voluntold' for the task. The two high school volunteers have had conflicts and haven't been able to show up as often as we need them. For next year, I'll definitely be thinking about whether the need for this program is as dire as was communicated to me.

Members of the Sunset Community came in and decorated our town windows with ice cream cones and our version of the Pride rainbow that

incorporates hearts. The Craft Club made ice cream cones out of foam for our All Seasons Tree. We're so grateful for their help in bringing summer fun to the Town Hall.

The Theatre is coming along! Thanks to Trueman and Kyle from Public Works, we were able to remove three truckloads of junk and trash from the dressing rooms, backstage, behind the theatre outside and the projection room. I've also been working with Parker and Danny Blades on getting rid of things that are fire hazards and long past their usefulness. We've now cleared the backstage area to include only chairs, stools and a table to make it more useful to renters. The dressing rooms are almost ready for rubber matting that will mitigate the flooding and dampness issues. Alan Legere kindly brought the projection system back to life, and we're ready for our first movie screening of Grease on June 21st. A new popcorn machine has been ordered, and people are excited! It's going to be such a great summer of movies for the town.

On Monday, June 2nd I released the summer programs and opened them for registration. In the first 24hrs, we received 101 registrations. This is so fabulous! I'm still in the midst of sorting through all the paperwork, but at the time of this writing three of the programs are full and one has only three spaces left. Thank goodness Linda and I are interviewing for the Summer Student role this week - I need help! Baha!

Since organizing this report to Council the Main Street Gazebo was repainted and soon the Skate Park will be painted (graffiti)

I just returned from PAPE - a Conference for Physical Activity Practitioners from all over Nova Scotia. Fun Fact - did you know that in all of Canada, Nova Scotia has the second highest number of people using Active Transportation? That means the number of people using active modes of transportation like biking and walking are higher than the the rest of Canada. Woohoo! I learned a number of things from the conference but most of all I learned how lucky I am.

I'm lucky to live and work in a town that has so many venue options available to us to utilize.

I'm lucky to work for a CAO who is smart, kind and invested in the work I'm doing.

I'm lucky to work for residents who are keen to try new things and eager to learn and share about what's happening in the town.
And I'm lucky to have been given a job I absolutely love.

Have a wonderful summer, Council Members - see you around Oxford!

Marion Abbott
MPAL



May 2025 – Completed Tasks

- Interest for April 2025.
- New fiscal year (Mid-Month Reporting, Council Expenses, payroll, taxes and water, etc.).
- Mailout of Interim Tax Bills for 2025 (officially mailed out on the 2nd)
Due June 6, 2025, due to long weekend and mail out date.
- Receiving water and tax payments at front desk for coverage.
- Assisted CAO in looking up property tax and assessment information.
- Setup and tested flood lights and smart plugs for use in Council Chambers windows and reception area.
- Installed Sage 50 updates on each laptop to solve an error upon login that occurred during the last update through Sage.
- Assisted an RCMP officer with the security cameras to look back at recorded video regarding parking lot graffiti.
- Continued cleanup of outdated electronics to be sent to recycling from storages – set at James St. entrance.
- **Payroll:**
 - New hire paperwork for temp public works temp employee.
 - Updated Form 3 for RPP contributions for payroll and submitted for 2025 forecasted contributions. Further updated May 30, 2025 to reflect increase in wages for CPI.
 - Paperwork for health plan to assist employee and health benefits provider where necessary with questions and information update.
 - ROEs for two employees requested through payroll provider and given to employees.
 - Filled out paperwork for the health plan switch over to assist CAO and Manager of Finance.

- Draft Accessibility Plan revised with a picture of the Accessibility Committee, converted the plan from draft to official as approved by Council May 28, 2025 and forwarded it to the AMANS Accessibility team.
- Assist with cleanup of the safe to box up financial records for fiscal years with Manager of Finance.
- Circular Materials (EPR/EPP) Zoom meeting, submitting information via email on the zoom session to assist CAO.
- Assisted Manager of Finance to correct water account Interest and base charges for a resident as directed.
- Assisted Manager of Finance to complete the Budget Booklet for 2025-26 for the next Council meeting.
- Assisted MPAL to forward a request to order a step ladder for the office.
- **Proclamations, website and social media posting highlights:**
 - Lyme Disease Awareness Month
 - Gaelic Nova Scotia Month
 - Heart Failure Awareness Week (May 4-May 10)
 - International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (May 17)
 - Access Awareness Week (May 26-June 1)
 - National Pride Month – June 2025
 - **Recreation web page updates** for Town Yard Sale in May and updated to the May 2025 newsletter.
 - **Recreation summer student posted** to the website employment page and shared to social media.
 - Shared “**what goes where**” from Cumberland Regional Solid Waste services.
 - Posted the **Notice of Public hearing** for the Schedule of rates and Charges for Water and Water Services amendments on July 30, 2025.

- Posted the notice of town meeting - **Learning How the Town Prioritizes Projects** with Matt Delorme on our website, website calendar, and FB pages. Printed copies for posting in the office, distributed to each councillor and to place at the front counter and post on main door and front windows.
- Public Works post for water main flushing activities to start May 30, 2025.
- Uploaded approved Operating and Capital budget for 2025-2026 to the website.
- Uploaded the approved Accessibility Plan to the website.
- Shared the 2025-2026 Operating and Capital Budget highlights to the website and Facebook groups to assist CAO.



Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting

Place: Council Chambers, Recorded locally via Zoom
Date: Wednesday, May 28, 2024
Presiding Officer: Chrystal McNutt
Councillors Present: Paul Jones, Arnold MacDonald.
Regrets: Nil

A quorum was present throughout the meeting.

Staff present: CAO – Linda Cloney, Manager of Finance – Ruthann Brookins, and Administrative Assistant – Stan McDougall (recording secretary).

Presenters: *Nil*

1. Call to Order – Welcome

At 4:57 PM Chrystal McNutt called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Arnold MacDonald and seconded by Paul Jones to approve the May 28, 2024, agenda as presented.

Motion Carried

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

3.1 Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting February 26, 2024

3.2 Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting, May 1, 2024

Approved by: 
Chrystal McNutt, Chair, on May 1, 2024

4. New Business

4.1 Letter of Resignation – Josephine MacDonald

Linda Cloney discussed with the committee a letter received by Council from Josephine MacDonald which gave notice of her immediate resignation from the Audit Committee and the Accessibility Committee.

The Audit Committee, through consensus, accepted with regret the resignation of Josephine MacDonald. Direction by the committee that Linda Cloney will draft a letter of acknowledgment and acceptance of Josephine's resignation.

The committee agreed it's a difficult position to fill and discussed some possible candidates to approach. The position should be filled by someone with financial expertise who can understand budgets and financial statements.

Direction by the committee for Linda Cloney to post an advertisement for applications to fill the vacancy in the Audit Committee advertising the preference for candidates to possess financial expertise.

4.2 Terms of Reference – revision discussion

The Audit Committee discussed the Terms of Reference and updates to consider.

Moved by Paul Jones and seconded by Arnold MacDonald to align the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference to the MGA.


Motion Carried

Direction by the committee for Linda Cloney to draft an updated Terms of Reference to be reviewed by the committee. The draft was discussed as distributable by email to review before the next meeting.

A further meeting in September of 2024 will be scheduled to review the Management letter from the Auditors and at that time the draft Terms of Reference will also be reviewed.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM



Chrystal McNutt



Stan McDougall, Admin Assistant

05-14-2025

Date Approved



Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

Place: Council Chambers
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025
Presiding Officer: Danielle Laurie
Members present: Megan Marchant, Olivia Canning, Tracy Briggs, Padraic Moore, Theresa Ryan, and Ashlyn Brownell
Regrets: Mandy Blake, Amanda Purdy

A quorum was present throughout the meeting.

Staff in attendance: Linda Cloney – CAO and Stan McDougall – (recording secretary)

1. Call to Order / Welcome – new member – Theresa Ryan
Chair Danielle Laurie called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with round-table introductions to welcome Theresa Ryan.
2. Approval of the Agenda
Moved by Olivia Canning and seconded by Padraic Moore that the agenda of the Accessibility Advisory Committee for February 10, 2025, be approved, as presented.
Motion Carried
3. Approval of the Previous Minutes – November 25, 2024.

Danielle Laurie, Chair, on February 10, 2025

4. Business

5. Town of Oxford Accessible Report Card for Council – due March 31

Linda informed the committee that an Accessibility Report Card is due by March 31, 2025. The report card will be graded and shared with the committee. It will also be made available to the public.

6. Accessibility Plan – discussion

Linda informed the committee that the Accessibility Plan needs to be officially updated by March 31, 2025. Once the plan is updated and approved by the committee, it will be recommended to the Council for their approval.

7. Correspondence

Nil

8. Next Meeting Date

The committee tentatively scheduled the next meeting for March 24, 2025.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM

Danielle Laurie, Chair

Stan McDougall, Recording Secretary

Date Approved

Cumberland MAP meeting Agenda & Minutes

June 3rd, 2025

Attendance: Madison, Sophie, Kim, Carrie

Regrets: Sarah, Colleen, Jessica

Agenda item	Notes	Lead	
Welcome & Introductions		Sophie	
Provincial Policy Update	<p>On May 29th, the government released a press release that noted that it is exploring expansion of alcohol sales and/or allowing more public spaces where people can drink alcoholic beverages.</p> <p>The press release states that consultation is being done with 250 stakeholders and will poll 1500 residents, the consultation will end at the end of June.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Province Looks At Where Alcohol Sold, Consumed Government of Nova Scotia News Releases <p>Update of local actions that have been taken so far.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to this possible change, health promoters have been having conversations in community with partners to increase awareness of the policy window and provide the most up to date evidence. If you or your organization are interested in receiving the most up to date evidence about alcohol, please reach out to Madison or Sophie to request more information about alcohol impacts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cumberland Partners Update ○ NSAP Letter: Concerns raised over sale of alcohol in N.S. convenience stores CBC.ca 	Sophie & Madison	
Group Discussion What can we do?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We had a brief conversation about MAPs role in this work and brainstormed next steps. • If you are interested in further conversations or have any questions please reach out to Madison or Sophie. 	Madison	
Wrap-up	Reminder: Please send MAP meeting minutes to CAOs	Sophie	

News release

Province Looks At Where Alcohol Sold, Consumed

29 May 2025 | 9:02 AM

Finance and Treasury Board

interprovincial trade

The government will explore Nova Scotians' opinions on the way alcohol is sold and consumed in the Province.

“Nova Scotia is taking steps to eliminate interprovincial trade barriers, and that makes this a good time to look at how alcohol is sold and consumed,” said Finance and Treasury Board Minister John Lohr. “This could include expanding retail options or allowing more places where people can drink alcoholic beverages. We’ll be reaching out to interested groups and polling Nova Scotians to determine whether this is something they’re interested in and what their concerns might be.”

The Province will be gathering input on:

- the types of stores where alcohol can be sold
- locations where adults over 19 can drink alcohol
- health and safety considerations for any potential changes.

The Province will seek input from stakeholder groups such as health and safety organizations, retailers, municipal governments, industry and consumer groups, alcohol producers and others.

A public opinion survey of about 1,500 Nova Scotians over age 19 will begin this week. This will give the government a random sample of public opinion.

The Province is gathering input until June 30.

Quick Facts:

- alcohol is currently sold at just over 300 retail locations, including Nova Scotia Liquor Corp. corporate and agency stores, private wine and specialty stores, on-site stores at breweries and wineries, and farmers' markets
- more than 250 stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide feedback

Alcohol Availability and Access – Current Evidence

- Alcohol availability refers to the extent to which alcohol can be accessed in a community.
- Factors that impact alcohol availability include the types of retail outlets selling alcohol, the number of outlets in a specific geographic area (often referred to as outlet density), the location of these outlets, and their days and hours of operation.
- Increasing availability of alcohol impacts health outcomes directly by increasing environmental cues and facilitating greater ease and convenience of access and indirectly through greater exposure to alcohol marketing and promotion and the normalization of alcohol use.
- Both pathways have been shown to contribute to higher rates of per capita alcohol consumption (particularly among youth and young adults) (1-4) and consequently, more alcohol-related acute and chronic health issues and harms.
- Research in Canada and internationally has consistently shown that increasing availability of alcohol in communities is associated with an increase in:
 - Alcohol-attributable emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths (2,3,5,6).
 - Instances of impaired driving (7).
 - Street and intimate partner violence (7).
 - Underage drinking (8,9,10).
 - Relapse among those in recovery from alcohol use disorder (11).
- Research also suggests that where alcohol outlets are located matters.
 - The proximity of alcohol outlets relative to places children and youth frequent, such as schools, daycares, parks and playgrounds impacts alcohol consumption and high-risk drinking behaviors in youth and young adults (15).
 - Alcohol outlet density has been shown to be more concentrated in communities that experience social and material inequities and face disproportionate harms related to alcohol use (5,6,12).

- Decreasing alcohol outlet density and placing limits on the hours and days of operation promotes and protects the health and safety of the public by:
 - Reducing rates of alcohol consumption in the population (13,14).
 - Preventing and delaying the initiation of alcohol use (15).
 - Reducing unintentional and intentional injury and violence (16).
 - Shifting societal norms and acceptability of alcohol use (8).
- Strategies that address availability of alcohol are most effective when combined with other interventions that reduce alcohol consumption (13, 17). [Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation \(CAPE\)](#) is a valuable resource which outlines evidence-based policy domains shown to improve public health.

References

1. Sherk A, Stockwell T, Chikritzhs T, Andréasson S, Angus C, Gripenberg J, et al. Alcohol Consumption and the Physical Availability of Take-Away Alcohol: Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses of the Days and Hours of Sale and Outlet Density. *J Stud Alcohol Drugs*. 2018 Jan;79(1):58–67.
2. Stockwell T, Zhao J, Macdonald S, Vallance K, Gruenewald P, Ponicki W, et al. Impact on alcohol-related mortality of a rapid rise in the density of private liquor outlets in British Columbia: a local area multi-level analysis. *Addiction*. 2011 Apr 1;106(4):768–76.
3. Myran DT, Chen JT, Giesbrecht N, Rees VW. The association between alcohol access and alcohol-attributable emergency department visits in Ontario, Canada. *Addiction*. 2019 Jul 1;114(7):1183–91.
4. Stockwell T, Zhao J, Martin G, Macdonald S, Vallance K, Treno A, et al. Minimum Alcohol Prices and Outlet Densities in British Columbia, Canada: Estimated Impacts on Alcohol-Attributable Hospital Admissions. *Am J Public Health*. 2013 Nov;103(11):2014–20.
5. Charlotte Probst, Michael Roerecke, Silke Behrendt, Jürgen Rehm, Socioeconomic differences in alcohol-attributable mortality compared with all-cause mortality: a systematic review and meta-analysis, *International Journal of Epidemiology*, Volume 43, Issue 4, August 2014, Pages 1314–1327, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyu043>
6. Forbes, S. M., Schwartz, N., Fu, S. H., Hobin, E., & Smith, B. T. (2024). The association between off-and on-premise alcohol outlet density and 100% alcohol-attributable emergency department visits by neighbourhood-level socioeconomic status in Ontario, Canada. *Health & Place*, 89, 103284.
7. Nepal S, Kypri K, Tekelab T, Hodder RK, Attia J, Bagade T, et al. Effects of Extensions and Restrictions in Alcohol Trading Hours on the Incidence of Assault and Unintentional Injury: Systematic Review. *J Stud Alcohol Drugs*. 2020 Feb 12;
8. Dimova ED, Lekkas P, Maxwell K, Clemens TL, Pearce JR, Mitchell R, et al. Exploring the influence of local alcohol availability on drinking norms and practices: A qualitative scoping review. *Drug Alcohol Rev*. 2023;42(3):691–703.
9. Chen MJ, Grube JW, Gruenewald PJ. Community Alcohol Outlet Density and Underage Drinking. *Addict Abingdon Engl*. 2010 Feb;105(2):270–8
10. Myran DT, Chen JT, Bearnot B, Ip M, Giesbrecht N, Rees VW. Alcohol Availability Across Neighborhoods in Ontario Following Alcohol Sales Deregulation, 2013-2017. *Am J Public Health*. 2019 Jun;109(6):899-905. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2019.305014. Epub 2019 Apr 18. PMID: 30998409; PMCID: PMC6507984.
11. Vafaei N, Kober H. Association of Drug Cues and Craving With Drug Use and Relapse: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. *JAMA Psychiatry*. 2022;79(7):641–650. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2022.1240
12. Ferreira-Borges C, Freudenberg N, Giorgi C, Johns P, Leos-Toro C, Pantani D, et al. Addressing Alcohol Consumption and Socioeconomic Inequalities: How a Health Promotion Approach Can Help. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2021 Jun.
13. Guindon, G.E., Li, C., Trivedi, R. et al. The effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of population-level policies to reduce alcohol use: A systematic umbrella review. *Can J Public Health* (2025). <https://doi.org/10.17269/s41997-025-01013-9>

14. Shakory S, Smith BT, Jansen R, Reel B, Hobin E. The impacts of policies controlling the spatial availability of take-away alcohol on consumption and harms: A systematic narrative review. *Addiction*. 2025 Apr 9. doi: 10.1111/add.70070. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40205708.
15. The World Health Organization (WHO) advises limiting alcohol availability and advertising as cost-effective measures to safeguard young individuals from alcohol-related risks [Internet]. 2024 [cited 2025 May 5]. Available from: <https://www.who.int/thailand/news/detail/18-04-2024-who-advises-limiting-alcohol-availability-and-advertising>
16. Fitterer JL, Nelson TA, Stockwell T. A Review of Existing Studies Reporting the Negative Effects of Alcohol Access and Positive Effects of Alcohol Control Policies on Interpersonal Violence. *Front Public Health*. 2015;3(253).
17. Farkouh, E., Price, T., Vallance, K., Wettlaufer, A., Farrell-Low, A., Giesbrecht, N., Stockwell, T., Vishnevsky, N., Priore, B., Ma, J., Asbridge, M., Gagnon, M., Hynes, G., Shelley, J., Sherk, A., Shield, K., Solomon, R., Thomas, G., Thompson, K., & Naimi, T. (2023). *Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation (CAPE) 3.0: Methodology and Evidence (Federal and Provincial/Territorial)*. Victoria, BC: Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research, University of Victoria.

Alcohol Use and Impacts

Alcohol use is common in Nova Scotia.

Alcohol is the most used substance in Nova Scotia and Canada.

- 1 in 4 Nova Scotians (15+ years old) reported drinking at least once a week in 2019 (1).
- On average, Nova Scotians start using alcohol at 13.4 years old (2).

Alcohol use impacts communities.

Alcohol can lead to harms to self and others, including(3–9):

- impaired driving and motor-vehicle collision
- aggression and violence
- gender-based and intimate partner violence
- injuries
- illness and chronic disease
- premature death

Impaired Driving

In 2022, the rate of incidents of operation of a vehicle while alcohol-impaired was 210.4 per 100,000 population in Nova Scotia (10).

Gender-based Violence

Alcohol use has been linked to increases in gender-based and intimate partner violence (IPV) (11).

- Nova Scotia has the highest prevalence of self-reported IPV among women of all Canadian provinces(12).
- Nova Scotia has a higher annual provincial rate of femicide than the national average (13).

Illness and Chronic Disease

- All alcohol use carries risk of negative consequences (14) and there is no determined level of alcohol consumption below which there is no risk of injury, illness or disease (15,16). However, evidence clearly shows that as alcohol use increases, so do risks and harms to health.
- Alcohol use has been linked to (3,5,15):
 - Seven types of cancer
 - Heart disease
 - Liver disease, such as cirrhosis
 - Alcohol poisoning
 - Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
 - Anxiety and depression

- Recent data show that the use of alcohol causes nearly 7,000 cases of cancer and over 3,200 cases of deaths from cancer per year in Canada (6).
- Nova Scotia has a culture of alcohol use. This means that Nova Scotians drink more alcohol, and more drinks on one occasion more heavily, than most Canadians.
 - High-risk drinking (greater than 7 drinks or more per week) among high school and university students in Nova Scotia is much higher than in other provinces.
 - In 2022, 21.5% of Nova Scotians (12+ years old) reported heavy drinking (17).
 - Young adult males (18-34 years old) report the highest rates of heavy drinking (17).

Deaths

In 2020, a total of 571 deaths were wholly or partially attributable to alcohol in Nova Scotia (18)

The costs of alcohol use continue to rise in Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia has the 4th highest provincial rate of hospitalizations entirely caused by alcohol.

- The costs associated with alcohol-related harms exceed those of tobacco, cannabis, and opioids (12)
- Costs related to the consumption of alcohol in Nova Scotia have been consistently and substantially higher than alcohol-related government revenue in Nova Scotia.

References

1. Health Canada. Canadian Alcohol and Drugs Survey. June–December 2019. 2021.
2. Health Canada. Canadian Student Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey – 2016–2017 supplementary tables. Ottawa; 2018.
3. Shakory S, Smith BT, Jansen R, Reel B, Hobin E. The impacts of policies controlling the spatial availability of take-away alcohol on consumption and harms: A systematic narrative review. *Addiction* [Internet]. [cited 2025 May 15];n/a(n/a). Available from: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/add.70070>
4. Babor T, Casswell S, Graham K, Huckle T, Livingston M, Osterberg E, et al. *Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity: Research and public policy*. 2023.
5. World Health Organization. World Health Organization. 2024 [cited 2025 Feb 21]. Alcohol. Available from: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/alcohol>
6. Paradis C, Butt P, Shield K, Poole N, Wells S, Naimi T, et al. Canada’s Guidance on Alcohol and Health: Final Report. [Internet]. Ottawa, Ont.: Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction; 2023. Available from: https://www.ccsa.ca/sites/default/files/2023-01/CCSA_Canadas_Guidance_on_Alcohol_and_Health_Final_Report_en.pdf
7. Centre for Mental Health and Addiction. Alcohol Policy Framework [Internet]. 2019 Sep [cited 2025 Feb 21]. Available from: <https://www.camh.ca/-/media/files/pdfs---public-policy-submissions/camh-alcoholpolicyframework-2019-pdf.pdf>
8. Canadian Public Health Association. Too High a Cost: A Public Health Approach to Alcohol Policy in Canada [Internet]. Ottawa, ON; 2011 [cited 2025 Feb 21]. Available from: https://www.cpha.ca/sites/default/files/assets/positions/position-paper-alcohol_e.pdf
9. Public Health Agency of Canada. The Chief Public Health Officer’s Report on the State of Public Health in Canada 2015: Alcohol Consumption in Canada [Internet]. Ottawa, ON: Public Health Agency of Canada; 2016 [cited 2025 Feb 27]. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/canada/health-canada/migration/healthy-canadians/publications/department-ministere/state-public-health-alcohol-2015-etat-sante-publique-alcool/alt/state-phac-alcohol-2015-etat-aspc-alcool-eng.pdf>
10. Statistics Canada. Uniform Crime Reporting Survey - Table 35-10-0177-01 Incident-based crime statistics, by detailed violations, Canada, provinces, territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Canadian Forces Military Police. 2024;
11. Taft A, Wilson I, Laslett A, Kuntsche S. Pathways to responding and preventing alcohol-related violence against women: why a gendered approach matters. *Aust N Z J Public Health*. 2019 Dec 1;43(6):516–8.
12. Cotter A. Intimate partner violence in Canada, 2018: An overview. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics; 2021 p. 1–23.
13. Yakubovich AR, Steele B, Cullum J, Johnson CP, Parker LN, Wilson SJ, et al. Health system preparedness to respond to domestic and sexualized violence: A cross-sectional survey in Nova Scotia, Canada. *Prev Med Rep*. 2025 May 1;53:103058.
14. Nova Scotia Health Public Health, Science and System Performance. A Profile of Alcohol Use and Harms in Nova Scotia [Internet]. Nova Scotia Health; 2024 May p. 30. Available from: [https://novascotia.sharepoint.com/sites/Health-PH/PHC/Alcohol/A%20Profile%20of%20Alcohol%20Use%20and%20Harms%20\(2024\).pdf](https://novascotia.sharepoint.com/sites/Health-PH/PHC/Alcohol/A%20Profile%20of%20Alcohol%20Use%20and%20Harms%20(2024).pdf)
15. Paradis C, Butt P, Shield K, Poole N, Wells S, Naimi T, et al. Canada’s Guidance on Alcohol and Health: Final Report [Internet]. Ottawa, ON: Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction; 2023 [cited 2025 Apr 24]. Available from: <https://www.ccsa.ca/en/canadas-guidance-alcohol-and-health-final-report>
16. World Health Organization [Internet]. 2023 [cited 2025 Apr 24]. No level of alcohol consumption is safe for our health. Available from: <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/04-01-2023-no-level-of-alcohol-consumption-is-safe-for-our-health>
17. Statistics Canada. Canadian Community Health Survey - Annual Component [Internet]. Government of Canada; 2023. Available from: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1310009601>
18. Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction, Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research. Canadian Substance Use Costs and Harms Data Visualization Tool [Internet]. 2020 [cited 2024 Jan 17]. Available from: <https://csuch.ca/explore-the-data/>

Date

Re: Province Looks At Where Alcohol Sold, Consumed

CC: Respective local MLA

Dear Ministers Lohr and Thompson,

On behalf of community organizations or municipality, representing population served by organization, we are writing to express serious concern regarding the potential of expanding alcohol retail options or allowing more places where people can drink alcoholic beverages. In a recent press release, the government of Nova Scotia announced it would be exploring the expansion of alcohol sales and/or allowing more public spaces where people can drink alcoholic beverages.

Expanding alcohol retail options or allowing more places where people can drink alcoholic beverages could negatively impact the health and safety of our communities. Extensive research demonstrates that as alcohol availability rises, consumption and harms do too (1, 2). Throughout Nova Scotia, there are several existing private retail outlets that sell alcohol, the number of private alcohol retail outlets has steadily increased since 2014 (3). In 2014-2015, the number of private retail outlets selling alcohol in Nova Scotia was 37, by 2021-2022 that number increased to 221 (3). This significant increase in private outlets has already weakened safeguards originally built into the Liquor Control Act—such as limits on outlet density, operating hours, and oversight on sales to minors or intoxicated individuals. This is supported in the most recent edition of the Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation (CAPE) in which Nova Scotia received a failing grade in eight of the eleven analyzed categories, including physical availability (32%). The proposed changes would further lower this score by increasing outlet density, as well as expanding operating hours (4).

In Cumberland County, there are currently 11 NSLC retail outlets and 3 private retail outlets. Based on the number of existing convenience stores, the government's proposed expansion could result in 20 additional private retail outlets across our communities.

In Nova Scotia, the annual net income of liquor authorities, total taxes, and other revenue generated by alcohol is less than the societal costs (3). Since 2020, the annual net income generated by alcohol in Nova Scotia has exceeded \$400 million but the societal costs, including healthcare, economic loss of production, criminal justice, and other direct costs, are consistently and substantially higher than alcohol-related government revenue in Nova Scotia (5). In 2020/21, alcohol-related harms cost Nova Scotia a total of \$652 million, resulting in a total alcohol deficit of \$219 million, which is the equivalent of \$0.54 per standard drink sold in the province (5,6,7). Expanding alcohol sales could further increase societal costs as recent research in Ontario suggests that greater alcohol retail access appears to be associated with

higher rates of emergency department and outpatient health-care visits attributable to alcohol (8).

Urgent action to protect public health is required. That is why we are calling on the Government of Nova Scotia to immediately suspend any further privatization of alcohol sales, including convenience stores, until a health impact assessment is complete.

Nova Scotia is simultaneously experiencing a multitude of crises. Daily, Nova Scotians are burdened with the high cost of living with nearly one out of three households experiencing food insecurity (9), 91,000 Nova Scotians looking for a primary care provider (10) and epidemic levels of gender-based violence (11,12). Expanding the access and availability of alcohol will exacerbate harms and put increased strain on systems that are already battling the cost of living, lack of health care access and the gender-based violence epidemic (7, 12, 13).

We strongly urge the Government of Nova Scotia to prioritize health and safety in alcohol policy decisions. Expanding access will only intensify the burden of alcohol-related harm on our healthcare system, our communities, and our families.

Sincerely,

Sign name or organization you are representing

References

1. Babor, T. F., Casswell, S., Graham, K., Huckle, T., Livingston, M., Rehm, J., Room, R., Rossow, I., & Sornpaisarn, B. (2022). Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity -a summary of the third edition. *Addiction (Abingdon, England)*, 117(12), 3024–3036. <https://doi.org/10.1111/add.16003>
2. Sherk, A., Stockwell, T., Chikritzhs, T., Andréasson, S., Angus, C., Gripenberg, J., Holder, H., Holmes, J., Mäkelä, P., Mills, M., Norström, T., Ramstedt, M., & Woods, J. (2018). Alcohol Consumption and the Physical Availability of Take-Away Alcohol: Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses of the Days and Hours of Sale and Outlet Density. *Journal of studies on alcohol and drugs*, 79(1), 58–67.
3. Statistics Canada. (2025, March 7). *Sales of alcoholic beverages by liquor authorities and other retail outlets, by type of outlet* (Table 10-10-0013-01). Government of Canada. <https://doi.org/10.25318/1010001301-eng>
4. Naimi, T., Stockwell, T., Giesbrecht, N., Wettlaufer, A., Vallance, K., Farrell-Low, A., Farkouh, E., Ma, J., Priore, B., Vishnevsky, N., Price, T., Asbridge, M., Gagnon, M., Hynes, G., Shelley, J., Sherk, A., Shield, K., Solomon, R., Thomas, G. & Thompson, K. (2023). Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation 3.0: Findings from Nova Scotia. *Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research, University of Victoria*.
5. Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction, & Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research. (2023). *Canadian Substance Use Costs and Harms (CSUCH) visualization tool*. Government of Canada. <https://csuch.ca/explore-the-data/>
6. Statistics Canada (2025 June 4). *Sales of alcoholic beverages types by liquor authorities and other retail outlets, by value, volume, and absolute volume* (Table 10-10-0010-01). Government of Canada. <https://doi.org/10.25318/1010001001-eng>
7. Statistics Canada. (2025, March 7). *Net income of liquor authorities and government revenue from sale of alcoholic beverages* (Table 10-10-0012-01). Government of Canada. <https://doi.org/10.25318/1010001201-eng>
8. Myran DT, Friesen E, Talarico R, Gaudreault A, Taljaard M, Hobin E, et al. The association between alcohol retail access and health care visits attributable to alcohol for individuals with and without a history of alcohol-related health-care use. *Addiction* [Internet]. 2024;119(9):1554–63. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/add.16566>
9. Nova Scotia Department of Finance. *Canadian Income Survey: Food Security, 2022*. Government of Nova Scotia. <https://www.novascotia.ca/finance/statistics/news.asp?id=19863#:~:text=Food%20insecurity%20refers%20to%20households,and%20lowest%20in%20Nova%20Scotia>.
10. Nova Scotia Health (2025). *Need a Family Practice Registry Update, May 2025*. Government of Nova Scotia. <https://www.nshealth.ca/news-and-notice/need-family-practice-registry-update-may-2025>
11. Chender, C. (2024). Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act (Bill No. 482). Nova Scotia House of Assembly. https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/64th_1st/1st_read/b482.htm
12. Wood, S., & Bellis, M. A. (2017). Socio-economic inequalities in alcohol consumption and harm: Evidence for effective interventions and policy across EU countries. European Commission. https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/default/files/social_determinants/docs/hepp_screport_alcohol_en.pdf
13. Taft, A., Wilson, I., Laslett, A. M., & Kuntsche, S. (2019). Pathways to responding and preventing alcohol-related violence against women: why a gendered approach matters. *Australian and New Zealand journal of public health*, 43(6), 516–518. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1753-6405.12943>

NORTHERN REGION WASTE-RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes: March 7, 2025

Present Elected Officials
Paul Weatherby, Mun. of Colchester (Chair)
Eldon Hebb, Mun. of the District of East Hants
Nic Furlong, Town of Amherst (Vice Chair)
Chrystal McNutt, Town of Oxford
Fred Gould, Mun. of Cumberland
David LeBlanc, Town of Stewiacke

Present Staff
Andrea Trask, Mun. of East Hants
Brenda Rioux, Amherst, Oxford, & Mun. of Cumberland
Robert Matheson, Mun. of Colchester
Ishamar Senior Gentles, Mun. of Colchester
Jessica Rushton, Mun. of Colchester
Jesse Hulsman, Mun. of the District of East Hants
Jared Bent, Town of Truro

Regrets
Wayne Talbot, Town of Truro

Call to order and welcome

1. Approval of Agenda
Moved by Councillor Eldon Hebb seconded by Councillor Fred Gould to approve the agenda as circulated.
Motion carried.
2. Approval of the Minutes (January 17, 2025)
Moved by Councillor Eldon Hebb seconded by Councillor David LeBlanc to approve the agenda as circulated.
Motion carried.
3. Status: EPR for Packaging, Paper Products and Packaging Like Products (= EPR for PPP)

Staff reported the process to launch the new provincial recycling program (curbside blue bag materials) is continuing. Financial offers to municipalities have been sent out from Circular Materials for consideration. Staff highlighted the following:

- This change begins December 1, 2025
- Contract offers from Circular Materials have been issued to all municipalities
 - staff continue to review options, including legal and insurance sections of terms and conditions (have shared feedback)

- contract offers are based on a cost per eligible stops; with stops being adjusted quarterly
- contracts are only curbside collection services for eligible 'stops' which include residential homes, multi-dwelling residential stops, schools, and campgrounds
- contracts do not allow for services to be provided to small commercial stops (receiving service levels similar to residential); this can include not-for-profit locations where municipalities may not consider them commercial
- Municipalities the 'Opt-In' will provide the curbside services on behalf of Circular Materials (as a contractor) and with that will have access to an additional \$1.50/stop for educational support.
- Municipalities that 'Opt-Out' will not provide the service and all costs to the curbside blue bag program become the responsibility of Circular Materials.
- There are monthly meetings with Circular Materials and municipalities (virtual only)

Regional staff reported that our municipalities are currently leaning towards Opting-In pending further clarifications on outstanding items.

4. Update From Provincial Regional Chairs Committee (January 31, 2025)

Chair Weatherby reported there was an orientation session on January 30th, and regular business meeting on January 31st.

Highlights shared:

- Letter sent to Minister Halman, NS Environment & Climate Change re: Concern for sharps as a health and safety concern in communities and waste management facilities. The recommendation was to create an EPR program for sharps.
- Diversion funding smoothing was discussed and confirmed at the meeting. There will be \$7M available for funding this year, which leaves \$5M in reserve. This process was established years ago to provide stability to municipal funding when markets were particularly challenging.
- Regional Chairs set their annual meeting schedule
- Divert NS Summit *Climate Change – No Time to Waste* (March 20th – 21st)

Next meeting of Regional Chairs is scheduled for March 21st after the Divert Summit.

5. Provincial Regional Coordinator Committee Update

Regional staff provided updates on some of the specific areas of work the Regional Coordinators are working on.

Safe Sharps Program (Robert)

There is a sub-committee which Robert is coordinating. The program in NS is voluntary only, whereas there are EPR for Safe Sharps in five other provinces. As a voluntary program the funding focuses on containers, collection and disposal. Therefore, the system has no funding for education and awareness (municipalities are providing as the material is a health and safety concern), the pharmacies struggle with supply of containers, and there can be delays in collection/disposal of containers as well. Circular Materials has recently setup a program in New Brunswick, and Regional Coordinators are looking to challenge the same for Nova Scotia.

Other Stewardship Focus (Andrea)

Staff reported that the Regional Coordinators committee assigns various members to sit on sub-committees to work with existing stewardship program administrators or work to collect information to propose new stewardship opportunities. Some examples include: electronics, sharps, and dairy.

Datacall (Andrea)

Staff updated that Divert NS is working through some upgrades to this required annual report, that directly impacts funding and potential future stewardship programs (with the data collected year over year).

Divert NS Funding

Staff reported that there are a number of regional contracts staff complete annually. This includes:

- Regional Coordinator Contracts (split 3-ways within the Region)
- Regional Education Contractors (split based on population)
- Regional Enforcement Contractors (split 3-ways within the Region)

6. NS Solid Waste Managers & Directors Committee Update (Andrea)

Staff reported that the last meeting was held in January in Kempton. The group works together to discuss larger items, such as the EPR for PPP file, to every day operational discussions. Currently the main focus is EPR for PPP.

7. Regional Partner Solid Waste Updates (attached to minutes)

- Colchester
- Cumberland
- East Hants

8. Other Business

- Northern Region Funding Distribution 2024/2025

Staff shared the regional funding breakdown for the year from Divert NS. The following is the specific breakdowns for 2024/25, as long as all requirements of the regional contracts are fulfilled. Staff noted that funding is divided based on the methodology the funding is provided to the Region.

Funding Type	Methodology for Distribution	Regional Funding 2024/25
Education Contract	Divided by Population	\$88,119.77
Enforcement Contract	Divided 3-ways	\$99,993.00
Diversion Credits	By Diversion Results (\$/T)	\$668,232.75
MAP Funding	By Diversion Results (\$/T)	\$106,309.21
Regional Coordinator Contract	Divided 3-ways	\$43,286.00

- Committee Meeting Schedule – proposal review and feedback

Staff provided a suggested schedule for the remainder of the fiscal year. Traditionally we meet the week following Regional Chairs to provide most up-to-date information and provide direction to staff where necessary.

Date	Location
May 16 th	Virtual
July 4 th	No Meeting: Staff to Provide Written Update
September 26 th	Hybrid (location TBC)
December 12 th	Virtual
January 30 th	Virtual
March 27	Virtual

The committee had no concerns with the schedule prepared and should a meeting be required the Chair has the authority to request members to come together.

9. Next Meeting: **Friday May 16, 2025 (virtual)**

10. Correspondence - None

11. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Eldon Hebb to adjourn the meeting at 11:13 a.m. Motion carried.