



**TOWN OF LOCKEPORT  
COUNCIL MEETING  
FRIDAY MARCH 14, 2025, AT 1:00 P.M.  
AGENDA**

**1. Call to order**

**2. Silence Electronic Devices**

**3. Conflict of Interest**

**4. Public Hearing regarding change of zoning for 21 South Water Street, Lockeport, Nova Scotia**

- Amendment to the Land Use By-Law and Municipal Planning Strategy

Staff Suggested Motion: That Council for the Town of Lockeport conduct 2<sup>st</sup> and final reading of a proposed amendment to the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Land-Use By-Law, to redesignate & rezone the property located at 21 South Water Street from the existing M1 Industrial to C2 Tourist Commercial

**5. Approval of Agenda, including additions or deletions**

Staff Suggested Motion – That Council approve the agenda for the March 14, 2025, meeting with the following additions/deletions.

**6. Approval of Minutes**

- Regular Council Meeting Minutes February 28, 2025

Staff Suggested Motion – That Council approve the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of February 28, 2025.

## **7. Business arising from Previous Minutes**

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

## **8. Community Forum (Open Mic)**

- 20 Minutes Maximum
- Each resident is allowed a maximum of five minutes
- The resident is to speak directly to Council
- There will be no interaction by Council at this time
- If questions are posed by residents the question will be recorded to be researched

## **9. Presentations**

Eastern Shelburne County Accessibility Plan 2025-2028 and staff report—  
Michelle Vachon, Accessibility Coordinator. (Page 1-53)

Staff Suggested Motion: That the Town of Lockeport adopt the Eastern Shelburne County Accessibility Plan 2025-2028 that has been accepted and passed by the Accessibility Committee. The Plan has been developed for the Municipality of the District of Shelburne, the Town of Shelburne and the Town of Lockeport.

## **10. Finance**

- List of invoices already paid in the amount of \$68,820.68 (Page 54)
- Senior Services budget for 2025-2026 (Page 55-67)

Staff Suggested Motion: That Council approving a grant in the amount of \$3,341.50 to Senior Services for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

## 11. Other Business

- Draft Nomination form for Local Business Showcase

Staff Suggested Motion: That Council adopt a policy and draft nomination form for Local Business Showcase, similar to the Volunteer policy and nomination form as developed by the Recreation Committee.

- Discussion of the construction of a wooden walkway attached to current Beach Centre walkway that will go over dunes near high traffic area, with a retractable accessibility ramp that can connect to the beach and be secured during storms and winter season
- Budget to purchase paint for both large buoys located in Lockeport to promote images of Lockeport that is reflective of the pride of our community.

Staff Suggested Motion: That Council allow money in the 2025-20206 budget to have both metal buoys sandblasted and painted, to promote aesthetic pleasing images of Lockeport that is reflective of the pride of the community.

- Discussion to promote the establishment of a Lockeport Farmers & Artisan's Market (Page 68-70)

Staff Suggested Motion: That Councillor Malik head up the establishment of a public Farmers and Artisan's Market to be held at the Seacaps Park on Saturdays from noon until 3 pm from July until September.

- Community Theatre project
- Schedule a dangerous and unsightly premises Committee meeting to address unoccupied derelict homes within the Town of Lockeport.

## **12. Council Reports**

- Mayor Derek Amalfa (Page 71-72)
- Deputy-Mayor Anna Chetwynd (Page 73)
- Councillor Craig Hillen (Page 74)
  - o Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes and Terms of Reference (Page 75-81)
- Councillor Kevn Chetwynd (Page 82)
- Councillor Candace Malik (Page 83)

## **13. Correspondence**

- Letter from the Honourable John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs – requesting support from Council (Page 84)

**Staff Suggested Motion: Council of the Town of Lockeport agree to support the need for greater resource development within our province.**

## **14. Information Only**

- News Release from Heather Fairbairn, media contact – Finance/Treasury Board RE: Financial Measures (2025) Act Introduced (Page 85-86)
- Letter from the Honourable John Lohr - Minimum Planning Regulations in relations to wind turbines in HRM (Page 87-89)
- Letter to Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia from Laurette Geldenhuys of behalf of Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE) in regard to repealing the Uranium Exploration and Mining Prohibition Act and amendments to permit hydraulic fracturing of natural gas in Nova Scotia (Page 90-93)
- Letter from Nancy Covington MD on behalf of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment – banning uranium mining. (Page 94-96)

## **15. Date of next meeting**

- March 28, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

**16. “In Camera”**

- Personnel

**17. Adjournment**

Regular Council Meeting 03142025.agd

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## Staff Report

**To:** Council  
**From:** Michelle Vacon, Accessibility Coordinator  
**Date:** March 5, 2025  
**Subject:** Eastern Shelburne County Accessibility Plan 2025-2028

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### Origin

The Nova Scotia *Accessibility Act* (2017) recognizes accessibility as a human right and aims to make the province barrier-free for people with disabilities by 2030. It legislates Municipalities to create an accessibility plan. In response, the Municipality of Shelburne, Town of Shelburne, and Town of Lockeport partnered to create their first joint accessibility plan in 2022.

Municipalities are also legislated to update our plan every three years, with our first plan update due to be made available to the public by April 1, 2025. The Accessibility Coordinator has completed the legislated actions for this plan update and drafted the "Eastern Shelburne County Accessibility Plan 2025-2028."

This plan has been reviewed by the Eastern Shelburne County Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC), the Accessibility Directorate and AMANS' Municipal Accessibility, Equity, and Anti-Racism Department.

The AAC met on this plan and made a motion for Council to approve it.

### Recommendation

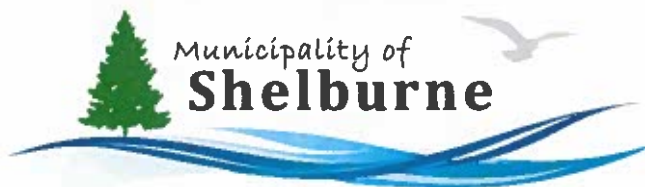
THAT Council of the Town of Lockeport approve the Eastern Shelburne County Accessibility Plan 2025-2028.

### Attachments

Eastern Shelburne County Accessibility Plan 2025-2028

# Eastern Shelburne County Accessibility Plan

2025-2028



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# Eastern Shelburne County Accessibility Plan 2025-2028

April 2025

**The Municipality of Shelburne  
Town of Shelburne, and;  
Town of Lockeport**

**Images:** © Accessible Nova Scotia

**Prepared by:** Michelle Vacon, Regional Accessibility Coordinator, using the framework established in our 2022 Accessibility Plans by Emma MacEachern, CBCL Limited.

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# Welcome Message

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The Eastern Shelburne County Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) invites you to read our accessibility plan, which is a response to the Nova Scotia *Accessibility Act* (2017). Community members, Councillor members and staff members from The Municipality of Shelburne, Town of Shelburne, and Town of Lockeport worked together to develop this plan.

This is the second plan our committee has produced. It builds on our first plan, and reestablishes our shared commitment to identify, prevent and remove barriers for people with disabilities in our spaces, policies, and procedures.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this accessibility plan possible, including fellow AAC members, community members, community organizations who work with or represent people with disabilities, and Municipal and Town staff. We look forward to continuing our accessibility work, as we strive to become fully accessible by 2030.

- Chair, Eastern Shelburne County Accessibility Advisory Committee

# Plain Language Summary

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The Eastern Shelburne County Accessibility Plan is a commitment from the Municipality of Shelburne, Town of Shelburne, and Town of Lockeport to make sure everyone, no matter their abilities, can use our services, spaces, and more. It is a response to the Nova Scotia *Accessibility Act* (2017), that lays out our goals as to how we will improve accessibility for people with disabilities over the next three years in key areas.

## Key Areas in Our Plan:

- **Awareness and Capacity Building** – Helping staff develop skills and knowledge about accessibility while increasing awareness of its importance
- **Buildings, Infrastructure, and Outdoor Spaces** – Making our buildings, sidewalks, and outdoor spaces easier to access for everyone
- **Information and Communication** – Sharing our information in ways that work for everyone
- **Delivery of Goods and Services** – Ensuring our services are accessible to everyone
- **Transportation** – Working with partners to improve transportation options for everyone
- **Employment** – Making our workplaces and hiring more accessible for everyone

We created this plan based on feedback from people with disabilities, organizations that support them, our Accessibility Committee, and Municipal and Town staff. They told us what barriers exist for people with disabilities, and we're working to remove them.

We will know what is working well in our plan and what we need to improve based on what we hear from these groups in the future.

# Introduction

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## About This Plan

### **The *Accessibility Act* and our response to it:**

- The Nova Scotia *Accessibility Act* (The Act) was passed in 2017, making Nova Scotia the third province in Canada to create accessibility laws.
- The Act recognizes accessibility as a human right and aims to make the province barrier-free for people with disabilities by 2030.
- According to the Act, some public sector organizations, including Municipalities, must improve accessibility in their spaces, policies, and procedures.
- In response, the Municipality of Shelburne, Town of Shelburne, and Town of Lockeport partnered to create their first joint Accessibility Plan in 2022, called the "Eastern Shelburne County Accessibility Plan."
- We are legislated to update our plan every three years.
- This document is the first update to our plan.

### **How to read our plan:**

#### **Our plan includes **six priority areas**:**

- Awareness and Capacity Building
- Buildings, Infrastructure, and Outdoor Spaces
- Information and Communication
- Delivery of Goods and Services
- Transportation
- Employment

In each of these areas, we state our accessibility goal for that area, what we have achieved so far on accessibility, challenges we have had in making things accessible and future actions we will take on accessibility.

There is also a section on **implementing our plan** that details:

- How we will monitor and evaluate the plan

- Who is responsible for what

### **What does it mean when we use “We” in this plan?**

When we use “We,” we mean the Municipality of Shelburne, Town of Shelburne, and Town of Lockeport. If we are referring to just one of these areas, we will say so.

### **What are “Accessibility Standards”?**

The Nova Scotia Accessibility Directorate is creating provincial accessibility standards. However, none are in place at the time of writing this plan.

### **How did we update this plan?**

When updating this plan, we took into account:

- Community consultation, as detailed in the “What We Heard from Our Community” section of this plan
- Consultation with the Eastern Shelburne County Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)
- Consultation with Municipal and Town staff
- The Nova Scotia Building Code
- CSA (i.e. CSA/ASC B651:23 Accessible design for the built environment)
- Rick Hansen Foundation accessibility guidelines
- Other accessibility best practices

### **What is the purpose of links in this plan?**

This plan includes some links for added context. None are necessary to understand the plan for those who don't have computer or internet access. Links in the main plan are clickable, while the "Resources" section lists full URLs (e.g., <https://access.ca>) for alternative access.

**An important note:** This plan will be a responsive, flexible document that may change over time to keep up with new laws and the needs of our communities.

# About Eastern Shelburne County

## What is Eastern Shelburne County?

Eastern Shelburne County includes The Municipality of Shelburne, Town of Shelburne, and Town of Lockeport.

These are rural, coastal communities on Nova Scotia's South Shore.

## Our demographics:

According to Statistics Canada, as of 2021, our demographics looked like this:

- The Municipality of Shelburne has 4,336 people. 29% are age 65 and over.
- The Town of Shelburne has 1,644 people. 27% are age 65 and over.
- The Town of Lockeport has 476 people. 44.2% are age 65 and over.
- This equals a combined population of 6,456 people, with a large amount of seniors.

## Our services vary by area. Some things we are known for include:

- Local governance (council meetings, elections)
- Recreation (programming, equipment loans, parks, trails)
- Events (Dock St. Days, Miracle on Dock St., Lockeport Sea Derby, Lockeport Beach Bash, etc.)
- Emergency services (fire, Emergency Management Organization)
- Infrastructure maintenance (streets, sidewalks, parks, snow removal)
- Utilities (water, sewer, waste management)
- Community support (grants for local groups)

# Definitions

These are definitions for words and terms used in this plan that may be unfamiliar.

**Ableism:** Discrimination, prejudice or a systemic bias against people with disabilities.

**Access:** A place that is easily reached, an environment that is easily navigated, or a program or service that can easily be obtained.

**Accessibility:** When our environments, services, policies, and more are proactively designed and constructed so that people with disabilities can fully and equitably participate without experiencing barriers.

**Accessibility Act:** The law enacted by the province of Nova Scotia to achieve accessibility by preventing barriers to accessibility, developing and implementing provincial accessibility standards, and defining the role of an Accessibility Directorate. (The Act can be found [here](#).)

**Accessibility Directorate:** The Government of Nova Scotia's Accessibility Directorate is responsible for administering the Accessibility Act and advancing disability issues within government. (Learn more [here](#).)

**Accessibility Lens:** A framework for ensuring policies, services, and environments are inclusive and barrier-free for people with disabilities. It involves considering accessibility at every stage of decision-making to promote equitable participation for all.

**Accommodation:** The personalized adaption of a workplace to overcome the barriers faced by persons with disabilities.

**Alt text:** Alternative text (alt text) is a brief description of a digital image used to provide context for people who cannot see it, such as those using screenreaders or when an image fails to load.

**ASL:** American Sign Language.

**Barrier:** Anything that makes it harder for people with disabilities to fully take part in society, including physical barriers, building design barriers, information or communications barriers, barriers created by attitudes, technology barriers, or barriers in policies and practices.



**Capacity Building:** The process of developing an organization's strength and potential. This goes beyond carrying out tasks to changing mindsets and attitudes. **Example: Accessibility training for staff.**

**CART:** Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) is a live transcription service that displays spoken words and sounds on a screen in real time. Unlike closed captioning (CC), which is typically used for pre-recorded videos, CART is specifically for live events.

**Closed Captioning:** Closed Captioning (CC) is a transcription service that displays spoken words and sounds on a screen, typically for pre-recorded videos. Unlike CART, which is for live events, CC is mainly used for recorded content, though some real-time CC options now exist.

**Disability:** A condition that affects a person's body, mind, learning, or senses—whether permanent, temporary or occasional—that, when combined with barriers, makes it harder for them to fully take part in society.

**Diversity:** The many things that make each of us different, unique individuals, while also identifying ourselves as belonging to a group or groups.

**Eastern Shelburne County:** Includes The Town of Shelburne, The Municipality of Shelburne and the Town of Lockeport.

**Eastern Shelburne County Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC):** A volunteer committee established by The Municipality of Shelburne, and Towns of Shelburne and Lockeport to advise our Councils about identifying, preventing, and eliminating barriers to people with disabilities in our services, policies, and spaces.

**Equity:** Fairness and lack of bias. Equity is different from equality. Equality means everyone gets the same thing (like resources and support). Equity means that each person gets what they need to participate fairly.

**First Voice:** The knowledge from any individual or group of people whose lived experience gives them expertise in that area.

**GoHere Washroom Access Program:** Helps users find washrooms across Canada by mapping available washrooms in their area. Run by Crohn's and Colitis Canada.

**Human Rights Act:** The law in Nova Scotia that prohibits discrimination based on specific protected characteristics (disability, age, race, colour, religion, gender, etc.) and areas (employment, housing, etc.) It is enforced by the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission. (The Act can be found [here](#).)

**Inclusion:** Intentionally offering equitable access to opportunities and resources to people who might otherwise be left out.

**Infrastructure:** Refers to the basic physical and organizational structures needed for a Municipality/Town to function. Includes things like roads, sidewalks, bridges, sewer systems, etc.

**Intersectionality:** How social categories like race, gender, class, sexuality, and ability interconnect with each other and society. We all have social identities that overlap to give us advantages or disadvantages. For example: A woman of colour with a disability may face barriers to employment due to systemic sexism, racism, and ableism. Her three social identities—woman, person of colour, and person with a disability—intersect to shape her experiences.

**Kid's Fair Play Fund:** Provides funding to Shelburne County children and youth from families facing financial barriers so they can participate in recreation, sport, and cultural activities. It is a partnership between the five municipal units of the County.

**Mobi Mat:** A portable, non-slip pathway designed to provide accessible routes over sand, grass, gravel, or other uneven surfaces. It helps people with mobility challenges, including wheelchair users, strollers, and walkers, move more easily in outdoor spaces like beaches, parks, and trails.

**Plain Language:** Language that is clear and easy for the reader or listener to understand. Plain Language is usually at a 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading level.

**Physical Activity Strategy:** A strategy for Eastern Shelburne County that aims to raise awareness and increase participation in structured and unstructured physical activity at a local level. It is part of a partnership between local municipal units and the Department of Health and Wellness.

**Retrofit:** To add features that were not included in the original design.

**RHFAC:** Rick Hanson Foundation Accessibility Certification. (Learn more [here.](#))

**Screenreader:** An assistive tool that reads text on a screen out loud for people who have trouble seeing. It helps them navigate websites, apps, and documents by describing text, as well as images and other visual content (using alt text).

**Universal Design:** Something that can be accessed, understood, and used by anyone.

**Wayfinding:** Helping people find their way. It includes signs, maps, directions, and landmarks that guide people to where they need to go.

**WCAG:** Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. (Learn more [here.](#))

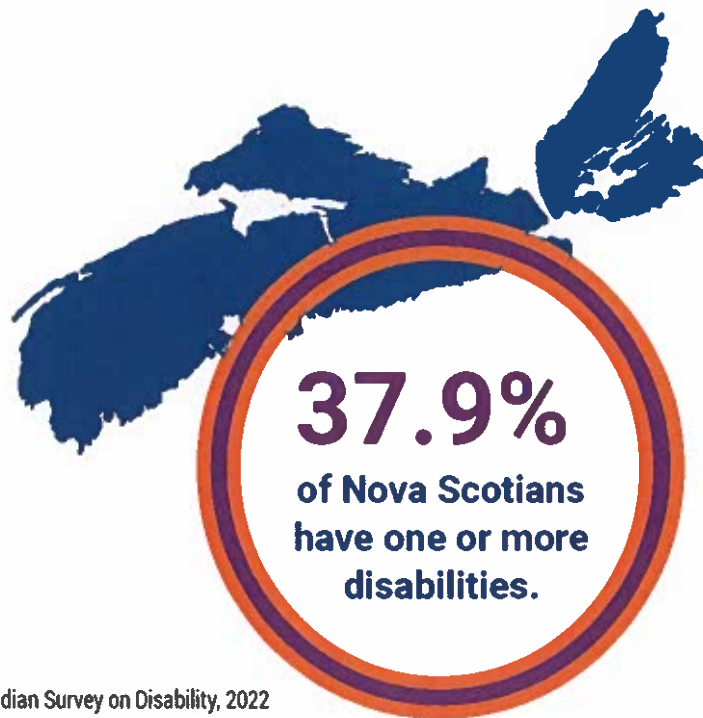
# Why is Accessibility Important?

These statistics on disability in Nova Scotia highlight the importance of accessibility:

- Nova Scotia’s disability rate is 37.9%. That means 37.9% of Nova Scotians aged 15 and older report having one or more disabilities.
- Nova Scotia has the highest disability rate in the country. (The rate for Canada overall is 27%.)

(Learn more [here](#) from the 2022 Canadian Survey on Disability Nova Scotia Results.)

## Disability Rate in Nova Scotia



# Our Statement of Commitment

The Municipality of Shelburne, Town of Shelburne, and Town of Lockeport recognize that accessibility is a human right. We know many barriers limit full participation of people with disabilities in our communities.

In response, we are committed to the following:

- Providing meaningful access to the services and spaces we provide to everyone, regardless of ability
- Using an accessibility lens in all we do to identify, prevent and remove barriers that make it harder for people with disabilities to access what we provide
- Using universal design criteria in our procurement practices, wherever feasible
- Budgeting annually for accessibility accommodations or other accessibility needs that may arise
- Making sure our Accessibility Plans and work are informed by the valuable first-voice feedback from people with disabilities
- Aligning our Accessibility Plans and work with the Nova Scotia *Accessibility Act* (2017)

# What We Heard from Our Community



## The Community Consultation Process

Community consultation (asking our community for feedback) is an essential component of the development and ongoing review of our accessibility plan.

In developing this updated Plan, the Accessibility Coordinator engaged in an in-depth community consultation process from August 2024 to February 2025.

### **The purpose of the consultation was:**

- To listen to community members' first-voice perspectives on accessibility
- To identify what about our Accessibility Plan is working so far
- To identify what barriers remain to equitable access to Municipal and Town spaces, policies and procedures
- To determine what should be the actions we should prioritize now and in the future to address these barriers

The consultation process involved 200+ contacts and included: people with disabilities, representatives of organizations who work with people with disabilities, and the general community.

### **Consultation methods used were:**

- Community Survey, online and in print, full version

- Community Survey, online and in print, shortened version, to go to Community Engagement Sessions
- Public Community Engagement Sessions in Lockeport and Shelburne (4 sessions in total; afternoon and evening sessions at both locations);
- Pop-up information tables at events such as the Lockeport Sea Derby, Shelburne Town Office Grand Opening, and the Guild Hall Farmer's Market in Shelburne)
- Requested in-person meetings with groups and individual community members
- A wide range of interviews with community organizations that represent or work with people with disabilities

**Community Organizations We Conducted One-on-One Interviews with During Community Consultation:**

- Shelburne Association Supporting Inclusion (SASI)
- Sou'West Nova Transit (SWNT)
- Senior Safety Services
- Autism Nova Scotia, SouthWest Chapter
- Shelburne Family Resource Centre
- Shelburne County Mental Health Association
- Shelburne County Learning Network
- Our House Youth Wellness Centre
- Southwest Employment Services
- Little People's Place
- Surf Lodge

## Community Consultation Findings

**The main barriers to accessibility in Eastern Shelburne County, according to the community, are:**

**1. Buildings, Infrastructure, and Outdoor Spaces Barriers**

- Inaccessible sidewalks in the Town cores, or in some cases, no sidewalks in the Town cores (Inaccessible sidewalks involves

sidewalk condition, maintenance, and lack of or inadequate curb cuts)

Examples:

The most mentioned sidewalk concerns in Shelburne include: no sidewalk connecting the Town to the hospital, lack of and inadequate curb cuts, etc. on Dock St., the lack of a safe shoulder connecting The Town to the mall and new Manor on King St., and Water St. and Mowatt St.

The most mentioned sidewalk concerns in Lockeport include: Trestle Trail-Brighton Rd., in front of the Medical Centre, all areas with rumble strips, especially in front of Surf Lodge, and Spruce St.

- Lack of access to Crescent Beach, Lockeport, next to the Beach Centre, and no Mobi Mat
- Event accessibility, as related to barriers in the physical spaces events are held in, such as events held on Dock St., Shelburne, and Crescent Beach, Lockeport

## **2. Information and Communication Barriers**

- Our reliance on digital communication is part of a digital divide, limiting awareness of the accessible services we offer, job listings, and more
- We don't consistently advertise that we offer documents in alternate, accessible formats
- We don't use Plain Language enough

## **3. Transportation Barriers**

- Lack of transportation to Municipal and Town events, and beyond

To Be Added?: Our Community Consultation Report can be found here.

# Priority Areas

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## Awareness and Capacity Building

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### Our Goal

We will build a culture of accessibility. This includes increasing staff capacity around accessibility, while raising accessibility awareness.

### Achievements (2022-2025)

- We had staff and Councillors attend accessibility training.
- We made accessibility training mandatory in some cases.
- We hosted a public information session on an accessibility grant.
- We promoted important days and weeks for accessibility on our social media accounts and websites.
- We raised public awareness of Municipal, Town, (as well as community, provincial and federal) accessibility resources.
- We are looking at our work through an accessibility lens more than we were before.

(Details of Achievements can be found in “Appendix C: Achievements in Detail (2022-2025)”).

### Challenges

- Ableism exists in all areas of our society.
- There is limited sharing of information on our accessible services between us and community organizations who work with or represent people with disabilities.
- There is a lack of in-person, regular accessibility training opportunities, and available training is changing.

**Ableism:** Discrimination, prejudice or a systemic bias against people with disabilities.

- Not all of us require staff to complete accessibility training, leading to lower levels of accessibility awareness.

## Actions

### **Action 1.1 We will continue to provide accessibility training for staff.**

- We will include full-time, part-time, contract positions and Councils in any accessibility training, which will build our capacity across multiple priority areas in this plan. (Refer to “Appendix A: Accessibility Training Options.”)
- The Town of Shelburne and Town of Lockeport will consider mandatory accessibility training. (The Municipality of Shelburne has this in place.)

### **Action 1.2 We will maintain an awareness of Municipal and Town equity work, and aim to align our accessibility goals with equity goals.**

(Learn more about equity in Nova Scotia [here](#), from the NS Government’s Equity and Anti-Racism Strategy.)

- We will use an intersectional approach in our accessibility work.
- We will make sure that staff responsible for our accessibility and equity work share information.

**Equity:** Fairness and lack of bias. Equity is different from equality. Equality means everyone gets the same thing (like resources and support). Equity means that each person gets what they need to participate fairly.

**Intersectionality:** How social categories like race, gender, class, sexuality, and ability interconnect with each other and society. We all have social identities that overlap to give us advantages or disadvantages.

### **Action 1.3 We will investigate the creation of a long-term, designated Accessibility Coordinator Position, on its own or including equity work.**

(The current Accessibility Coordinator is on a one-year contract.)

### **Action 1.4 We will create an Accessible Customer Service Policy.**

- We will include accessibility awareness training, how we deliver our services, how we share information, and more in this policy, which will build our capacity across multiple priority areas in this plan.

- The Municipality of Shelburne and The Town of Shelburne will create this policy, while The Town of Lockeport will update theirs for current accessibility best practices.

**Action 1.5 We will continue public awareness efforts on accessibility.**

- We will increase disability representation in all graphics and promotional materials.
- We will explore developing an accessibility-focused episode of our “Community Conversations” video series (The Municipality of Shelburne runs this series; staff from the Town of Shelburne and the Town of Lockeport could also participate since we share accessibility plans.)
- We will promote accessibility grants to Municipal and Town staff, and to the community.
- We will keep 211 Nova Scotia materials in stock in our public offices. (211 is a free information and referral service for community and government programs and services.)
- We will publish any accessibility-related news in our newsletters, tax bills, websites and social media forums.
- We will continue to Promote Access Awareness Week Nova Scotia (also known as National Accessibility Week), Disability Employment Awareness Month, International Day of Persons with Disabilities, and any associated accessibility and/or inclusion activities or events.

**Action 1.6 We will develop more community partnerships, with the goal of offering accessibility workshops or training that are open to and useful for our staff as well as the public.**

# Buildings, Infrastructure, and Outdoor Spaces

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## Our Goal

We will make sure that all new builds or upgrades to buildings, infrastructure, and outdoor spaces that the Municipality and Towns own and/or operate will be accessible to people of all abilities.

## Achievements (2022-2025)

- We compiled a document of all our assets, including which have been audited, and which are priorities to be audited next.
- We completed accessibility audits on our assets.
- We made our public buildings more accessible.
- We made our outdoor spaces more accessible.
- We improved the acoustics in our public spaces.
- We updated our by-laws, policies and procedures related to our Buildings, Infrastructure, and Outdoor Spaces for accessibility.
- We worked with organizations that lease Municipal/Town-owned buildings to undertake their own legislated accessibility audits.

(Details of Achievements can be found in “Appendix C: Achievements in Detail (2022-2025)”).

## Challenges

- Meeting multiple accessibility targets for capital projects can be costly and difficult to prioritize.
- Older buildings often require retrofits to meet accessibility standards.
- Many sidewalks in the Town cores are in poor condition, making them inaccessible for people with mobility challenges.
- Some areas lack sidewalks entirely, forcing mobility device users onto roads or trails.
- Some crosswalks lack curb cuts or have ones that are too high, making access difficult for mobility device users.

- Popular beaches, trails, parks and outdoor spaces are not always accessible.
- Some public buildings don't have power-entry doors or have doors that don't open the right way or stay open long enough.
- Not all public buildings have a minimum of one service counter provided at wheelchair-applicable height.
- Poor lighting in some areas reduces accessibility.
- Some areas lack proper signage.
- Acoustics in some meeting areas could be improved.
- There aren't enough accessible seating or rest areas along main routes and trails.
- Trashcans aren't always available, accessible, or placed where they are easy to use along main routes and trails.
- Some of our facilities have limited accessible parking.
- Winter maintenance and maintenance in general for accessibility features like curb cuts is not always prioritized.

## Actions

### **Action 2.1 We will complete remaining accessibility audits of our buildings, infrastructure, and outdoor spaces.**

- The Municipality and Town of Shelburne will complete this action.
- The Town of Lockeport will review which, if any, accessibility audits need to be updated, as their accessibility audits were initially done several years ago.

### **Action 2.2 We will develop a workplan of accessibility improvements of our assets to take place over the next three years and beyond.**

- We will develop workplans that include the prioritization of accessibility projects, and estimating the costs for these projects in long-term budget planning.

Workplans will be based on:

- Priorities as documented in Community Consultation on accessibility
- Priorities as documented in Accessibility Audits

- Budget
- Organizational requirements
- Accessibility best practices and legislation, such as (when applicable) the Nova Scotia Building Code, the CSA, i.e. the CSA/ASC B651:23 Accessible design for the built environment, Rick Hansen Foundation accessibility guidelines and any legislated accessibility standards

Workplans will consider, but not be limited to (when applicable):

- Sidewalks, making sure not to forget about proper curb cuts
- Access to popular beaches, trails, parks and outdoor spaces
- Adding accessible seating and trash cans along main routes
- Acoustics assessments
- Lighting
- Signs and wayfinding
- An adequate number of accessible parking spaces
- Automatic doors for main entrances and washrooms

**Action 2.3 We will conduct a review of our signs and wayfinding, and take accessibility into account for new signage.**

- We will make sure our current signs:
  - Are visible and readable from a distance
  - Have an accessible contrast between the background and foreground
  - Don't use any out-of-date language, such as "handicapped parking"
- If replacing or adding signs, we will make sure that they:
  - Use universal symbols or pictograms
  - Use two-tone colours
  - Follow CSA accessible sign guidelines or any legislated accessibility standards

**Action 2.4 We will review any maintenance practices that affect people with disabilities, to ensure accessibility is fully taken into account.**

- We may include, but are not limited to, the following in our review:

- Snow or winter maintenance contracts to ensure pedestrian areas are prioritized when clearing snow.
- Priorities for snow or winter maintenance should include accessible building entrances, accessible parking spots, curb cuts, and intersections with pushbuttons and the sidewalks around them.
- Maintenance schedules for accessible infrastructure.
- Priorities for accessible infrastructure should include ramps, washrooms, elevators, painting/re-painting curb cuts and crosswalks.
- Making sure accessible detours are available (and advertised as being available) whenever possible when a sidewalk or shoulder is closed for construction.

**Action 2.5 We will work with organizations that lease Municipal or Town owned buildings and consider them in our accessibility planning process when applicable.** (This is referring to the library in The Town of Lockeport.)

**Action 2.6 We will follow the provincial accessibility standard in The Built Environment when it is implemented.**

# Information and Communication

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## Our Goal

We will provide clear and accessible Municipal and Town information to the public, so that people of all abilities can meaningfully access and understand it.

## Achievements (2022-2025)

- We created accessibility guidelines related to information and communication for staff to refer to.
- We improved our website accessibility.
- We updated policies related to information and communication for accessibility.
- We used Closed Captioning (CC) for public meetings.

(Details of Achievements can be found in “Appendix C: Achievements in Detail (2022-2025)”).

## Challenges

- Not everyone has access to or interest in using computers and the internet.
- There is a lack of Municipal and Town information in print, such as mailouts.
- Information on services for people with disabilities and staff contacts can be hard to find.
- Our websites are not fully compliant with the latest web accessibility standards (WCAG).
- Historical documents such as PDFs of committee meeting minutes were often not produced in accessible formats and it would be difficult to reformat them all.
- We are not consistently making documents and graphics on the websites and social media screen-readable.

- People are not always aware they can request information in accessible formats.
- There are no policies ensuring information is provided in an accessible way.
- Plain language is not consistently used in our communications.

## Actions

**Action 3.1 We will provide our communications in accessible formats or with support at no cost to users, whenever feasible.** (Accessible formats or support include large print, ASL interpreters, CART, print copies of digital forms, etc.)

- We will have staff refer to the internal document, “Meeting/Event Accommodations Resources,” as needed.
- We will more consistently advertise that accessible formats of our information is available.

**Action 3.2 We will make sure all our communication materials use Plain Language.**

- We will consider staff taking Plain Language training. (Refer to “Appendix A: Accessibility Training Options”)
- We will have staff refer to the SeaChange Co Lab’s “Plain Language Checklist” and “Plain Language Tip Sheet”, as needed.

**Action 3.3. We will develop a procedure to ensure that all online meetings and video content include Closed Captions (CC).**

- We will complete this action where applicable. (The Town of Shelburne currently already uses a Vimeo Channel to post their Council meetings for the public to view; it includes CC.)

**Action 3.4. We will develop a plan to ensure that our digital communications, such as on Facebook and our websites, are screen-readable and include alt-text.**

- We will consider having staff take Accessible Digital Communication Training. (Refer to “Appendix A: Accessibility Training Options”)

- We will have staff refer to the internal documents, “Accessibility Guidelines for Municipal Documents, Social Media and Websites” and “Accessibility Guidelines for PowerPoint Presentations,” as needed.

**Action 3.5 We will aim to ensure our websites comply with the most current version of Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).**

- We will complete this action in different ways.
- The Municipality of Shelburne will:
  - Ensure that the remaining non-accessible section of their website (the map section) is updated for accessibility, as suggested by their current website provider, Digital Fusion Inc.
  - Ensure that the website is updated for accessibility on a schedule.
- The Town of Shelburne will:
  - Ensure that their website is updated for accessibility, as suggested by their current website provider, Municipal Website Venture (MWV).
  - Ensure that the website is updated for accessibility on a schedule.
- The Town of Lockeport will:
  - Ensure that their website complies with WCAG, through exploring use of the Municipal Website Venture or other options.
  - Ensure that the website is updated for accessibility on a schedule.

**Action 3.6 We will explore creating a physical accessibility information resource.**

- We will explore sending out a print resource guide on accessibility to community members through the mail. (This action is completed in digital form on the Municipality of Shelburne’s “Accessibility” webpage.)
- The Town of Lockeport will explore setting up a physical accessibility information resource in the Beach Centre.

**Action 3.7 We will follow the provincial accessibility standard in Information and Communication when it is implemented.**

# Delivery of Goods and Services

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## Our Goal

We will ensure that people with disabilities have equitable access to services provided by the Municipality and Towns.

## Achievements (2022-2025)

- We created a digital accessibility information resource to help make people more aware of the services we offer.
- We created accessibility guidelines related to our services for staff to refer to.
- We updated policies related to our services for accessibility.
- We obtained new accessible equipment for the public to loan.
- We made our events more accessible.
- We improved access to our public washrooms.
- We better advertised our commitment to welcoming service animals into our public spaces.
- We promoted adaptive recreation equipment for public use.
- We created a Vulnerable Person's Registry Pilot Project for the area.

(Details of Achievements can be found in "Appendix C: Achievements in Detail (2022-2025)").

## Challenges

- Information on our services available to people with disabilities can be hard to find.
- Many of the physical spaces that house our events and services are not fully accessible.
- There has been little focus on sensory-friendly hours or spaces at events.
- There are limited policies and procedures, outside of recreation policies, surrounding making our services more accessible.

- There are limited resources to support people with disabilities to participate in recreation programs.

## Actions

### **Action 4.1 We will make our events and meetings more accessible.**

- We will hold public meetings in barrier-free spaces.
- We will plan public meetings and events by referring to “Guide to Planning Accessible Meetings and Events” and “Guide to Planning Accessible Online Meetings and Events.”
- We will further explore sensory options for events.
- The Shelburne Events Committee, made up of Municipality and Town of Shelburne representatives, will explore ways to make events, like those on the Shelburne waterfront, more accessible for people with mobility challenges. (This includes working with Sou'West Nova Transit to help those who can't access Dock St. during street closures for events.)
- The Town of Lockeport will explore ways to make Town events, like those held on Crescent Beach, on the wharves and in the harbour, more accessible for people with mobility challenges.

### **Action 4.2 We will improve the accessibility of our emergency response planning.**

- We will take accessibility into account in any future emergency plans, policies, or procedures.
- We will be aware of these guides: “Are You Ready? Emergency Preparedness Guide for Persons with Disabilities and Older Adults in NS,” (relevant for the public), and the “Mass Evacuation and People with Disabilities” (relevant for staff planning purposes.)

### **Action 4.3 We will create a procedure to inform the public when our facilities or services that people with disabilities depend on are temporarily unavailable.**

- We will, for example, have a procedure in place for when an elevator, accessible washroom, or sidewalk is out of service.
- Notices of service disruptions should include the reason for the disruption, expected duration, and any alternative measures in place.

**Action 4.4 We will explore making the voting process more accessible before our next Municipal election.**

- We will review our current voting processes to enhance accessibility, considering:
  - A hybrid voting model with both print and electronic ballots. (The Municipality and Town of Shelburne currently uses electronic voting only, while the Town of Lockeport currently uses print voting only.)
  - Touchscreens and screenreaders can make electronic voting more accessible. A touchscreen is easier to use than a mouse for those with unsteady hands, and a screenreader reads the text aloud for those who can't see or read.

**Action 4.5 We will review current recreational opportunities to identify and explore accessible options.**

- We will work to include our shared Physical Activity Strategy (2025-2028) as part of our review.
- We will explore ways to continue to expand the accessible equipment options we loan to the public.
- We will explore options to expand eligibility for the Kid's Fair Play Fund.

**Action 4.6 We will review and update our accessible recreation policies.**

- The Municipality of Shelburne will review and update their Inclusive Recreation Policy and Affordable Access to Recreation Policy to align with current accessibility best practices. (The Town of Lockeport revised their Affordable Access to Recreation Policy in 2024; the Town of Shelburne doesn't have a Recreation Department.)

**Action 4.7 We will improve access to our public washrooms.**

- The Town of Lockeport will become a member of the GoHere Washroom Access Program. (This is in place at the Municipality and Town of Shelburne, at their Administration Offices.)

**Action 4.8 We will follow the provincial accessibility standard in Goods and Services when it is implemented.**

# Transportation

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## Our Goal

We will support local organizations and businesses in our communities that provide transportation, to ensure equitable access to transportation for people with disabilities.

## Achievements (2022-2025)

- We continued to provide funding to support transportation services by Sou'West Nova Transit.

(Details of Achievements can be found in “Appendix C: Achievements in Detail (2022-2025)”).

## Challenges

- There are no public transportation services or taxi services in our communities.
- Current service provided by Sou'West Nova Transit, while very beneficial to the community, is limited in its coverage and hours of operation.
- There are transportation barriers to some Municipal and Town events.

## Actions

### **Action 5.1 We will continue to work with the Sou'West Nova Transit Association (SWNT).**

- We will contribute funding to SWNT.
- We will partner when we can with SWNT to expand current service offerings.

### **Action 5.2 We will follow the provincial accessibility standard in Transportation when it is implemented.**

# Employment

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## Our Goal

We will provide access to Municipal and Town jobs, with equitable employment practices for people with disabilities.

## Achievements (2022-2025)

- We have made job listings more accessible.
- We updated policies related to employment for accessibility.

(Details of Achievements can be found in “Appendix C: Achievements in Detail (2022-2025)”).

## Challenges

- Ableism exists in workplaces.
- We have some inaccessible job advertising and interview processes, such as not consistently advertising the availability of accommodations.
- We don’t have many accessible hiring and workplace policies in place.
- We don’t have emergency plans that consider the specific needs and the safe evacuation of employees with disabilities.

## Actions

**Action 6.1 We will make sure all our Employment work aligns with the Nova Scotia *Human Rights Act*.**

- The Towns of Shelburne and Lockeport will consider accessibility training for hiring managers that covers the *Human Rights Act*. (This is in place in The Municipality of Shelburne. / Refer to “Appendix A: Accessibility Training Options.”)

**Action 6.2 We will ensure all job descriptions indicate they are an Equal Opportunity Employer, through use of a consistent Statement of Commitment to accessibility and equity.**

- The Town of Lockeport will complete this action. (This is in place at the Municipality and Town of Shelburne.)

**Action 6.3 We will develop practices and procedures for job descriptions and interviews with accessibility in mind.**

For job descriptions, we will:

- Provide materials in accessible formats.
- Promote the availability of accommodations.
- Focus on essential qualifications to reduce barriers for applicants with disabilities, including clear details about employee tasks, and;
- List pay, any benefits offered, and provide information about flexible work (Example: Schedules are flexible, schedules are not flexible).

For interviews, we will:

- Consider alternate ways to assess applicants, and;
- Provide information to candidates on any accessible features of the interview location/workplace such as accessible parking, and;
- Provide any other information that may be relevant to someone with disabilities, such as an estimate of interview duration, what format the interview will be in (Example: panel format, virtual, in person.)

**Action 6.4 We will explore the creation of a Workplace Accommodation Policy.**

**Action 6.5 We will follow the provincial accessibility standard in Employment when it is implemented.**

# Next Steps

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## Implementing This Plan: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Who is Responsible for What

**Note:** If an Accessibility Coordinator is not in place, the Accessibility Lead for each Municipality and Town will complete the items that would otherwise be the responsibility of the Coordinator.

### Monitoring

To monitor our plan and accessibility work:

- We will create an annual progress report for each Municipality or Town.
- The report will be completed at the end of the fiscal year each March.
- The report will be publicly available on websites and social media.
- It will track progress on the Accessibility Plan by reporting on the status of these indicators:
  - Actions in our plan (incomplete, complete, or in progress)
  - Any other accessibility achievements.

### Evaluation

To evaluate what's working well and what needs improvement in our plan and accessibility work:

- The Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) will meet regularly to review our plan, with an in-depth evaluation taking place every three years.
- The Accessibility Coordinator will engage in an in-depth community consultation process on accessibility every three years, to gather feedback from the community, including organizations that work with or represent people with disabilities.
- When the Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation Tool is available from the Accessibility Directorate in its final form, training will be available from the province and supported by AMANS (the Association of Municipal

Administrators). We will then seek to implement this evaluation tool into our Municipal and Town departments. This will help with assessing our proposed policies, programs, practices, services, bylaws and enactments for accessibility.

- We invite continuous feedback on accessibility from the community.

## Responsibilities

### **Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC):**

- Meets regularly to review our accessibility plan, with an in-depth evaluation taking place every three years.
- Guides the Accessibility Coordinator in making recommendations to Municipal and Town Councils on identifying, preventing, and eliminating accessibility barriers in our policies, spaces, etc.

### **Accessibility Coordinator:**

- Reviews our accessibility plan on a continuous basis.
- Leads a review, evaluation and update of our plan as legislated (every three years), in consultation with the AAC.
- Drafts accessibility plan updates and accessibility plan progress reports.
- Responsible for community consultation.
- Presents to Councils on behalf of the AAC.
- Acts as a liaison between the AAC and the Accessibility Directorate on our Plans.
- Advises staff and the AAC on provincial guidelines and standards as they emerge.
- Books meetings, prepares and distribute agendas and minutes, and assists AAC Chair as needed.
- Manages recruitment for AAC when necessary.
- Receives and responds to public concerns, complaints, and suggestions on accessibility, the process of which is detailed in the next section.

### **Council:**

- Municipal and Town councils are responsible for adopting and overseeing the accessibility plan in their respective jurisdictions.
- Municipal and Town Councils should set aside enough resources to achieve the plan's goals and meet the requirements under The NS Accessibility Act.

#### **CAO/Town Clerk:**

- The CAOs (Chief Administrative Officers) for the Municipality of Shelburne and Town of Shelburne, and the Town Clerk for the Town of Lockeport are responsible for implementing the plan in their respective jurisdictions.

### **Responding to Questions and Concerns**

- Anyone can file a complaint or concern, or ask a question about accessibility in Eastern Shelburne County. (Up-to-date contact information can be found [here](#) on the Municipality of Shelburne's "Accessibility" webpage.)
- The Accessibility Coordinator will respond to questions and concerns within a reasonable time.
- Before responding, they will consult the relevant staff member and provide reasons for any decisions made.
- If dissatisfied with the response, individuals can appeal to their local Council, which may refer the issue to the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) for further review before issuing a final response to the complainant.
- The Accessibility Coordinator keeps records of all official complaints and concerns and provides regular updates to the AAC, which may influence future changes to our accessibility plans.

### **Schedule/Timeline**

- We will aim to implement all priorities in this plan by 2030.

# Acknowledgments

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Thank you:

- To those who attended public community engagement events on accessibility and to the organizations and individuals who took part in interviews on accessibility. Your contributions greatly informed our Accessibility Plan update.
- To the Eastern Shelburne County Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC), for your dedication to accessibility in your community, and for the vital role you play in advising Councils on accessibility.
- To past AAC members for your contributions.
- To those who participated in first-voice accessibility audits with us.
- To staff at the Municipality of Shelburne, Town of Shelburne, and Town of Lockeport, for sharing your knowledge and expertise.
- To the Accessibility Leads at each unit: Adam Dedrick, Director of Recreation & Parks at the Municipality of Shelburne, Frances Scott, Community Coordinator, at the Town of Lockeport, and Jessie Dyer, Administration and Human Resources Coordinator at the Town of Shelburne, for incorporating an accessibility lens into your work.
- Additionally, the AAC would like to extend a thanks to Michelle Vacon, our regional Accessibility Coordinator for her work on this plan.

# Resources

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These resources include ones that are referenced in the plan, or that we have found useful in developing this plan.

211. 211 Nova Scotia. <https://ns.211.ca/>

Crohn's and Colitis Canada. *GoHere Washroom Access Program.*

<https://crohnsandcolitis.ca/Support-for-You/GoHere-Washroom-Access>

Government of Canada. Accessibility Standards Canada. January, 2023.

*CSA/ASC B651:23: Accessible design for the built environment.*

<https://www.csagroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2430328.pdf>

Government of Canada. *Statistics Canada.* <https://www.statcan.gc.ca>

Government of Nova Scotia. 2022. *2022-2025 Government of Nova Scotia Accessibility Plan.*

<https://www.novascotia.ca/accessibility/plan/government-accessibility-plan.pdf>

Government of Nova Scotia. 2017. *Accessibility Act.*

<https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/legc/statutes/accessibility.pdf>

Government of Nova Scotia. September, 2018. *Access by Design 2030: Achieving an Accessible Nova Scotia.*

<https://novascotia.ca/accessibility/access-by-design/>

Government of Nova Scotia. *Accessibility Directorate.*

<https://novascotia.ca/accessibility/>

Government of Nova Scotia. September, 2021. *Are You Ready? Emergency Preparedness Guide for Persons with Disabilities and Older Adults in Nova Scotia.*

<https://novascotia.ca/emergency-education/docs/are-you-ready-emergency-disabilities-en.pdf>

Government of Nova Scotia. 2022. *2022 Canadian Survey on Disability Nova Scotia Results*.

[https://accessible.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/2024-09/2022%20Canadian%20Survey%20on%20Disability-Nova%20Scotia%20Overview%20-%20web-ua\\_0.pdf](https://accessible.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/2024-09/2022%20Canadian%20Survey%20on%20Disability-Nova%20Scotia%20Overview%20-%20web-ua_0.pdf)

Government of Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia Accessibility Directorate, Department of Justice. 2018. *Guide to Planning Accessible Meetings and Events*.

[https://novascotia.ca/accessibility/Accessible\\_Events\\_Guide.pdf](https://novascotia.ca/accessibility/Accessible_Events_Guide.pdf)

Government of Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia Accessibility Directorate, Department of Justice. 2018. *Guide to Planning Accessible Online Meetings and Events*. <https://novascotia.ca/accessibility/docs/online-Accessible-Events-Guide.pdf>

Government of Nova Scotia. July, 2023. *Equity and Anti-Racism Strategy*.

<https://novascotia.ca/just/publications/docs/equity-and-anti-racism-strategy.pdf>

Government of Nova Scotia. 2022. *Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations*.

<https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/bcregs.htm>

Government of Nova Scotia. 2019. *Nova Scotia Human Rights Act*.

<https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/legc/statutes/human%20rights.pdf>

Government of Nova Scotia. *Office of Equity and Anti-Racism*.

<https://beta.novascotia.ca/government/equity-and-anti-racism>

MacEachen Institute for Public Policy and Governance, Dalhousie University. *Mass Evacuation and People with Disabilities*.

[https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/dept/maceachen-institute/ASC\\_ESDCReport\\_EN.pdf](https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/dept/maceachen-institute/ASC_ESDCReport_EN.pdf)

Municipality of Shelburne. 2025. *Accessibility*.

<https://www.municipalityofshelburne.ca/accessibility/>

Municipality of Shelburne. *Kid's Fair Play Fund*.

<https://www.municipalityofshelburne.ca/kids-fair-play-fund/>

Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission. 2025. *Working with Abilities Training*.  
<https://humanrights.novascotia.ca/education-training/working-abilities>

SeaChange CoLab Inc. 2025. *ACE Trainings*.  
<https://seachangecolab.com/ace-trainings/>

SeaChange Co Lab Inc. *Plain Language Checklist*.  
<https://seachangecolab.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Plain-Language-Checklist.pdf>

SeaChange Co Lab Inc. *Plain Language Tip Sheet*.  
<https://seachangecolab.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Plain-language-Tip-Sheet.pdf>

Web Accessibility Initiative. 2025. *Web Content Accessibility Guidelines*.  
<https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/>

# Appendix A: Accessibility Training Options

Current accessibility training options include the following on-demand options that provide a certificate of completion at the end.

These training options are mainly provided through SeaChange CoLab's ACE (Accessibility Confident Employers) project, and can be found [here](#). The exception is "Working with Abilities" training, which is provided through the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission and can be found [here](#).

**Introduction to Accessibility and Disabilities Training**, such as:

- "Accessibility Foundations" - Broad, covers the Accessibility Act and Municipal responsibilities under The Act, relevant for all staff and anyone who wants to learn more about accessibility

(This training is also occasionally offered virtually, through the Accessibility Directorate.)

**Accessible Communication Training**, such as:

- "Core Skills of Plain Language" - Relevant for all staff
- "Introduction to Accessible Communications" - Relevant for those responsible for the website and social media
- The more advanced "Core Skills of Digital Accessibility" - Relevant for those responsible for the website and social media

**Accessible Employment Training** that covers the NS Human Rights Act and what it entails, i.e. the Duty to Accommodate, such as:

- "Working with Abilities Training" - Relevant for hiring managers

**Note:** Also consider other emerging training options.

# Appendix B: Accessibility Advisory Committee Members

## Community Members:

- Wanda Buchanan – Municipality of Shelburne
- Catherine Jones – Town of Shelburne
- Eric MacIntosh – Town of Shelburne
- Holly Perry – Town of Shelburne
- Terry Stacey – Town of Lockeport

## Council Members:

- Ron Coole – Councillor, Municipality of Shelburne
- Therese Cruz – Councillor, Town of Shelburne
- Craig Hillen – Councillor, Town of Lockeport

## Staff Members:

- Adam Dedrick – Director of Recreation & Parks, Municipality of Shelburne
- Jessie Dyer – Administration and Human Resources Coordinator, Town of Shelburne
- Frances Scott – Community Coordinator, Town of Lockeport
- Michelle Vacon – Accessibility Coordinator, Municipality of Shelburne, Town of Shelburne, Town of Lockeport



# Appendix C: Achievements in Detail (2022-2025)

## Awareness

### General (The Municipality of Shelburne, Town of Shelburne, and Town of Lockeport):

- We had staff and Councillors attend accessibility training:
  - "Accessibility Foundations" – an introduction to accessibility and disability
  - "Accessibility Communications Workshop" – training on plain language and digital accessibility
- We hosted a public information session on the provincial Business Access-ABILITY Grant.
- We promoted important days and weeks for accessibility on our social media accounts and websites.
- We raised public awareness of our own (as well as community, provincial and federal) accessibility resources:
  - We posted an "Accessibility Friday Spotlight" each Friday on our Facebook accounts for a year, to highlight accessibility resources.
  - We created an "Accessibility" page on the Municipality of Shelburne website that provides consolidated information about accessibility resources. (This page is available for The Municipality and Towns to share.)
- We're looking at our work through an accessibility lens more than we were before.

### The Municipality of Shelburne:

- The Municipality of Shelburne made accessibility training mandatory:
  - "Accessibility Foundations" - mandatory for all staff and Councillors
  - "Working with Abilities" - mandatory for those responsible for hiring

## Buildings, Infrastructure, and Outdoor Spaces

### General (The Municipality of Shelburne, Town of Shelburne, and Town of Lockeport):

- We compiled a document of our assets, including which have been audited, and which are priorities to be audited next.

### **The Municipality of Shelburne:**

- The Municipality of Shelburne completed accessibility audits on these assets:
  - An audiologist assessed the acoustics of the Administration Building lobby and hallways.
  - A Rick Hansen certified professional conducted an accessibility audit of the Administration Building and provided a Rick Hansen accessibility rating.
  - The Accessibility Coordinator performed an informal accessibility audit of the Regional Materials Recovery Facility (C & D site).
- The Municipality of Shelburne made these public buildings more accessible:
  - The new Administration Building was built to Rick Hansen accessibility guidelines, and received a Rick Hansen Foundation accessibility rating of Gold, the highest rating.
- The Municipality of Shelburne made outdoor spaces and parks more accessible, with significant accessibility upgrades to Welkum Park, which had a grand opening in summer of 2024.
- The Municipality of Shelburne improved the acoustics in public spaces, through the installation of a hearing loop in Council Chambers/the main meeting room of the Administration Building.

### **The Town of Shelburne:**

- The Town of Shelburne completed accessibility audits on these assets:
  - An architect completed an accessibility audit of the new Town Office.
  - The Accessibility Coordinator carried out informal accessibility audits with first-voice participants of Dock St., Mowatt St., King St., and Water St. She and the Building Inspector also carried out an informal accessibility audit of The Community Centre.
- The Town of Shelburne made these public buildings more accessible:
  - The new Town Office was retrofitted to current accessibility standards.

- An elevator was installed at new Town Office, making the second floor accessible for those who cannot use the stairs.
- Town Council meetings are now held in an accessible location, in the Community Centre.

**In Progress**

- The Town of Shelburne is preparing to start Phase 1 of a project to restore the Roger Grovestine Recreation Complex, and are exploring accessibility options for the washrooms, parking, and courts.
- The Town of Shelburne is in the process of updating the Land Use By-Law to include a provision for accessible parking for properties zoned R-A with Town water and sewer.

**The Town of Lockeport:**

- The Town of Lockeport made these outdoor spaces and parks more accessible:
  - Installed an accessible walkway between the pavilion and ramp leading to the accessible washrooms at Seacaps Park.
  - Added an automatic door to the main entrance at Crescent Beach Centre.
  - An old section of boardwalk has had accessibility and safety improvements.
- The Town of Lockeport worked with organizations that lease Town-owned buildings to undertake their own legislated accessibility audits:
  - The Town leases the Lockeport library to Western Counties Regional Library (WCRL). WCRL had a professional audit completed on that building in 2024.

**In Progress**

- The Town of Lockeport is working on improvements to lighting at Trestle Trail.
- The Town of Lockeport is working on having power-operated doors for the one washroom at Crescent Beach Centre, and one washroom at Seacaps Park.
- The Town of Lockeport is working on retrofitting a ramp at the Medical Centre to be more accessible.
- The Town of Lockeport is working on installing accessible washrooms at the Fire Hall.

## Information and Communication

### **General (The Municipality of Shelburne, Town of Shelburne, and Town of Lockeport):**

- We created accessibility guidelines related to information and communication for staff to refer to. This involves a Resource Library with guidelines such as “Accessibility Guidelines for Municipal Documents, Social Media and Websites,” and “Accessibility Guidelines for PowerPoint Presentations.”

### **The Municipality of Shelburne:**

- The Municipality of Shelburne improved website accessibility, by completing a website accessibility audit and following that, the creation of a new website with improved accessibility.

### **The Town of Lockeport:**

- The Town of Lockeport passed a policy related to accessible information and communication, an Accessibility Policy.

### **The Town of Shelburne:**

- The Town of Shelburne uses Closed Captioning (CC) for public meetings. Town of Shelburne Council meetings are recorded and made available for the public with CC in place.

## Delivery of Goods and Services

### **General (The Municipality of Shelburne, Town of Shelburne, and Town of Lockeport):**

- We created a digital accessibility resource to help people learn about the goods and services we offer. This involves an “Accessibility” page on the Municipality of Shelburne website that includes information on our accessibility resources. (This page is available for The Municipality and Towns to share.)
- We created accessibility guidelines related to goods and services for staff to refer to. This involves a Resource Library, which includes “Meeting/Event Accommodations Resources,” and “Tips on Serving Customers with Disabilities.”

- We promoted adaptive recreation equipment for public use, such as the Hippocampe All-Terrain Wheelchair.

### **In Progress**

- We created a Vulnerable Person's Registry for the area.

The Vulnerable Person's Registry Project is just beginning. It will start as a pilot project in Lockeport and expand to encompass Shelburne County. It is a collaboration between Senior Safety Services and local municipal units.

### **The Municipality of Shelburne:**

- The Municipality of Shelburne updated a policy related to goods and services for accessibility. The Grants to Organizations Policy now includes a question as to whether the applying organization has considered accessibility in their planning process.
- The Municipality of Shelburne obtained new accessible equipment (a Mobi Beach Chair) for the public to loan, and will be officially launching this chair in 2025 as part of the Municipality's Equipment Loan Program.
- The Municipality of Shelburne better advertised a commitment to welcoming service animals into public spaces, through placing a "Service Animals Welcome" sign on the front door of the Administration Building.
- The Municipality of Shelburne improved access to public washrooms, through the Administration Office becoming a member of the GoHere Washroom Access Program, and through adding all the public washrooms in Eastern Shelburne County to the "Public Facilities" Section of the map on the Municipal website.

### **The Town of Lockeport:**

- The Town of Lockeport passed a policy related to the accessible delivery of goods and services, an Accessibility Policy.
- The Town of Lockeport obtained new accessible equipment (a parasport wheelchair) for the public to loan.
- The Town of Lockeport made Town events more accessible, by partnering with Autism Nova Scotia to create a sensory hour at the Winter Carnival.

- The Town of Lockeport better advertised a commitment to welcoming service animals into public spaces, through producing an updated, more accessible “Service Animals Welcome” sign on the front door of the Town Office.

**The Town of Shelburne:**

- The Town of Shelburne improved access to public washrooms, through the Town Office becoming a member of the GoHere Washroom Access Program.

## Transportation

**General (The Municipality of Shelburne, Town of Shelburne, and Town of Lockeport):**

- We continued to provide funding to support transportation services by Sou’West Nova Transit.

## Employment

**The Municipality of Shelburne:**

- The Municipality of Shelburne made Municipal job listings more accessible, through use of a consistent Statement of Commitment to accessibility and equity.

**The Town of Lockeport:**

- The Town of Lockeport passed policies related to accessible employment, A Scent-Free Workplace Policy, and an Accessibility Policy.

# Appendix D: Previous Achievements (-2022)

## Awareness

No achievements at this date.

## Buildings, Infrastructure, and Public Spaces

### **General (The Municipality of Shelburne, Town of Shelburne, and Town of Lockeport):**

- We arranged for the Building Inspector (a shared service between the Municipality and the Towns) to take the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification training.

### **The Municipality of Shelburne:**

- The Municipality of Shelburne is improving Welkum Park to make it more accessible based on an Accessibility Audit performed in 2018.
- The new Municipality of Shelburne Administration Building is being built to meet Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Standards.

### **The Town of Shelburne:**

- The Town of Shelburne makes extensive use of its facilities at the Community Centre to ensure accessibility for many meetings and events, including a chair lift for the stage.
- King Street Centre is undergoing a retrofit which will improve accessibility.
- The new play area at Graham's Park in the Town of Shelburne was built with some accessible features including the splash pad and public washrooms.

### **The Town of Lockeport:**

- The Town of Lockeport carried out an accessibility audit of its facilities in 2020.
- The Town of Lockeport has installed an elevator at the Town Hall.
- Lockeport Town Hall has access ramps installed at both entrances.

- A quiet area and other improvements have been carried out at Seaside Play Park (12 Howe Street, Lockeport) to make it more accessible based on an Accessibility Audit performed in 2018.
- Hall Street, Lockeport will soon become a more accessible pedestrian route.
- The Community Coordinator for the Town of Lockeport took the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification training.

## Information and Communication

### **General (The Municipality of Shelburne, Town of Shelburne, and Town of Lockeport):**

- We post Council meeting minutes on the Municipality and Town websites.

### **The Municipality of Shelburne:**

- The Municipality of Shelburne has begun the process of developing a new website with improved accessibility.

### **Town of Shelburne:**

- The Town of Shelburne has installed large outdoor digital screens listing Town news, services, and initiatives, and providing associated contact information.
- Shelburne Town Council meetings air online through the town Vimeo Channel and on Eastlink once per month.

### **Town of Lockeport:**

- The Town of Lockeport has installed a large outdoor digital screen listing Town news, services, and initiatives, and providing associated contact information.
- The Town of Lockeport has produced recreation programs in large print format.

## Delivery of Goods and Services

### **General (The Municipality of Shelburne, Town of Shelburne, and Town of Lockeport):**

- We provide online credit card payment options for Municipal/Town taxes and certain Municipal/Town services in addition to in-person, online and telephone banking payment options.

**The Municipality of Shelburne:**

- The Municipality of Shelburne implemented the Municipal Recreation and Physical Activity Inclusion Policy for Individuals with Disabilities.
- The Municipality of Shelburne provides adaptive equipment (the Hippocampe All-Terrain Wheelchair, hockey sledges, etc.) on loan to members of the community through their Equipment Loan Program.
- The Municipality of Shelburne is actively working to improve accessibility at Welkum Park.

**The Town of Shelburne:**

- The Town of Shelburne extends grants to organizations working to support people with disabilities.

**The Town of Lockeport:**

- The new stage and associated improvements at Seacaps Park, Lockeport make community events more accessible.

## Transportation

**General (The Municipality of Shelburne, Town of Shelburne, and Town of Lockeport):**

- We provide funding to support transportation services by Sou'West Nova Transit.

**The Town of Shelburne:**

- The Town of Shelburne received funding in 2016-17 to complete some of the Town's active transportation network.

**The Town of Lockeport:**

- The Town of Lockeport received funding to improve the Town's active transportation network.

## Employment

**The Municipality of Shelburne:**

- The new Municipality of Shelburne Administration Building will meet Rick Hansen accessibility standards.

**The Town of Shelburne:**

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- Job posting for the Town of Shelburne includes a statement outlining the Town's commitment to hiring members of the community who may have accessibility needs.

**The Town of Lockeport:**

- An elevator was installed at Lockeport Town Hall, making the second floor accessible for people who cannot use the stairs.

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LIST ON INVOICES ALREADY PAID TO BE PRESENTED AT THE		
MARCH 14, 2025 MEETING		
BLL ENTERPRISE (NAPA AUTO PARTS)	TWO BELTS AND ONE SHOCK	186.38
HARDING, JUNE	LIFE INSURANCE FOR MARCH	27.20
HARDING, JUNE	MILEAGE FOR FEBRUARY	36.20
I.B.E.W.	UNION DUES FOR FEBRUARY	284.48
LOCKEPORT PHARMACHOICE	TAPE FOR REC. DEPARTMENT	5.49
MARK WILLIAMS EXCAVATING	TRUCKING SALT FROM PUGWASH	2,082.08
MINISTER OF FINANCE	RCMP Q4 BILLING	53,477.75
SCOTIA BUSINESS CENTRE	ELEVATOR MONITORING, MFR/FIRE DISPATCH FOR MARCH	603.98
SEEBLICK PRINTING	WINTERFEST FLYERS	851.00
SOBEYS	WINTERFEST CARNIVAL	193.97
TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL CENTRE FOR EDUCATION	MONTHLY EDUCATION TAX - MARCH	10,643.80
UNCLE SID'S	WINTERFEST CARNIVAL	63.80
YARMOUTH BIG BOUNCE	GAME RENTAL FOR YOUTH CARNIVAL	364.55
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>68,820.68</b>

# Senior *Our* Services

*Designed to help our seniors stay safe, improve their quality of life, maintain their independence, and promote living at home or within the community.*

55.



# Who we are!

Shelburne County Senior Safety and Services Society

Registered Non-profit Organization- Established 2010

→ Our Funders

- NS Seniors and Long-Term Care
- Department of Health
- Five Municipal Units

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→ One full time Coordinator and one part-time staff

→ Location

- Municipality of Barrington Administration Building
- Barrington and Shelburne RCMP Detachments

→ Toll Free 1-800-565-0397 Email [ssymonds@barringtonmunicipality.com](mailto:ssymonds@barringtonmunicipality.com)

→ Operate Monday to Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

→ Website – [ourseniorservices.com](http://ourseniorservices.com) & Facebook -



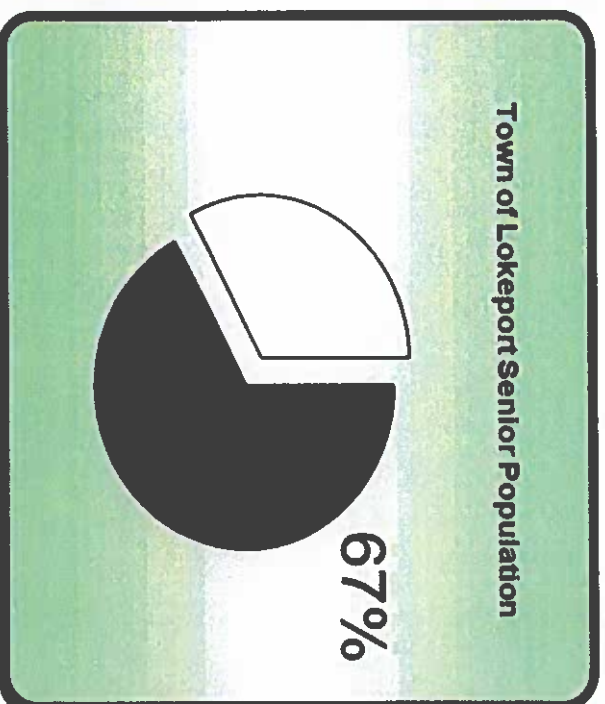
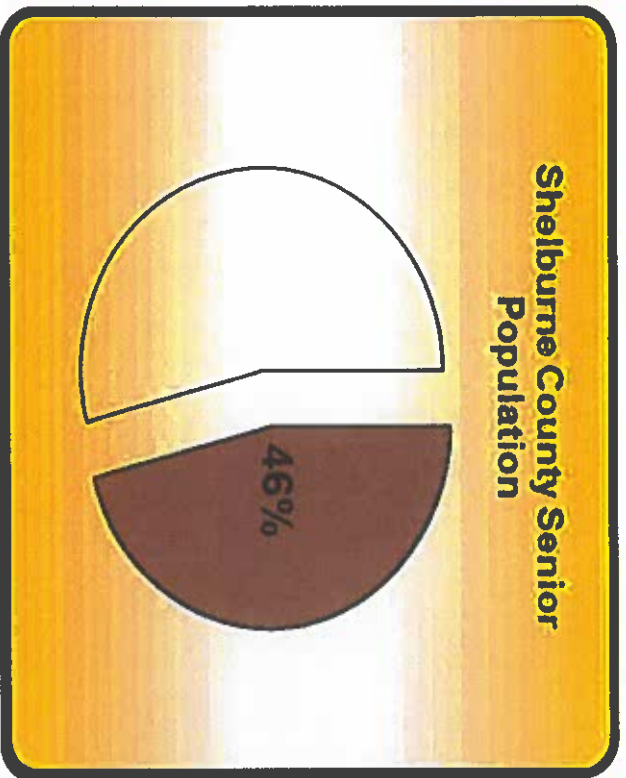
Senior Services- Shelburne  
County Senior Safety & Services  
Society

# Shelburne County Statistics

Based on 2021 Census

	Municipality of Barrington	Municipality of Shelburne	Town of Shelburne	Town of Lockeport	Town of Clarks Harbour	Totals
<b>Ages 55+ Seniors</b>	<u>2805</u>	<u>2140</u>	<u>730</u>	<u>320</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>6295</u>
<b>Total Population</b>	<u>6523</u>	<u>4336</u>	<u>1644</u>	<u>476</u>	<u>725</u>	<u>13704</u>

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# How can we help?

- Assist with Home Grants and Housing Needs.
- Assist with heating/property tax rebates
- Commissioner of Oath -Certify forms and other documents
- Offer referrals to Continue Care for home support, caregiver benefits, and their care assessments.
- Referrals for transportation for medical appointments, shopping and social outings.
- Connect seniors with food banks, meal deliveries, foot care.
- Help find mobility devices, hospital beds, and medical alerts.
- Assist with Seniors and Family Pharmicare programs.
- Offer support and solutions to seniors and their families.
- Match seniors with social activities .i.e. Bus trips, picnics, and volunteer events.

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**In 2024 we supported and responded to 657 referrals**



# Senior Safety



## A Recognized Provincial Senior Safety Program in Partnership with RCMP

- Prevents and supports Hospital/ER Visits
- Supports Adult Protection Clients
- Home Visits
- Wellness Checks with RCMP
- Support Emergency Needs
- Hoarding /Unsafe Living Conditions
- Homeless
  - Abuse, Financial Abuse, Neglect
  - Restorative Justice
- Mental Health Safety



# Senior Safety Academy

Providing education and workshops on...

- Wills and Power of Attorney
- Latest scams and frauds
- Nutrition, cooking for one
- Fitness and wellness clinic
- History and story telling
- Drivers Education
- Current programs and services

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# Vulnerable Persons Registry



Developed to help locate and assist vulnerable people quickly and effectively in a crisis or emergency.

## This voluntary registry will provide:

- ⑥1 • promote community safety and community partnerships in responding to special needs community members
- increase the speed and efficiency in which RCMP officers are able to respond, decreasing department liability
- reduce strain on department resources (human and financial) during emergencies
- give community members and families living away peace of mind

# Free Low Income Tax Program

- We provide **FREE** income tax preparation for seniors and to low-income residents of Shelburne County.
- We are partnered with the Canada Revenue Agency Community Volunteer Income Tax Program.
- We have four drop off locations through-out the county.
- We have 4 volunteers that complete the tax returns.



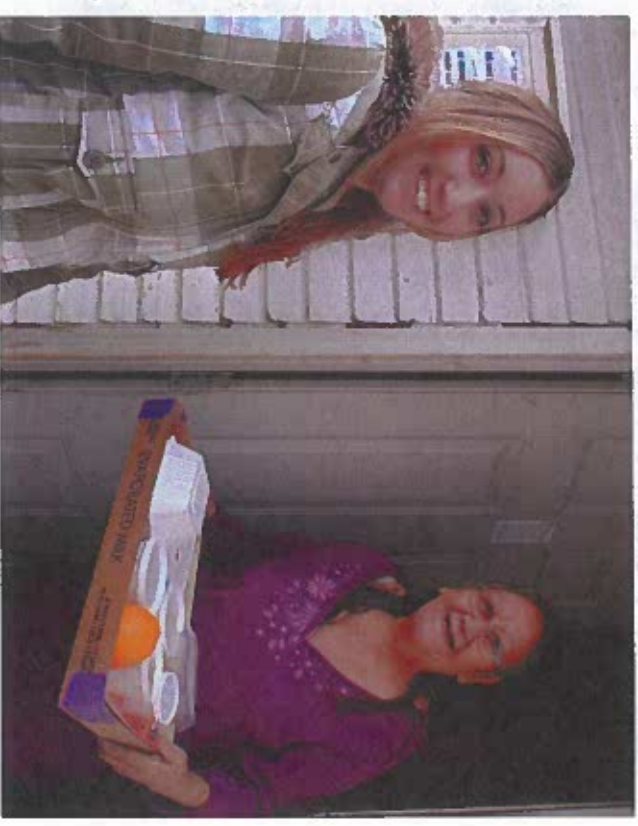
**In 2024 our volunteers completed 903 income tax returns.**

# Free Holiday Meal Delivery

-Volunteers, RCMP and municipal representatives deliver the meals

69 -Providing a wellness check and a community connection

-Partnerships with the Shelburne Arena Volunteer Centre and SASI



We delivered 600 meals county wide!

# Community Picnics

- Free Served Lunch
- Education & Information provided
- Music and Entertainment
- Provided at 3 locations
  - Town of Shelburne
  - Municipality of Barrington
  - Town of Lockeport
- In partnership with all Recreation Departments & RCMP



# Community Partnerships



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Free tax clinics



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# Our Senior Services

Shelburne County Senior Safety & Services Society

## Budget 2025- 2026

Wages	One Full Time Coordinator & One Casual Support Staff	\$	83,965.00
	Contributions/MERC	\$	23,552.37
	<b>Total Wages</b> -Senior Safety Grant \$25,000 would be applied to the wages - Dept of Seniors Grant \$24,677 would be applied to the wages	\$	<b>107,517.37</b>
<b>Professional Development</b>			
	Senior Safety Educational Training		
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$750.00</b>
<b>Travel</b>			
	Wellness Check-ins/Training/Consultation/Workshops/Income Tax		
	<b>Total</b>	\$	<b>7,011.07</b>
<b>Crisis Relief</b>			
	Emergency needs/food/short-term housing/medications		
	<b>Total</b>	\$	<b>6,000.00</b>
<b>Facilities Rental</b>			
	Office space/Safety Academy/Income Tax		
	<b>Total</b>	\$	<b>1,650.00</b>
<b>Office Equipment</b>			
	Coordinator Phone/Income Tax		
	<b>Total</b>	\$	<b>2,400.00</b>
<b>Materials &amp; Supplies</b>			
	Office supplies/ink/paper/Income tax supplies		
	<b>Total</b>	\$	<b>2,000.00</b>
<b>Advertising</b>			
	Income Tax / Safety Academy/Events		
	<b>Total</b>	\$	<b>2,150.00</b>
<b>Programing Expense</b>			
	Safety Academy/Christmas meals/Events/Picnic		
	<b>Total</b>	\$	<b>14,100.00</b>
<b>Board / Partnerships</b>			
	Meetings/ subsidy for clients/donations		
	<b>Total</b>	\$	<b>800.00</b>
<b>Insurance</b>			
	Insurance		
	<b>Total</b>	\$	<b>1,500.00</b>

**2025-26 BUDGET \$ 145,878.44**

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# Our Senior Services

Designed to help our seniors improve their quality of life!  
 2025-2026 Funding Request

Contributors	BUDGET REQUEST	Population	Percent	In-kind
Provincial				
Senior Safety Grant	\$ 25,000.00			
Dept. of Seniors and Long Term Care	\$ 24,677.00			
RCMP Shelburne Detachment				Office Space/Phone/Internet/Supplies
RCMP Barrington Detachment				Office Space/Phone/Internet/Supplies
Municipal		BASED ON 2021 CENSUS		
Municipality of the District of Barrington	\$ 45,791.16	6523	47.60%	Office Space/Phone/Internet/supplies
Municipality of the District of Shelburne	\$ 30,438.52	4336	31.64%	
Town of Shelburne	\$ 11,540.80	1644	12.00%	
Town of Lockeport	\$ 3,341.50	476	3.47%	
Town of Clarks Harbour	\$ 5,089.47	725	5.29%	
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONS BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 145,878.44</b>	<b>13,704.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	

2025-02-12

Shelburne County Senior Safety Services Society

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**Alicia Steeves** (she/her)  
Membership and Programs Lead  
902-932-7282  
[www.farmersmarketsnovascotia.ca](http://www.farmersmarketsnovascotia.ca)

*[Click here](#) to join our monthly newsletter for recipes and more!*

*Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia and our farmers' markets are located within Mi'kma'ki – the unceded, ancestral territories of the Mi'kmaq people.*

On Thu, Mar 6, 2025 at 7:59 PM Candace Malik <[candacemaliklockeport@gmail.com](mailto:candacemaliklockeport@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi there!

Lockeport council would like to explore partnering with the Farmers Markets of Nova Scotia to establish a seasonal market to be held on Saturdays at our Seacaps Pavillion.

There is an abundance of local vendors and artisans who could be interested in the opportunity. The area also has a wide range of talented musicians who may also be interested. Our vision is to have an open air market with music and vendors to draw people to our seaside community to share in and support local culture.

Having been a core vendor myself, at the Shelburne Guild Hall Market, I am familiar with the community of vendors/consumers and what that looks and feels like. I look forward to any information and a discussion regarding this.

Kindly,  
Candace

--

Councillor  
Candace Malik

--

Councillor  
Candace Malik

--

Councillor  
Candace Malik

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Hi Candace,

Thanks for your note! I see that you have registered to attend our AGM, to answer your question, it is in-person only.

To be clear, we do not operate farmers' markets, all of our members are independently operated, and adhere to our Make it, Bake it Grow it policy for vendors, operate as nonprofits with a democratic decision making process in place and hold valid Public Market Permits. Our cooperative has over 40 unique members across the province, and is the unified voice of our region's farmers' market sector. Being part of the cooperative includes a wide variety of programs and opportunities for your market and vendors, including:

- Participation in our Nourishing Communities Food Coupon Program, helping individuals in your community gain access to healthy local food (available after one year of membership)
- Participation in the Nova Scotia Loyal School Voucher Program
- Access to Atlantic Canada's only online resource library for farmers' market vendors, managers, and staff.
- Training opportunities, webinars, and workshops for your vendors to help them grow their businesses, and for your market manager and staff to help you grow your market.
- Feature on the official Nova Scotia farmers' market map (online and 50,000 copies in print) and your very own online profile on our website.
- Your vendors and their employees can benefit from our group health insurance program (the first of its kind in Canada) as well as reduced liability insurance rates!
- Access to internal Facebook groups, connecting vendors, market managers and market staff to encourage supporting and learning from one another.
- Access to our monthly newsletter which provides information about any kind of training or benefits we offer, as well as sector resources relevant to vendors and market managers.
- Have an industry association advocate on your behalf for your market and business.

Should you decide to move forward with operating a farmers' market in your community, I would be happy to have a call with you to answer any questions you may have and direct you to available resources. You are very welcome to attend our AGM to learn more about FMNS and the work that we do, as well as connect with other markets from around the province!

Warmly,

Alicia

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 Outlook

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**Fwd: Lockeport Farmers Market**

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**From** Candace Malik <candacemaliklockeport@gmail.com>  
**Date** Fri 3/7/2025 9:52 AM  
**To** adminassistant@lockeport.ns.ca <adminassistant@lockeport.ns.ca>

Please include the fee information too.

Thanks again!  
Candace

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Alicia Steeves** <[alicia@farmersmarketsnovascotia.ca](mailto:alicia@farmersmarketsnovascotia.ca)>  
**Date:** Friday, March 7, 2025  
**Subject:** Lockeport Farmers Market  
**To:** Candace Malik <[candacemaliklockeport@gmail.com](mailto:candacemaliklockeport@gmail.com)>

Hi Candace,

Of course, my pleasure!

Our membership fee is based on the size of your market and the length of your season, our fee structure is outlined below:

\$1.25 per vendor, per week of operation for farmers' markets with a **season length of 26 or more weeks** per year

\$1.75 per vendor, per week of operation for farmers' markets with a **season length of less than 26 weeks** per year

Please let me know if you have any additional questions,

Alicia



**Alicia Steeves** (she/her)  
Membership and Programs Lead  
902-932-7282  
[www.farmersmarketsnovascotia.ca](http://www.farmersmarketsnovascotia.ca)

*[Click here](#) to join our monthly newsletter for recipes and more!*

*Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia and our farmers' markets are located within Mi'kma'ki – the unceded, ancestral territories of the Mi'kmaq people.*

## Council Status Report: February 2025

*Mayor Derek Amalfa*

### **Meetings Attended:**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Feb 4	Make Your Move Leadership	
Feb 7	Council Training -Department of Municipal Affairs	
Feb 11	Oceans 11	
Feb 13	NS Health Re: Robbins Medical Center	
Feb 14	Regular Council	
Feb 18	Regional Emergency Measures Advisory Committee (REMAC)	
Feb 18	Heritage Tourism & Culture Committee	
Feb 21	Presentation By PVSC	
Feb 24	CRCC	
Feb 26	NSFM Mayor Wardens Call	
Feb 28	Regular Council	

### **Other Business:**

- Town Newsletter discussion w/ Councilor Malik
- Roods Head Park w Benn Himmelman
- Dept of Municipal Affairs Training - Municipal Flood Resilience in Action / Coastal communities
- Newspaper, Radio & TV Interviews Re: Clearwater Seafoods
- Correspondence & coordination with MLA Nolan Young, Min of Labour, NS Works, Shelburne Chamber of Commerce
- Playground Fundraiser Soup & Pie Supper

**Mayor's Update:**

February was a rough month weather-wise, HUGE thanks to our Public Works team for keeping the roads and sidewalks safe in a difficult winter. Despite facing challenges of the salt spreader breaking, being patched up and replaced mid storm - thank you for getting out early, staying late, and ensuring our roads were always clear.

The Lockeport Causeway Action Team was approved! We have begun coordinating with organizations like Clean Foundation, Atlantic Infrastructure Network and the Canadian Urban Institute. It's still early days, but we're putting together a strong team to lead this important project, and getting caught up on the work previously completed.

Great internal planning discussions happened at all of our local committees. Council and committees have transitioned seamlessly and are moving forward with good momentum as spring approaches.

Seacaps Playground fundraising is going strong! A grant application has been submitted, and Council has approved a commitment to the project. Thanks to everyone involved in making this happen, while also creating social opportunities within the community.

Clearwater – Our community has faced this devastating news with strength. We feel for those affected and understand the broader impact on Lockeport. But we will pick ourselves up and march on. There's strong support, and we will do all we can to help one another. This challenge has sparked valuable discussions about economic diversification, expanding employment opportunities, and sharing Lockeport's story with the public.

The diversity of our Council continues to be a great advantage. Different viewpoints and perspectives bring strong discussions, reaffirming our shared values and vision for Lockeport. Council continues to be active in the community, attending local events, participating in regional meetings, and ensuring Lockeport is always represented.

We've also received great feedback from residents and neighboring Councils about the positive progress in Lockeport. Let's keep moving forward together!

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FEBRUARY 2025

04 - Make Your Move

07- Strategic Planning NSFM

10- Mayor's/Warden's Meeting (Clark's Harbour)

12- Recreation

14- Regular Council

18- REMAC (On line)

21- Strategic Planning (Assessments)

28- Regular Council

Anna Chetwynd, Deputy Mayor

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Craig Hillen , February 2025 meetings

Feb 7/25 Council By-Law Training- Lockeport Town Hall

Feb 11/25 PVSC Property assessment presentation

Feb 14/25 Regular Council Meeting

Feb 18/25 Lockeport Heritage & Tourism Committee

Feb 25/25 Eastern Shelburne County Accessibility Committee - Lockeport- Ron Coole has been identified as the Committee Chair, Co-Chair is vacant at this time. Accessibility Plan for Eastern Shelburne has been developed.

Feb 28/25 Interview CTV News - Re Clearwater Announcement

Feb 28/25 Regular Council Meeting

## **Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Start time: 3:00 pm

(In Person Meeting)

**In Attendance:** Adam Dedrick, Holly Perry, Jessie Dyer, Michelle Vacon, Eric MacIntosh, Terry Stacey, Craig Hillen, Ron Coole

**Regrets:** Wanda Buchannan, Catherine Jones, Frances Scott, Therese Cruz

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Adam at 3:07pm

**Agenda Approval:** Meeting Agenda was reviewed aloud. Approval of this agenda was moved by Eric and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Meeting minutes from December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, were reviewed and approved electronically. This was moved by Ron, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric.

### **Business:**

- a) Committee Appointments:** The terms for Chair and Vice Chair have reached completion therefore need to be filled for a new term. An email will be sent out to all committee members to see if anyone is interested in being nominated for these vacant positions. This topic will then be revisited at the next meeting. Adam is also going to investigate whether it is a conflict for council members to take on these rolls.
- b) Accessibility Coordinator Update:** Michelle reviewed the Eastern Shelburne County Accessibility Plan 2025-2028 document. Action items 1.1 (training), 1.2 (community partnerships), 2.4 (events) and 6.3 (maintenance procedures) were reviewed in detail as a start. All committee members will read this document in full prior to the next meeting so it can be

approved before being presented to the 3 units. Any feedback or omissions can be emailed to Michele prior to that meeting.

**Other Business:**

- a) **Lockeport Update:** The town of Lockeport will be upgrading the entrance/ wheelchair ramp to the Library to make it more accessible. They are also looking into several accessible options for better access to Crescent Beach (ramps, mobi-mats). A few strategies were discussed and will be passed onto the town representatives.

**Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, from 3-4:30pm in Lockeport.

Meeting Adjourned 4:28pm.

## Eastern Shelburne County Accessibility Advisory Committee

### Terms of Reference

#### 1.0 Purpose

The Eastern Shelburne County Accessibility Advisory Committee's (AAC) role is to assist the three municipal units (Municipality of the District of Shelburne, Town of Shelburne and Town of Lockeport) to develop an Accessibility Plan in accordance with "An Act Respecting Accessibility in Nova Scotia, 2017 (The Act). The AAC provides advice to the municipal councils on identifying, preventing and eliminating barriers to people with disabilities in municipal programs, services, initiatives and facilities. The Committee plays a pivotal role in the creation of barrier-free communities and ensuring the obligations under the Act are met.

#### 2.0 Scope

These Terms of Reference are applicable to all members appointed to the Eastern Shelburne County Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC).

#### 3.0 References

- 3.1 Bill No. 59 – Accessibility Act, Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2017

#### 4.0 Definitions

- 4.1 **Barrier** means anything that hinders or challenges the full and effective participation in society of persons with disabilities including a physical barrier, an architectural barrier, an information or communication barrier, an attitudinal barrier, a technological barrier, a policy or a practice.
- 4.2 **Council(s)** means the Councils for the Municipality of the District of Shelburne, Town of Shelburne and Town of Lockeport.
- 4.3 **Disability** includes a physical, mental, intellectual, learning or sensory impairment, including an episodic disability (long-term conditions that are characterized by periods of good health interrupted by periods of illness or disability); that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders an individual's full and effective participation in society.

## 5.0 Policy

### 5.1 Membership

- 5.1.1 The Committee shall consist of nine (9) voting members who serve without pay, except for associated expenses; six (6) community members and three (3) Council members. Each Council will appoint their own Council member representative. The six (6) community representatives are to be appointed by all three (3) municipal units.
- 5.1.2 Applications for the community members will be sent to the Eastern Shelburne County Accessibility Nominating Committee. This Committee will be comprised of the Mayors/Wardens of the three (3) municipal units or their designate. The Nominating Committee will send a recommendation to all three (3) Councils concerning the appointment of the community members.
- 5.1.3 Councils shall appoint each of the six (6) community representatives' members as follows: Two (2) members to a three (3) year term; two (2) members to a two (2) year term; and two (2) members to a one (1) year term. Once a member has completed their term all new terms will be for three (3) years. The term for additional community representatives pursuant to section 5.1.2. will be determined by the Nominating Committee.
- 5.1.4 Council member appointments shall be for two (2) year terms.
- 5.1.5 At least one half of the members (community and council/commission representatives) of the AAC must be persons with disabilities or representatives from organizations representing persons with disabilities.
- 5.1.6 If a community member vacates the Committee for any reason at any time before that member's term would normally expire, the Councils shall appoint promptly a new

member to the Committee to hold office for the unexpired term.

5.1.7 If a Council member vacates the Committee for any reason at any time before that Council member's term would normally expire, the Council that the member represents shall appoint promptly a new Council member to the Committee to hold office for the unexpired term.

5.1.8 Applications for the appointment of community representatives to the Committee shall be invited by public advertisement.

5.1.9 The Chair and Vice-Chair will be appointed annually by the Committee.

## 5.2 Qualifications

5.2.1 Any member of the Committee is eligible for reappointment.

5.2.2 Any member of the Committee, who is absent from three (3) consecutive meetings of the Committee, forfeits office, unless the absence is caused by illness or authorized by resolution of the Committee and noted in the Committee minutes. Any member who forfeits office is eligible for reappointments following the remainder of the unexpired term.

## 5.3 Mandate of Responsibilities

**The Committee has the following responsibilities:**

5.3.1 Advise the three Councils in the preparation, implementation and effectiveness of an Accessibility Plan. In accordance with the Act, the Plan must include:

- a. A report on measures the three (3) municipal units have taken and intend to take to identify, remove and prevent barriers;
- b. Information on procedures the three (3) municipal units have in place to assess the following for their effect on accessibility for persons with disabilities:

- i. Any of its existing and proposed policies, programs, practices and services, and
  - ii. Any existing and proposed enactments or bylaws it will be administering; and
  - c. Any other prescribed information.
- 5.3.2 Advise all three (3) Councils on opportunities to promote the full participation of persons with disabilities, in accordance with the Act;
- 5.3.3 Identify and advise on the accessibility of existing and proposed municipal services and facilities;
- 5.3.4 Advise and make recommendations about strategies designed to achieve the objectives of the three (3) municipal units Accessibility Plans;
- 5.3.5 Receive and review information directed to it by all three (3) municipal Councils and their committees, and to make recommendations as requested;
- 5.3.6 Monitor federal and provincial government directives and regulations;
- 5.3.7 Host public consultations related to accessibility
- 5.3.8 Provide input and advice to all three (3) Councils with respect to updating the Accessibility Plan every three years.
- 5.3.9 Provide an annual budget for the three (3) Councils consideration in order for the Committee to carry out their mandate.

**5.4 Rules of Engagement:**

- 5.4.1 Committee meetings will be called by the Chair as required to fulfill the duties outlined. Meetings of the AAC shall be open to the public and advertised no less than one week in advance.
- 5.4.2 A majority of the appointed voting members of the Committee constitutes a quorum.
- 5.4.3 Subject to the principles set out in the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, all committee members present including the person presiding shall vote on a question.

5.4.4 Subject to section 22 of the **Municipal Government Act**, meetings of the committee are open to the public

5.4.5 The Committee may receive presentations from the public upon the approval of the Chair.

5.4.6 The Committee may establish Working Groups to explore specific issues related to the Accessibility Plan and/or other responsibilities. Members of the Working Group may consist of additional members of the community. A member of the AAC shall chair the Working Group.

**5.5 Staff Resources**

5.5.1 The Committee will be supported by municipal staff and consulting resources as required.

5.5.2 Staff appointed by the three (3) municipal units will attend meetings as a resource to the Committee.

5.5.3 The Municipalities will provide administrative support services to the Committee to aid in agenda preparation, minute taking, and other administrative duties as required.

**6.0 Policy Review**

6.1 These Terms of Reference will be reviewed by each of the three (3) Councils at least every four years from the effective/amended date.

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Kevin Chetwynd

Meetings attended for February 2025

Feb 7th Strategic planning meeting

Feb 14th Regular council meeting

**February meetings and events for Councillor Malik**

3rd - Code of Conduct virtual meeting

7th - Strategic Planning meeting in chambers

11th - Western County Regional Library Board meeting (virtual)

12th - Shelburne Municipal Land Use 2nd draft virtual discussion

14th - Council meeting in chambers

19th – Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities - Economic Future virtual meeting (issue with Microsoft Teams)

20th – Federation of Canadian Municipalities Tariff listening tour - virtual

20th – Student Advisory Committee

21st - Canada Day committee meeting

26th - "Save our Town", rural town focus webinar

28th - Council meeting in chambers



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**Municipal Affairs  
Office of the Minister**

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February 11, 2025

Dear Mayors and Wardens:

Recent events in our world are changing the landscape of our province and country. We are experiencing new fiscal challenges that will have a significant impact on our economy. It is clear we need to become more self-reliant. And, at the same time, we need to better integrate our economy with other Canadian provinces and territories.

Our Government has recently announced that Nova Scotia must say "yes" to both a reduction in inter-provincial trade barriers, and to resource development within our province. Both steps need to be taken carefully and in consultation with our communities. Resource development, in particular, is of incredible importance.

If you are supportive and agree, I am asking for you and your council to signal your support for greater resource development within our province - by letter or press release.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

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

Honourable John A. Lohr  
Minister of Municipal Affairs

c: Chief Administrative Officers  
Juanita Spencer, NSFM

March 5, 2024

**FINANCE/TREASURY BOARD--ADV--Financial Measures (2025) Act Introduced**

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**ADVANCE:** This information is not to be made public before Minister Lohr introduces the bill in the legislative chamber today, Wednesday, March 5.  
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Finance and Treasury Board Minister John Lohr introduced the Financial Measures (2025) Act today, March 5.

“We are taking action to implement the largest tax cuts in history and key budget and government priorities with this act,” said Minister Lohr. “These changes will also modernize our legislation and reduce red tape.”

More than \$500 million in tax saving measures will make life more affordable for Nova Scotians, saving an average Nova Scotian family more than \$1,000 this year.

Legislative amendments are needed to enact Budget 2025-26: Unlocking Our Potential.

The Financial Measures Act will:

- amend the Income Tax Act to increase the basic personal amount for all Nova Scotians to \$11,744 from \$8,744 starting January 1, 2025
- lower the small business tax rate to 1.5 per cent and increase the small business deduction threshold to \$700,000 as of April 1
- amend the Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission Act to remove tolls from Halifax Harbour bridges and change the Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission to a provincial Crown corporation
- amend the Non-Resident Deed Transfer Tax Act to increase the deed transfer tax for non-Nova Scotian residents buying residential property in Nova Scotia to 10 per cent.

The act also includes changes to other legislation that will support more housing development, including:

- extending rapid approval for housing and housing-related development projects in HRM until November 25, 2026
- continuing to suspend referrals of planning matters to advisory committees and community councils until November 25, 2026
- allowing the minister to continue the freeze on development charges for HRM or Halifax Water, as needed.

Other changes include:

- allowing Nova Scotia to better enforce court-ordered child and spousal support payments where one party is in another country, by implementing an international convention
- allowing groups that join the Public Service Superannuation Plan to participate at different levels
- recognizing the use of digital signatures on registered savings plan documents
- requiring less administration for film and video game classification.

**Quick Facts:**

- Budget 2025-26: Unlocking Our Potential invests in strengthening economic resilience, making life more affordable and investing in safe and healthy communities
- with revenues of \$16.5 billion and expenses of \$17.6 billion, Budget 2025-26 estimates a deficit of \$697.5 million (on a consolidated basis) before contingency

**Additional Resources:**

Bills tabled in the legislature are available at: <https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-65-session-1>

Budget 2025-26: <https://novascotia.ca/budget/>

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Email: [Heather.Fairbairn@novascotia.ca](mailto:Heather.Fairbairn@novascotia.ca)



NOVA SCOTIA

**Municipal Affairs  
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

March 7, 2025

Dear Mayors and Wardens:

I am writing to inform you that the Minimum Planning Regulations under Section 214 of the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) and Section 229 of the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* (HRMC) have been amended to implement a maximum setback for commercial wind turbines.

The new regulations will require that the maximum distance between a commercial wind turbine and a dwelling cannot be more than either four times the height of the turbine, or the distance needed to keep noise levels below 40 decibels outside the home and limit shadow flicker to no more than 30 minutes a day or 30 hours a year.

Additionally, the amendments stipulate that visual impact or aesthetic appearance of a wind turbine development is not a matter Council can consider prior to approval.

The Government of Nova Scotia is committed to reaching 80% renewables by 2030. These regulatory amendments will support this goal by providing consistent standards across Nova Scotia's municipalities, making it easier for wind energy projects to move forward, while also protecting residents from negative impacts from wind development projects such as noise and shadows.

You can find the updated Minimum Planning Regulations using the following links:

- *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*  
<https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/rxaa-l.htm#hrmcmpr>
- *Municipal Government Act*  
<https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/rxam-z.htm#mqampr>

I have also included a Question-and-Answer document that provides further information about the updated regulations.

I want to thank you for taking the time to participate in the online survey from earlier this summer. Your feedback was invaluable throughout the regulation development process.

Sincerely,

Honourable John A. Lohr  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c: Juanita Spencer, NSFM  
Chief Administrative Officers

# Wind Turbine Setbacks

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## Summary of Changes

The Department of Municipal Affairs is making amendments to the Minimum Planning Requirements Regulations under Section 214 of the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) and Section 229 of the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* (HRMC) to implement a provincial standard for wind turbine setbacks.

The new regulations will require that the maximum distance between a commercial wind turbine and a dwelling cannot be more than either four times the height of the turbine or the distance needed to keep noise levels below 40 decibels outside the home and limit shadow flicker to no more than 30 minutes a day or 30 hours a year.

Additionally, the amendments stipulate that visual impact or aesthetic appearance of a wind turbine development is not a matter Council can consider prior to approval.

Nova Scotia is committed to reaching 80% renewables by 2030. These changes support this goal by providing consistent standards across Nova Scotia's municipalities, making it easier for wind energy projects to move forward while protecting residents from negative impacts from wind development projects such as noise and shadows.

## FAQ

### Q: What are the benefits of Wind Energy in Nova Scotia

Wind energy does not result in emissions that cause the health problems associated with fossil fuels, such as sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxide, mercury, or the environmental problems that come from carbon dioxide - one of the greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. Every megawatt of wind energy can reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by as much as 2,500 tonnes per year—enough clean energy to power 350–400 Nova Scotian homes.

Wind energy does not use up natural resources. Capturing and transforming the energy of wind into the energy of electricity is infinitely renewable.

Nova Scotia has legislated goals in the *Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act* (PDF) to get off coal and have 80% of electricity generated with renewables by 2030 – and to reach net zero by 2050. [Learn more here.](#)

### Q: Should residents be concerned about the resulting noise and light flicker of Wind Turbines? What about concerns with the turbines causing illness?

It's important to remember that potential wind farms over 2 megawatts must undergo an environmental assessment which requires companies to identify the benefits of their project, its potential impacts on the environment and human health, and their plans to mitigate impacts. Projects must also obtain other required authorizations, permits and permissions from various levels of government before being built. There is no scientific evidence to support the belief that wind turbines cause illnesses.

The proposed regulatory changes will ensure municipalities have consistent standards regarding wind turbine setback distances that will ensure that residents will not be impacted by noise and light flicker.

**Q: What about the threat to migratory birds that turbines present?**

Wind turbines are attributable to less bird deaths than cats and tall buildings. Consideration of potential impacts to migratory birds as a result of a wind turbine project are included within the Government of Nova Scotia's environmental assessment process. Companies must ensure that they comply with federal migratory bird legislation.

**Q: Why is the Nova Scotia Government Making this change?**

Wind turbines do create noise and may not be appropriate for all locations. The Government of Nova Scotia is making this change to ensure that wind projects are properly developed and managed consistently across all municipalities.

**Q: How would distance required for sound and shadow flicker be established?**

Distance for sound and shadow flicker is based on project specific factors. The provincial Environmental Assessment process considers these factors prior to granting approval of commercial Wind Turbine projects (at least 2MW). A municipality may decide to incorporate the *Minimum Planning Requirements Regulations* about setbacks from wind turbines to dwellings, as written, into their Planning Documents for ease of implementation.

**Q: How does a municipality determine if their existing requirements are consistent with the proposed maximums?**

We understand that many municipalities who regulate wind turbines, have policies or bylaws including a distance setback (i.e., Kms). These policies or bylaws may be contrary to the *Minimum Planning Requirements Regulations* amendments. The Provincial Planners supporting your region and the NRR contact provided can help you consider how your existing requirements relate to the amendments to the *Minimum Planning Requirements Regulations*. You should also seek advice from your solicitor should you have questions regarding the regulations.

**Q: Will there be a deadline for when municipalities that have existing wind requirements should be consistent with the new requirements?**

There is no specific deadline set. It is expected that municipalities bring their setback requirements in line with the newly amended *Minimum Planning Requirements Regulations* as soon as reasonably possible.

February 19, 2025

The Honorable Tim Houston,  
Premier of Nova Scotia  
7th Floor, One Government Place  
1700 Granville Street  
Halifax, NS B3J 1X5

[premier@novascotia.ca](mailto:premier@novascotia.ca)

**RE: Repealing the Uranium Exploration and Mining Prohibition Act and amendments to permit hydraulic fracturing of natural gas in Nova Scotia**

Dear Premier Houston,

We are writing on behalf of the Nova Scotia committee of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE) to express our deep concerns regarding your plans to remove bans on hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for natural gas and uranium mining exploration and research. As physicians and healthcare providers, we feel it is our duty to bring to your attention the latest medical evidence of the health harms associated with these extractive industries.

CAPE is a non-partisan, physician-led organization with over 36,000 supporters across the country. It plays a unique role at the intersection of health and the environment, bringing a credible, evidence-based perspective delivered by the trusted voices of doctors, other health professionals, and researchers to support community and planetary health and enhance equity. CAPE Nova Scotia represents more than 100 physicians and other healthcare providers across the province.

We understand the economic challenges facing Nova Scotia, including US tariffs and uncertainty around federal funding. We are also acutely aware of the high rates of poverty in our province and how this profoundly affects the communities we serve. However, we strongly believe that pursuing resource extraction activities that contribute to significant health and environmental harms is not the solution to these challenges.

The medical evidence on the health impacts of unconventional oil and gas development, including fracking, is clear and growing. Recent studies have found strong correlations between proximity to fracking sites and:

- Increased rates of preterm births, low birth weight, and congenital defects

- Higher incidences of childhood asthma and leukemia
- Increased hospitalizations for cardiovascular and respiratory diseases
- Higher overall mortality rates and reduced life expectancy

For example, a 2022 study in *Environmental Health Perspectives* found that children living near fracking sites had 2-3 times higher odds of developing acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Another study in *JAMA Pediatrics* showed significantly increased risks of spontaneous preterm birth and low birth weight for pregnancies within 10 km of fracking wells.

Many of the chemicals used in fracking are known carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, or have other toxic effects. Groundwater contamination from fracking chemicals can persist for decades, impacting drinking water supplies and soils, and, in turn, adversely affecting human health.

Uranium mining poses its own set of health hazards, related to radiation exposure from radioactive materials released into air and water, and elevated levels of toxic metals. Historical evidence from uranium mining regions shows dramatically increased rates of lung cancer and other respiratory diseases among miners and nearby residents. While modern safety practices have improved, workers and those living in nearby communities face increased health risks from radon gas, radioactive dust, and potential water contamination.

The long-term environmental impacts of uranium mining is equally concerning. It leaves a toxic legacy of radioactive waste with a half-life of tens of thousands of years. Eighty-five percent of the radioactivity in the uranium ore is left behind as tailings, including many radioactive poisons – such as radium, polonium, and radioactive lead-210 – that are far more toxic than uranium itself. These uranium mining and milling wastes will constitute an everlasting health hazard and will have to be monitored and managed in perpetuity at public expense. The Church Rock uranium tailings spill in New Mexico, which released 94 million gallons of such radioactive waste, remains largely unremediated more than 40 years later. A power outage at a uranium mine in Elliot Lake, Ontario, resulted in the spill of two million litres of contaminated water from a tailings site.

We are also deeply concerned about plans to expand fossil fuel extraction and consumption in the province, at a time when we urgently need to transition away from fossil fuels. Building pipelines and other new fossil fuel infrastructure would only exacerbate the root cause of the severe flooding, monster wildfires, and heatwaves we are experiencing in Nova Scotia. The medical journal *The Lancet* has identified climate change as the greatest global health threat of the 21st century. As healthcare providers, we are already seeing the health effects of climate change in our communities.

The health impacts of fracking, uranium mining—and more broadly, climate change—disproportionately affect Indigenous and African Nova Scotian communities and vulnerable populations, including children, pregnant women, the elderly, disabled people, and

people with pre-existing conditions or biological susceptibilities. Rural and low-income communities also often bear a heavy burden of environmental contamination and health effects. These factors position this as a matter of social, racial, economic and environmental justice. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the UN declaration on the right to a healthy environment, and Canada's *National Strategy Respecting Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice Act* should guide decision-making.

We recognize the need for economic development and healthcare funding. However, the boom-and-bust cycle of fossil fuel resource extraction and uranium mining offers only short-term gains at the expense of long-term public health and environmental costs. Instead, we encourage focusing on sustainable industries like clean renewable energy projects, which create more jobs per dollar invested than fossil fuels, while protecting our air, water, and climate. Such projects will need to be undertaken with community consultation and support, and at a scale that does not harm the local environment.

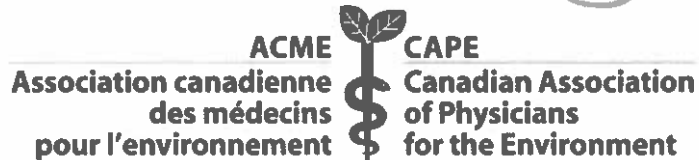
Nova Scotia has some of the most ambitious climate targets in North America. Expanding fossil fuel infrastructure would be a major step backwards and incompatible with our climate goals. Moreover, repealing laws that protect against the development of fracking and uranium mining would undermine the province's commitment to improve health care for all Nova Scotians.

Therefore, we respectfully call on your government to:

1. Maintain and strengthen existing restrictions on fracking, uranium mining, and other high-risk resource extraction activities
2. Invest in community-supported clean renewable energy and green infrastructure as a path to sustainable economic growth
3. Require comprehensive health impact assessments for any proposed resource extraction projects
4. Prioritize protection of drinking water sources and ecologically sensitive areas
5. Respect UNDRIP; engage in meaningful consultation with Mi'kmaw communities and ensure there is free, prior, and informed consent for any activities impacting Mi'kmaw territory.
6. Engage in meaningful consultation with rural communities, and work collaboratively with them to find shared solutions.
7. Respect the UN Declaration on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment

We recognize the immense challenges you face as Premier during these difficult times. The pressures of US tariffs, healthcare funding gaps, and the need to ensure prosperity for all Nova Scotians are significant burdens to bear. However, we must be careful not to trade one crisis for another. The health of our communities and the natural environment that sustains us are

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essential foundations for any lasting economic solution. By maintaining our commitment to environmental protection while pursuing sustainable economic development, Nova Scotia can lead the way on innovative solutions that preserve the health, environmental, and economic legacy we wish to leave for future generations.

Sincerely,

Laurette Geldenhuys, MBBCH FFPATH MMED FRCPC MAEd  
on behalf of CAPE Nova Scotia

c.c. Claudia Chender, Leader of the Opposition  
Derek Mombourquette, Leader of the Liberal Party

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**ACME Nouvelle-Écosse**  
**Association canadienne**  
**des médecins**  
**pour l'environnement**



**CAPE Nova Scotia**  
**Canadian Association**  
**of Physicians**  
**for the Environment**

March 3, 2025

**Submission by Dr. Nancy Covington to the Standing Committee on Public Bills concerning Bill 6: An Act Respecting Agriculture, Energy and Natural Resources**

Good morning, honourable members of the Legislature. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I am Dr. Nancy Covington, a retired family physician, a grandmother, and a member of the Nova Scotia committee of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE NS).

I was involved in the work that led to Nova Scotia's 2009 ban on uranium mining and exploration. This ban grew out of the long-standing moratorium, and was the result of extensive research and public engagement. In the end, it garnered support from all political parties, the medical society, and many citizen groups.

Shortly after this, mining companies started exploring for uranium near Sept-Îles in Quebec. When petitions to halt the exploration were ignored, 23 doctors in the community publicly announced that they were prepared to resign en masse and leave town if the project moved forward. They stated that the threat to their water supply posed too much risk to their families and communities. With 23 doctors representing a third of the area's total physicians, their stance had significant weight. As a result, in 2013, Quebec imposed a moratorium on uranium mining, becoming the third province to take this step, following British Columbia and Nova Scotia.

It's disheartening that today, Nova Scotia's ban on uranium mining is being challenged. However, I welcome the opportunity to refresh our thinking on this critical issue.

Even the act of exploring for uranium with boreholes can release radon. Radon is a radioactive gas arising from uranium underground. Radon has a half life of 3.8 days. As it decays, it emits radioactive particles which, if inhaled or ingested, can damage our DNA and other cellular components, potentially leading to cancer. Radon and its eight decay products are all classified as carcinogens.

The decay chain continues with each new radioactive product, having the potential to attach itself by electrostatic charge to dust particles. These can get blown around, washed away into ponds or wells, or settle on vegetation and crops. Of interest, one of the elements in this decay chain is Polonium 210, which was the substance slipped into a teacup that killed Litvinenko by radiation poisoning in 2006. (Litvinenko was a double agent spy in the UK). Only 10 micrograms of Polonium was needed to kill him; his body was so radioactive it had to be buried in a lead coffin.

Uranium mining is typically done through open-pit or underground methods, and occasionally by leaching. In Saskatchewan, uranium concentrations are high—up to 20%—so the mining is often carried out by robots due to the extreme danger to workers. While no leaching has been done in Saskatchewan so far, it has been used in Wyoming, where it resulted in major contamination of an aquifer. More commonly, uranium is found in lower concentrations, which requires crushing the rock to extract the ore, leaving piles of radioactively contaminated rock exposed to the weather. Tailing ponds created to contain the waste do breach, as happened in Elliot Lake.

Milling of the ore is usually done on site to reduce transportation costs. The resulting yellowcake is transported to Blind River (top of Lake Huron) for refining, and then sent to a "Conversion Facility" in Port Hope (Cameco) where it is made into uranium hexafluoride and some pellets made for Bruce Power. Every step in the process risks more scatter of the radioactive laden dust particles.

Most mining has historically taken place in remote, sparsely populated areas such as northern Saskatchewan. One study showed that lichens close to uranium mining sites are sufficiently contaminated by radioactivity that caribou that eat the lichens become contaminated, thus entering the food chain. This study calculated the additional risks of cancer for people eating different amounts of this traditional meat. Other studies show fish in the area have heavy metal concentrations. Watersheds near mines in both Saskatchewan and Ontario remain contaminated.

Saskatchewan is 12 times as large as Nova Scotia with approximately the same size population. Most Saskatchewanians live in the south and mines are in the north. Nova Scotia is the second most densely populated province in Canada with 40% of people dependent on wells. This means that a uranium mine anywhere in Nova Scotia would affect most of us – as would uranium exploration.

After the mine is closed, the tailings site with radioactive remnants and other toxic heavy metals would require monitoring for an indefinite period of time. The responsibility and cost of this care would be the province's. Another long-term cost would be health care costs for delayed onset cancers.

Radon gas is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking and is why measuring radon in our basements is advised and remedial action recommended over a certain level.

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Many of our buildings, including schools, have readings above this level, which is why an industry has developed in the province to help homeowners do remediation.

Uranium is used for either nuclear power or nuclear weapons. A minuscule amount ends up as radioisotopes for medical use. Most medical isotopes can be made in a cyclotron without using radioactive material. Large nuclear power plants like Bruce Power are not needed to make these tiny amounts.

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission regulates the mining industry. Of note, permissible levels of radon in Canada – that is, what the industry is allowed to release into the environment – are twice as high as many other countries and twice as high as what the World Health Organization recommends.

Permissible levels are derived from data from survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These levels are based on "Reference Man," ignoring the fact that low level ionizing radiation causes disproportionate harm to women and children.

The bottom line is that even with newer mining techniques, uranium mining and exploration will negatively affect our health and the environment in much of Nova Scotia for a long time. This will further strain the health care system and increase costs.

Lastly, after uranium is used in a nuclear power plant, it's transformed into waste that is much more radioactive than the original uranium. It's so radioactive, in fact, that it has to be kept out of the biosphere for hundreds of thousands of years. Nobody in the world has figured out how. This toxic legacy will haunt future generations.

On behalf of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, I respectfully call upon the government to maintain Nova Scotia's uranium mining ban.

**For our health and for the environment, leave uranium in the ground.**

**Nancy Covington, MD, BSc Physics**  
**on behalf of Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment Nova Scotia**  
[n.i.covington@icloud.com](mailto:n.i.covington@icloud.com)

Recommended resources

[https://www.pembina.org/reports/ClearingAir\\_UraniumMining.pdf](https://www.pembina.org/reports/ClearingAir_UraniumMining.pdf)

<https://www.ipnwcanada.ca/medical-isotopes>

For more information, contact:

Tynette Deveaux, Atlantic Regional Coordinator, CAPE  
[tynette@cape.ca](mailto:tynette@cape.ca), 902-719-9083