



**TOWN OF LOCKPORT
COUNCIL MEETING
FRIDAY MARCH 13, 2026, AT 1:00 P.M.
AGENDA**

1. Call to order

2. Silence Electronic Devices

3. Approval of Agenda, including additions or deletions

Staff Suggested Motion – That Council approve the agenda for the March 13, 2026, meeting with the following additions/deletions.

4. Conflict of Interest

5. Approval of Minutes

- Regular Council Meeting Minutes February 27, 2026

Staff Suggested Motion – That Council approve the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of February 27, 2026.

6. Business arising from Previous Minutes

Citizen concern regarding policy GG-026, Social Media Policy

7. 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

8. Presentations

Kevin Currie – Sou'West Nova Transit (Page 1 – 19)

9. Finance

- List of invoices already paid in the amount of \$ 34,359.98 (Page 20)
- 2026/2027 Budget Preparation Timeline (Page 21 – 23)

10. Other Business

11. Council Reports

- Mayor Derek Amalfa (Page 24)
- Deputy Mayor Craig Hillen (Page 25)
- Councillor Anna Chetwynd (Page 26)
 - o Letter from Masonic Lodge Yarmouth/Shelburne District (Page 27)
- Councillor Candace Malik (Page 28)

12. Correspondence

- Letter from Honourable Scott Armstrong, Attorney General and Minister of Justice – RCMP Retroactive Pay Liability (Page 29 – 30)
- Letter from Gordon Delano, Executive Director, Natural Resources – Excessive seaweed on beaches (Page 31)
- Letter to Honourable John A. MacDonald, Minister of Municipal Affairs from Mayor Derek Amalfa – Amalgamation funding (Page 32 – 34)
- Letter to Premier Tim Houston from South Shore Municipalities – funding cuts (Page 35 – 36)
- Letter to Honourable Nolan Young from South Shore Municipalities – expansion of programs and NSCC, Shelburne campus (Page 37 – 38)
- Letter to CAO's from Sandra McKenzie, Deputy Minister, Department of Emergency Management – REMO standards (Page 39 – 41)

- Letter from Mayor Derek Amalfa and a letter from Deputy Mayor Craig Hillen in support of RBC Barrier Buster Grant (Page 42 – 43)

13. Information Only

- Nova Scotia Health (Page 44 – 48)
- Email from Honourable Jim Karygiannis, GTA Strategies – Conflict in Iran and Canadian Businesses (Page 49 – 51)
- Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities 2026/2027 Budget (Page 52 – 68)
- Letter from Paul LaFleche, Deputy Minister – Nova Scotia released budget 2026/2027 (Page 69)

14. Date of next meeting

- March 27, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

15. “In Camera”

- Contract negotiations
- Labour relations

16. Adjournment



Transit Update - Funding Request

Jan 2026



Who We Are

Sou'West Nova Transit Association (SWNT) is a registered charity that provides an essential transportation service to **ALL** County Residents based on a pre-booked, door-to-door, wheelchair accessible transportation model.

Given the demographics and funding provided to SWNT, we place a priority on helping those with barriers related to age, health, mobility, finances, and lack of support structures access essential services, however we are available to **EVERYONE!**

Our Vision

To help create communities where everyone can access the services and opportunities they need to lead healthy and connected lives.



The Team

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Administration

Kevin Curry, Executive Director
Renada Tweedy, Administrator

Dispatch

Marianne Morris
Emily Van Roggen

Drivers

Clark Blanchard
Leon Goulden
Jude Doucet
Robert Hopkins
Stephen Ayres
Steve Bogler
Derek Pape
Glyn Hennigar
Debbie Smith

Age Demographic

Population pyramid: Shelburne County

July 1, 2025 share of population of all genders



(7)



Population

53

Shelburne county
July 1, 2025: 14,385



Year in Review

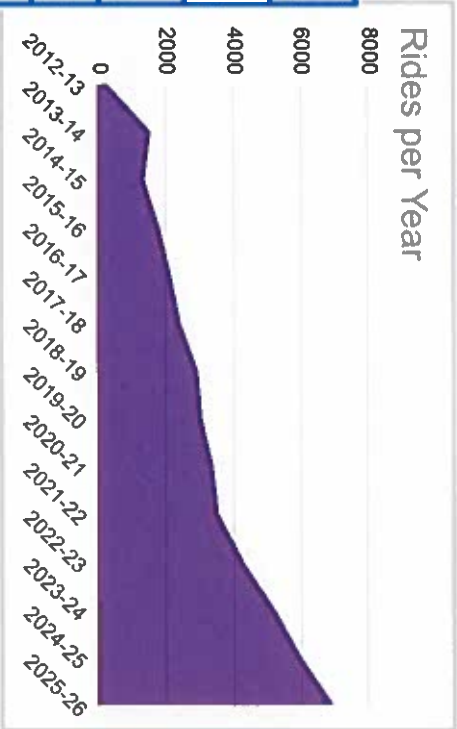
- 1 **Extended Hours** Extended our hours for dispatch to M-F 9-5
- 2 **Expanded our Driving Days** We now offer Saturday Service
- 3 **Increased Fare Reductions** We increased the subsidies for those who are economically challenged. Our lowest tier went to 80% fare reduction
- 4 **Expanded Fleet** With funding from the federal and provincial government, we were able to add two new vehicles to our Fleet, allowing us to accommodate more ride requests
- 5 **Financials** Our overall revenue and expenses rose proportionately. Administration costs saw a minor increase. Cost of fleet and drivers rose to the degree it offset revenue increases.

Over the past 3 years, Sou'West Nova Transit has requested increasing funds for operations and subsidies. With these funds, we have done amazing work.

Year in Review - Results / Metrics

73

Unit	Rides YTD	Projection for FY 25/26
Municipality of the District of Barrington	2275	2900
Municipality of the District of Shelburne	1995	2500
Other	134	139
Town of Clark's Harbour	238	300
Town of Lockeport	244	305
Town of Shelburne	604	755
Grand Total	5370	6899 (16%)

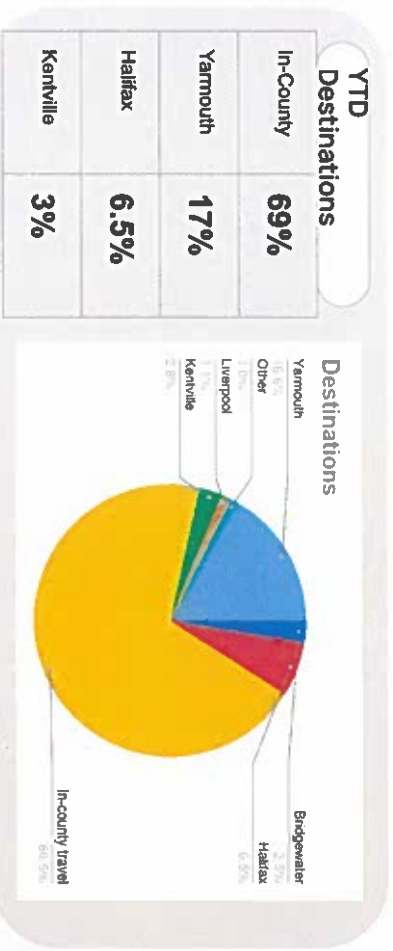
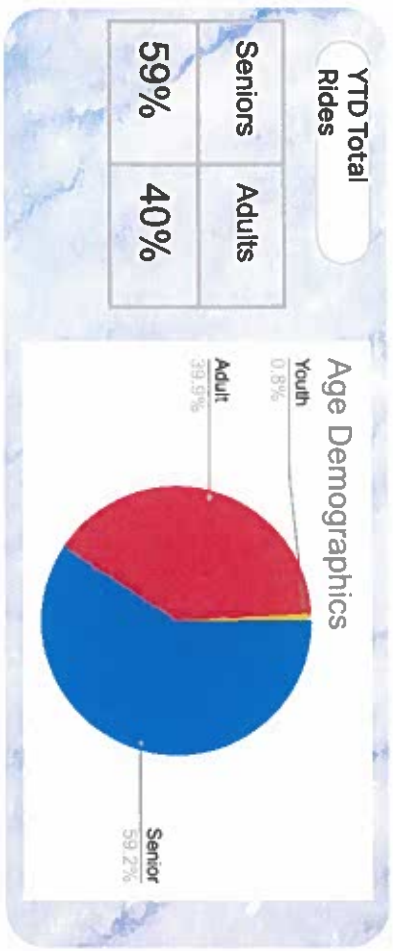


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Metrics



Y/Y comparison of Destinations travelled by our Residents. The Red line represents the total Y/Y for rides



Mileage

Biggest Day: 45 trips

Average Day: 27 Rides

365,000 KMS

Metrics



Reason for Trip	Total	%
Medical Appointments	3,758	53.48%
Access to Food	1,445	20.57%
Shopping/Errands	624	8.88%
Social & Recreational Connections ("Social Isolation")	434	6.17%
Social Enterprise	362	5.15%
Other	173	2.46%
Work	151	2.15%
Education	81	1.15%
Training	0	0.00%
Physical Activity ("Recreation")	0	0.00%
COVID-19 Vaccination	0	0.00%





Fare Subsidies Provided for Residents

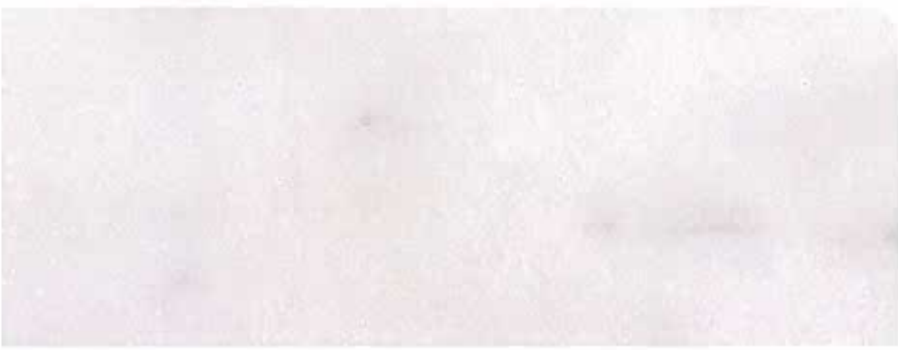


	Projected Subsidies Used FY 25/26
Municipality of the District of Barrington	\$40,061.00
Municipality of the District of Shelburne	\$30,784.00
Other	\$0.00
Town of Clark's Harbour	\$3,252.00
Town of Lockeport	\$5,672.00
Town of Shelburne	\$5,477.00
	\$85,246.00



Where are we going?

- We see an 16-18% increase in ridership due to aging population and remote medical
- We will roll out the Shelburne County Link Pilot Q1 FY 26/27, A predictive service
- We will offer on-Demand services to existing riders
- We will work with our community partners to support community events, airport travel, south shore connectivity
- We will station a vehicle/driver in Lockport to accommodate local demand from residents and potentially assist the Co-Op Program with Transit





Funding Request - Fare Subsidies



	Projected Subsidies Used FY 25/26	FY 26/27 w/@18% Increase Y/Y
Municipality of the District of Barrington	\$40,061.00	\$47,271.98
Municipality of the District of Shelburne	\$30,784.00	\$36,325.12
Other	\$0.00	0
Town of Clark's Harbour	\$3,252.00	\$3,837.36
Town of Lockeport	\$5,672.00	\$6,692.96
Town of Shelburne	\$5,477.00	\$6,462.86
	\$85,246.00	\$100,590.28

Unit Funding

Funds to be used for Fare Reductions		
NS -FAP		\$100,590.28
Grants / Donations		\$17,160.00
Resulting Municipal Fare Reduction Ask		\$63,430.28
Total Ask from Units		\$94,430.28

	# of Rides YTD	% rides	Population	% of population	Total Ask	Funding Ask
Municipality- Barrington	2275	42.37%	6523	47.55%	44.96%	\$42,459.16
Municipality - Shelburne	1994	37.14%	4336	31.61%	34.37%	\$32,460.19
Clark's Harbour	238	4.43%	725	5.29%	4.86%	\$4,588.49
Lockeport	244	4.54%	476	3.47%	4.01%	\$3,784.18
Shelburne	604	11.25%	1644	11.99%	11.62%	\$10,970.39

	Last Year	This Year's Ask	Chg Y/Y
Municipality of the District of Barrington	\$33,000.00	\$42,459.16	\$9,459.16
Municipality of the District of Shelburne	\$37,000.00	\$32,460.19	-\$4,539.81
Town of Clark's Harbour	\$1,500.00	\$4,588.49	\$3,088.49
Town of Lockeport	\$500.00	\$3,784.18	\$3,284.18
Town of Shelburne	\$4,100.00	\$10,970.39	\$6,870.39

With increased funding we will:

Continue to provide income appropriate fare reductions to all units

We will establish a predictive service to Yarmouth and Bridgewater

Increase availability to meet demand.
Reduce the trips we could not fulfill

Offer on-demand services for existing Riders

Continue working with our partners for the betterment of the County

Questions?



Thank you

Understanding Transit Funding Changes



Community
Transportation
Network
Connecting Nova Scotians



Funding Changes in the 2026-27 Budget



NS Transit Research Incentive Program

100% Funding Cut

Supports development of new and expanded transit services.

Includes feasibility studies, business plans, community consultations, and pilot projects.



Strategic Community Transit Investments, CTAP, and PTAP

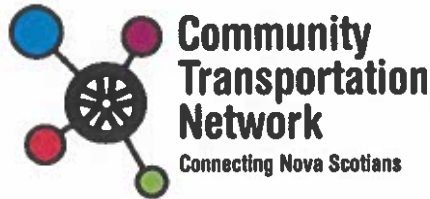
20% Funding Cut

Enhances accessible, affordable transit options in rural areas.

Supports non-profit, community-based transportation services across the province

To learn more, scan here:





P0 B0X 29116

Halifax, NS

B3L 4T8

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Nova Scotia Community Transportation Network (NSCTN) and the Rural Transportation Association (RTA), we are writing to provide an update regarding recent changes to provincial community transportation funding and to outline the potential implications for Community Transportation Organizations (CTOs) serving your municipality.

As you may be aware, several provincial funding programs that support community transportation have been reduced or eliminated in the most recent budget proposal, including:

- Nova Scotia Transit Research Incentive Program (NS-TRIP) – reduced by 100%
- Strategic Community Transit Investments – reduced by 20%
- Community Transportation Assistance Program (CTAP) – reduced by 20%

While the Accessible Transportation Assistance Program (ATAP) and Fare Assistance Program (FAP) remain in place, reductions to operational and service development funding will affect the ability of CTOs to maintain service levels, plan for growth, and respond to evolving community needs.

Community Transportation Organizations operate with lean budgets and limited reserves. These reductions may result in constrained service expansion, reduced operating flexibility, and increased strain on staff and volunteers. Over time, this could impact access to transportation for seniors, individuals with disabilities, workers, students, and rural residents who rely on these services to access healthcare, employment, education, food, and social connection.

We are sharing this information to ensure municipal leaders are aware of the broader funding landscape and the potential local implications. As CTOs assess the impact of these changes, some may need to explore enhanced partnerships or financial support at the municipal level in order to maintain service stability for the residents and tax base they serve.

Community transportation providers are deeply integrated into local communities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, CTOs were recognized as essential services, continuing to operate so

residents could attend medical appointments and access essential goods. Their ongoing sustainability remains critical to rural and small-town resilience.

We encourage municipal leaders to consider:

- Engaging directly with your local CTO to understand projected impacts
- Exploring opportunities for strengthened municipal partnerships
- Advocating to the Province on behalf of your residents for sustainable community transportation funding

Community transportation is not only a mobility service - it is a foundational support for economic participation, aging in place, and community vitality.

We would welcome the opportunity to provide further information or speak with council if helpful.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to the well-being of your community.

Sincerely,



Sam Thompson

Chair

Nova Scotia Community Transportation Network



Tanya Burke

Board Chair

Rural Transportation Association

Town of Lockport

2026-27 Budget Preparation Timeline

1. Department Review - March

Key Actions:

- Administration meets with department heads to review operational needs and gather budget requests for the upcoming fiscal year.
- Review departmental priorities
- Identify operational cost pressures
- Review municipal assets and infrastructure
- Gather input for draft budget preparation

2. Finance Committee – Initial Budget Review

Monday, March 23, 10:00am

Key Actions:

- Establish key priorities and focus areas for the 2026–2027 municipal budget
- Review previous year financial results
- Confirm preliminary revenues, debits, and credits
- Present initial operating cost estimates
- Identify key financial pressures

3. Year End Closes

March 31

Key Actions:

- Administration confirms all 2025–2026 financial adjustments
- Confirm year-end revenues and expenses
- Finalize financial baseline for new budget

4. Committee Budget Submissions

April 6, 2026

Council committees are invited to submit budget requests or funding recommendations for consideration in the upcoming fiscal year.

Key Actions

- Committees submit operational or project funding requests to Administration

- Administration compiles committee submissions for consideration during draft budget preparation
- Submissions should be received by this date in order to be considered during the current budget process.

5. Draft Budget Preparation

Early April

Administration prepares the preliminary budget draft.

Key Actions:

- Incorporate department feedback
- Refine operating cost estimates and revenue projections
- Prepare the draft operating budget for Finance Committee review

6. Finance Committee – Budget Direction

Proposed date: Friday, April 17

Key Actions:

- Review draft operating budget
- Review municipal assets and infrastructure considerations
- Discuss and determine proposed municipal tax rates
- Provide direction for final budget preparation

7. Council Meeting – Budget Adoption

Friday, May 8, 2026

Council reviews the final budget prepared through the Finance Committee process.

Key Actions:

- Present final 2026-27 Operating Budget
- Confirm municipal tax rates
- Council approves annual operating budget

8. Community Grant Deadline

April 30

Key Actions:

- Deadline for grant applications from community organizations to be considered within the annual budget

9. Annual Budget Summary and Highlights

Following Budget Approval

Following the adoption of the annual municipal budget, the Town will provide residents with a public summary outlining the key elements and highlights of the upcoming year's budget.

Key Actions

- Provide a summary of the approved operating budget and municipal tax rates
 - Highlight key investments, priorities, and major projects for the upcoming year
 - Share the information through the Town website and other public communication channels
-

Council Oversight: Council may provide direction or request adjustments at any stage of the budget review process.

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Council Status Report: Feb 2026
Mayor Derek Amalfa

Meetings Attended:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Committee</i>
Feb 2	Myra Media- Website Review
Feb 2	Recreation Committee
Feb 2	Clean Foundation -Lockeport Risk Assessment
Feb 3	Amalgamation Workshop
Feb 4	Amalgamation Steering Committee
Feb 6	Wastewater Treatment Plant Progress Report
Feb 6	Discussion with Canada Day Committee
Feb 6	South Shore Region Municipal Flood Line Mapping
Feb 9	Shelburne Arena Committee
Feb 11	Shelburne Events Committee
Feb 11	Heritage & Tourism Committee
Feb 13	Town of Lockeport Regular Council
Feb 15	Legion Breakfast
Feb 17	Fire Service Modernization Planning Session
Feb 18	Shelburne County Leadership Meeting
Feb 21	Lobster Sea Catch Festival
Feb 26	NSFM - Provincial Budget Review
Feb 28	Town of Lockeport Regular Council

Monthly Reports (February) C. Hillen

- 03/02/2026 Amalgamation Workshop- MDOS
- 04/02/2026 Amalgamation Steering Committee Shelburne
- 06/02/2026 July 1st Committee meeting with Council
- 06/02/2026 Regular Council Meeting
- 11/02/2026 Heritage & Tourism Committee
- 17/02/2026 Shelburne Municipalities Leadership Meeting
- 20/02/2026 Regular Council Meeting
- 21/02/2025 Lockeport Lobster Sea Catch Festival Lobster HTC

01/02/2026- 22/02/2026- Numerous hours spent on the Sea Catch Festival event

Meetings February Councillor A Chetwynd

- Feb 02 - Rec/MYM Committee (Council Chambers)
- Feb 03- Amalgamation Workshop (MODS)
- Feb 04- Organizing Christmas Decorations (Green Room)
- Feb 06- Outdoor Accessibility Parks and Playgrounds (Webex)
- Feb 09- MYM Budget (Council Chambers)
- Feb 10- COM Check-in (Webex)
- Feb 11- Lockeport COM Check-in (Webex)
- Feb 12- Park Decorating Debrief (Jan's)
- Feb 13- Regular Council (Council Chambers)
- Feb 15- Free Skate MYM (Shelburne Arena)
- Feb 17- Sr Bingo (Rec Center)
- Feb 27- Regular Council (Council Chambers)



(27)

Taylor Lodge No.62
A.F.&A.M.
Lockeport, NS
Yarmouth/Shelburne District
03 March 2026

e-mail: taylorlodge1@gmail.com

Re: Town of Lockeport

Masonic Foundation Application

Donation for Accessibility Playground Equipment

On behalf of Taylor Lodge No. 62 and the Masonic Foundation of Nova Scotia, we are pleased to inform you that the application made on behalf of the Playground Committee has been approved in the amount of \$5662.60.

We could not be happier for the outcome of this decision for the accessibility swing and associated equipment and will graciously present the cheque in April 2026.

We require a small recognition in return, that a name plate be attached to the equipment purchased from the funding which shall read:

Funded by/ Funded in part by Taylor Lodge No. 62 and the Masonic Foundation of NS, or another wording of your choice, but it must include the words Taylor Lodge No.62 and the Masonic Foundation of NS. You may also use our Lodge logo on this page as part of the name plate.

On behalf of Taylor Lodge No. 62

Ryan Chetwynd

Worshipful Master

Councillor Candace Malik

3rd - MODS/TOS/TOL Amalgamation workshop

3rd - SAC

5th - EAR

5th - TCRCE re: SAC

6th - July 1st

10th - newsletter prep for April's issue

13th - Council

17th - July 1st

17th - Desalination webinar

26th - newsletter prep

27th - Council

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NOVA SCOTIA

**Attorney General
Justice
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 7, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 1T0 • Telephone 902 424-4030 • JustMin@novascotia.ca

February 27, 2026

Dear Chief Administrative Officer,

Re: RCMP Retroactive Pay Liability – Provincial Position on Cost Recovery

I am writing to formally update you on the matter of retroactive salary obligations arising from the first collective agreement concluded between the Government of Canada and the National Police Federation, and to confirm the Province of Nova Scotia's position regarding municipal cost implications under the Provincial Police Service Agreement (PPSA).

The RCMP collective agreement introduced retroactive salary adjustments spanning the 2017–18 through 2020–21 fiscal years. These adjustments have resulted in significant financial implications for jurisdictions policed under the PPSA. The Province recognizes the challenges associated with liabilities extending across multiple fiscal years.

From the outset, Nova Scotia has maintained that the retroactive compensation obligations flowing from the federal collective bargaining process for the first collective agreement are the responsibility of the Government of Canada. This position has been consistently communicated to Public Safety Canada through both ministerial and departmental correspondence and continues to guide the Province's engagement with the federal government.

Accordingly, I wish to formally advise that the Province of Nova Scotia will not recover any additional funds from municipalities in relation to retroactive RCMP salary obligations arising from the first collective agreement. No further invoices, adjustments, or charges will be issued to municipalities with respect to these retroactive costs. Amounts previously recovered from municipalities through earlier cost-sharing assessments remain reflected in provincial financial reporting and are not recoverable.

The Province continues to assert unequivocally that it did not have a meaningful role in negotiating the first RCMP collective agreement and should not be expected to assume financial responsibility for obligations arising solely from federal decision-making undertaken without meaningful inclusion of contract partners. The imposition of retroactive salary costs on PPSA partners is inconsistent with both the purpose and operational structure of the agreement. Nova Scotia has invoked the dispute resolution mechanism under the PPSA and continues to seek a formal and definitive response from Public Safety Canada acknowledging federal responsibility for the

financial consequences of its collective bargaining processes.

The Province will continue to advance Nova Scotia's position with the federal government concerning retroactive compensation and will advise municipal partners of any material developments. We are committed to ensuring that communication remains coordinated and transparent. Recognizing the importance of financial predictability for municipalities, we trust this confirmation provides the clarity necessary to support ongoing fiscal and operational planning.

Concurrently, the Province is advancing broader police modernization initiatives, including the development of a new funding arrangement for provincial police services delivered under the PPSA. This work is focused on establishing a modernized billing mechanism that more accurately reflects the needs of municipalities and the Province. Given the complexity of this initiative, the Minister has recommended further engagement to ensure all considerations, potential impacts, and operational challenges are fully understood prior to implementation. The Minister remains committed to a collaborative approach that results in a billing model that is fair, transparent, and responsive to the needs of Nova Scotian communities.

We will be following up in the near future to arrange a discussion regarding the forthcoming changes to the billing mechanism and to ensure municipalities have meaningful opportunities to provide input throughout this process.

The Province values the essential role municipalities play in delivering effective policing services across Nova Scotia. We appreciate your continued professionalism and collaboration as we work toward meaningful change in support of public safety.

Should you require further information, please contact Hayley Crichton, Executive Director, Public Safety and Security Division, at Hayley.Crichton@novascotia.ca or 902-225-0416.

Sincerely,



Honourable Scott Armstrong
Attorney General and Minister of Justice



319

PO Box 698
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada B3J 2T9

Gord Delano
Executive Director, Regional Services Branch
902 424-4445 T
Gordon.Delano@novascotia.ca

Log: PNS-64374-R4W6Z7

March 4, 2026

Mayor Derek Amalfa
Town of Lockeport
26 North St. PO Box 189
Lockeport, Nova Scotia
B0T 1L0

Dear Mayor Derek Amalfa:

As Executive Director of the Regional Services Branch, Natural Resources, I am responding on behalf of Minister Masland to your letter dated February 02, 2026, regarding the excessive build-up of seaweed on Crescent Beach, in Lockeport, NS.

I understand the concerns this issue is causing for your community, and I appreciate you bringing it to our attention. I have had staff visit the site to observe the conditions you described. While it would certainly be ideal if the situation resolves on its own, we recognize that this may not occur, and we will continue to monitor the area closely.

If the accumulation continues to a point where it is creating significant impacts, please reach out to the local office at 902-875-2501, Tim Locke is the Area Manager. Our team will work with you to explore potential options and support the Town in determining appropriate next steps.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Delano".

Gordon Delano
Executive Director
Regional Services



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March 5, 2026

Honourable John A. MacDonald
Minister of Municipal Affairs
Department of Municipal Affairs
8th Floor North, Maritime Centre
1505 Barrington Street
P.O. Box 216
Halifax, NS B3J 2K5

Email: dmamin@novascotia.ca

Dear Minister MacDonald,

On behalf of the Eastern Shelburne Amalgamation Steering Committee and the elected leadership of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne, the Town of Shelburne, and the Town of Lockeport, we are writing to respectfully request that the Province of Nova Scotia commit to funding the full cost of all studies and related requirements necessary to evaluate and complete a potential municipal amalgamation of our three municipal units.

The Amalgamation Steering Committee was established jointly by the three councils and is comprised of elected representatives from each municipal unit. Our mandate is to carefully examine whether municipal amalgamation would provide long-term benefits for residents, taxpayers, and service delivery in eastern Shelburne County. As outlined in earlier correspondence regarding this process, the committee is approaching this work collaboratively and in good faith with the objective of identifying the best path forward for our communities.

Through discussions with the Nova Scotia Regulatory and Appeals Board (NSRAB), we have been advised that a comprehensive set of governance, financial, operational, and service delivery studies must accompany any formal application for amalgamation. Initial high-level cost estimates for these required reports are approximately **\$550,000**. These preliminary estimates reflect only the core studies identified by NSRAB and do not include additional work that would be required to fully assess long-term infrastructure obligations.

In particular, both the Town of Shelburne and the Town of Lockeport would be required to undertake detailed assessments of their **future capital asset replacement plans**,

including long-term infrastructure needs for water systems, sewer systems, roads, sidewalks, and street lighting. These additional technical analyses will be essential to ensure that any amalgamation proposal accurately reflects the long-term infrastructure liabilities and service requirements of the region. As a result, the ultimate cost of the necessary studies and analysis is currently unknown but will almost certainly exceed the initial estimates.

Our committee strongly believes that the cost of determining the best governance structure for our region should **not be borne by local residents**. The three municipalities involved are relatively small, with limited tax bases and increasing fiscal pressures. Requiring these communities to absorb the full cost of an amalgamation review would create a significant financial burden and could prevent the very analysis needed to determine whether amalgamation is in the public interest.

There is clear precedent for provincial support in similar circumstances. The consolidation of **Windsor and the Municipality of West Hants** received approximately **\$1.5 million in provincial funding**, provided in two installments, to complete the necessary studies and transition planning associated with their municipal reorganization. That provincial investment ensured the process was thorough, evidence-based, and focused on long-term sustainability.

We believe the same principle should apply in eastern Shelburne County. The Province has previously demonstrated that when municipalities undertake the complex process of evaluating and implementing municipal restructuring, provincial partnership is both appropriate and necessary. Providing similar support in this case would ensure consistency with past provincial policy and demonstrate the Province's continued commitment to supporting effective and sustainable municipal governance.

The committee was previously advised that funding might be pursued through the **Municipal Innovation Program (MIP)**. Unfortunately, this program was never structured to support a project of this magnitude. The total funding envelope for the entire program was approximately **\$578,000**, shared among **all 49 municipalities in Nova Scotia**, and the program typically required municipal cost-sharing. Even under ideal circumstances, the MIP would not have provided the level of support necessary to complete the required work. We also understand that the program has now been cancelled entirely, eliminating even this limited funding avenue.

Without dedicated provincial funding, the municipalities involved simply do not have the financial capacity to undertake the extensive studies required by NSRAB. This creates a significant barrier to responsible decision-making and limits our ability to fully evaluate whether amalgamation could strengthen governance, improve service delivery, and enhance long-term financial sustainability for residents.

For this reason, the Eastern Shelburne Amalgamation Steering Committee respectfully requests that the Province of Nova Scotia commit to **fully funding the studies, reports, and technical analyses required to evaluate and complete the potential amalgamation** of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne, the Town of Shelburne, and the Town of Lockeport.

While the exact funding amount cannot yet be determined, a provincial commitment to support the full cost of the required work would allow the municipalities to proceed with the necessary analysis without placing additional financial pressure on residents. Importantly, this request does not presuppose the outcome of the process; rather, it ensures that any decision regarding amalgamation is based on comprehensive and objective information.

Given the importance of this matter, we would respectfully request the opportunity to meet **in person** with you to discuss the funding requirements and the broader amalgamation process. The Warden of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne and the Mayors of the Town of Shelburne and the Town of Lockeport would welcome the opportunity to meet with you directly to outline the challenges facing our municipalities and to discuss how the Province can support a responsible and evidence-based path forward.

We believe a face-to-face discussion would be valuable in ensuring a clear understanding of the financial realities facing our communities and the importance of provincial partnership in enabling this process to proceed.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to the opportunity to speak with you.

Sincerely,



Derek Amalfa
Mayor, Town of Lockeport
Chair, Eastern Shelburne Amalgamation Steering Committee

On behalf of the Eastern Shelburne Amalgamation Steering Committee:

- Warden Penny Smith, Vice Chair, Municipality of the District of Shelburne
- Mayor Stan Jacklin, Town of Shelburne
- Deputy Mayor Craig Hillen, Town of Lockeport
- Deputy Warden Heidi Wagner, Municipality of the District of Shelburne
- Councillor Therese Cruz, Town of Shelburne



February 27, 2026

Premier Tim Houston
PO Box 726
Halifax, NS B3J 2T3

Dear Premier Houston,

We are writing regarding the recent budget announcement by the Government of Nova Scotia and the deeply concerning decision to close several museums and visitor information centres across the province, including the Ross-Thomson House & Store Museum in Shelburne and the Barrington Woolen Mill Museum in Barrington, both located in Shelburne County.

We must respectfully but unequivocally urge you to immediately reconsider these closures.

These sites are not discretionary amenities; they are foundational to the cultural, educational, and economic fabric of our rural communities. They safeguard and interpret the stories of our settlers, industries, resilience, and identity. Once these institutions are shuttered, collections dispersed, and expertise lost, the damage is not temporary — it is lasting. Heritage infrastructure cannot simply be restored at a later date without significant cost, if it can be restored at all.

The economic implications alone warrant urgent reassessment. Nova Scotia actively promotes itself as a destination defined by culture, heritage, and authentic local experience. Visitors come not only for scenery, but to engage directly with our history by touring restored homes, witnessing historic mills in operation, and learning from knowledgeable interpreters. Eliminating these sites weakens the very tourism ecosystem the province relies upon. The consequences will extend well beyond museum walls, impacting restaurants, retailers, accommodations, tour operators, and seasonal workers. Each closure represents a measurable loss of revenue and economic opportunity for already vulnerable rural communities.

There is also an immediate human cost. These decisions mean lost employment for full-time and seasonal staff, students, artisans, and local contractors. In rural Nova Scotia, every job matters. Short-term fiscal restraint that results in long-term economic contraction and diminished community vitality is not a sustainable solution.

Public response has been swift and deeply concerned. Residents have voiced heartbreak and frustration, emphasizing that once heritage institutions are dismantled, rebuilding them is extraordinarily difficult, if not impossible. These sites play a critical role in educating young people, fostering civic pride, and strengthening local identity. Their value cannot be measured solely in annual operating budgets.

At a time when government speaks of strengthening rural communities, supporting tourism, and preserving Nova Scotia's cultural identity, these closures send a contradictory and troubling message. Fiscal responsibility is essential; however, it must be balanced with strategic foresight. The savings realized today risk being eclipsed many times over by lost tourism revenue, weakened local economies, and irreversible cultural loss.

Our heritage is not expendable. It is one of Nova Scotia's most enduring and valuable assets. Once lost, it cannot be recreated.

We respectfully request that you demonstrate decisive leadership by revisiting this decision without delay and engaging directly with affected communities to identify viable alternatives that protect both fiscal stability and our shared history.

We are aware of countless social media posts, as well as surveys and petitions that are currently circulating in our communities requesting retraction of these decisions. Given the urgency and far-reaching consequences of this matter, we look forward to your timely response.

It is our hope and expectation that our MLA will confirm his support for our position on this matter. Thank you for your serious consideration.

Warden Penny Smith
Municipality of Shelburne

Warden Shaun Hatfield
Municipality of Barrington

Mayor Clay Kenney
Town of Clark's Harbour

Mayor Derek Amalfa
Town of Lockeport

Mayor Stan Jacklin
Town of Shelburne

CC: Honourable Dave Ritcey, Minister of Communities, Cultures, Tourism and Heritage
Honourable Nolan Young, MLA – Shelburne
Ross-Thomson House & Store Museum
Barrington Woolen Mill Museum



February 27, 2026

Honourable Nolan Young
Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration
PO Box 697
Halifax, NS B3J 2T8

Dear Honourable Young,

We are writing to you regarding the future direction of the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Shelburne Campus, now that NSCC falls under your department's supervision.

At a recent joint leadership meeting, there was strong and unified support among municipal leaders for exploring an expansion of programs offered at the Shelburne Campus. We recognize the important role NSCC plays in workforce development, economic diversification, and community sustainability across rural Nova Scotia, and we believe there is a significant opportunity to strengthen that role in Shelburne County.

While our region's economy has long been anchored by the fishing and seafood sector, there was clear agreement that future program growth at the Shelburne Campus should also support diversification beyond our core industries. In addition, there was interest in the reinstatement, enhancement, or expansion of trade and skilled trades programming at the campus, recognizing the ongoing and growing demand for these skills across our communities. Together, these approaches would enhance economic resilience and provide greater local career options for residents.

In particular, there was strong interest in exploring:

- Agricultural programming, including greenhouse agriculture and controlled-environment food production, which aligns with food security priorities and emerging market opportunities.
- Hospitality and culinary programming, which would support our growing tourism sector and local business community while creating skilled employment pathways for residents.
- Trades and skilled trades programming, to support workforce needs in construction, maintenance, and related sectors essential to both existing industries and future growth.

We believe these areas represent practical and forward-looking opportunities that build on regional strengths while broadening the economic base of Shelburne County.

We are scheduled to meet with you on April 20 and would welcome the opportunity to discuss these ideas in more detail at that time, including how the Province, NSCC, and our municipal units might work collaboratively to support program expansion at the Shelburne Campus. Our municipalities are prepared to be constructive partners in advancing workforce development initiatives that benefit both our region and the province as a whole.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to our upcoming discussion and to working together to strengthen educational and economic opportunities in Shelburne County.

Yours Sincerely,

Warden Penny Smith
Municipality of Shelburne

Warden Shaun Hatfield
Municipality of Barrington

Mayor Clay Kenney
Town of Clark's Harbour

Mayor Derek Amalfa
Town of Lockeport

Mayor Stan Jacklin
Town of Shelburne



**Emergency Management
Office of the Minister**

Suite 601-1871 Upper Water Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 1S8 . Telephone 902-424-5620 . Minister.EmergencyManagement@novascotia.ca

March 4, 2026

Dear Chief Administrative Officers,

I am writing with thanks to those of you who were able to join our first Emergency Management Forum in Truro on January 28th and 29th. On behalf of the Department of Emergency Management, I know staff deeply appreciated your participation and the opportunity to discuss our priorities.

As discussed at the forum, I am writing today to share the Province’s new Regional Emergency Management Organization (REMO) standards, developed in partnership with Chief Administrative Officers and Emergency Management Coordinators. These Standards are written under the Nova Scotia Emergency Preparedness and Nova Scotia Guard Act and came into effect on February 2nd, 2026. They outline the details on requirements to be met by the municipalities and REMOs, including those that will be formed in the future.

These standards include important information about emergency management planning and programs, public alerting, and activation during an emergency. I highly encourage you all to review them in depth. Please ensure your Emergency Management Coordinators and other staff that support emergency management roles in your municipality receive a copy.

I appreciate all the work that every municipality and region has done to get us to this point, together we are making a more prepared and resilient Nova Scotia.

If you have any questions about the standards, don’t hesitate to reach out to your Regional Manager (see over for a list) or Andrew Mitton, Director of Regional Operations.

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Sincerely,

Sandra McKenzie

Sandra McKenzie, Deputy Minister
Department of Emergency Management

Attachments

cc: Victoria Brooks, Association of Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia
Juanita Spencer, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
Andrew Mitton, Director, Regional Operations, DEM
Mark Furey, Executive Director, Regional Operations

Regional Contacts

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Regional Managers	
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Town of Lockeport
26 North St
Lockeport, NS
902-656-2216
Lockeport.NS.Ca

March 2, 2026

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for **Lockeport Elementary School** in their application for the **RBC Barrier Buster Grant** presented by the Rick Hansen Foundation. As Mayor of the Town of Lockeport, and as a strong advocate for accessible and inclusive community spaces, I have witnessed firsthand the important role this space serves as both an educational facility and a central gathering space for our community. The outdoor play area at Lockeport Elementary is used daily not only by students, but also by families and residents outside school hours, serving as one of the community's primary shared recreation spaces.

The funding provided by the **RBC Barrier Buster Grant** would significantly enhance their capacity to develop an accessible and inclusive play pad designed to support children of all abilities, including students living with visual impairments and mobility challenges. This project will benefit students, families, and the broader community by creating a safe and welcoming environment where all children can learn, play, and socialize without barriers.

In a small rural community such as Lockeport, shared public spaces must serve a wide variety of needs. The proposed play pad represents an important investment in equity and inclusion, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to participate fully in play and outdoor learning experiences. The Town of Lockeport is committed to supporting spaces that promote accessibility, belonging, and community well-being, and this project reflects those shared values.

Thank you for your consideration,

Derek Amalfa
Mayor, Town of Lockeport

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March 2, 2026

Mr. Craig Hillen
Deputy Mayor, Town of Lockeport
Member of the Eastern Shelburne Accessibility Committee
26 North Street, PO Box 189
Lockeport, NS, B0T 1L0
craighillenlockeport@gmail.com
902-319-9548

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for Lockeport Elementary School, in their application for the RBC Barrier Buster Grant presented by the Rick Hansen Foundation.

As a Deputy Mayor and Member of the Eastern Shelburne Accessibility Committee, I have witnessed firsthand the meaningful impact this organization has made within our community. For example, School Staff and Community Volunteers from this very small town have organized and are conducting community fundraising events to replace the current Lockeport Elementary School playground and surface pad. The existing playground and pad have deteriorated to the point where many parts of it have become unusable and unsafe for children and staff. This current state of deterioration impacts all children's ability to play and learn but is considerably restrictive for children who have mobility and sight disabilities. Its condition excludes them and is a barrier restricting participation and play as a child.

The funding provided by the RBC Barrier Buster Grant would significantly enhance their capacity to see this very important project come to fruition, ultimately benefiting all children but it would be considered a special and generous gift of support that would be most impactful for disabled children in our community who are our most vulnerable.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Craig Hillen,
Deputy Mayor, TOL and Eastern Shelburne Accessibility Committee



Shelburne Community Partners / Nova Scotia Health Update March 2026

Ultrasound Unit has arrived

- The new ultrasound unit has arrived. The equipment is on-site with staff preparing to begin operations and patient exams. Renovations are required to the disinfection space to accommodate the high level of cleaning needed on probes used for intracavitary exams (ultrasonographic imaging in which the transducer is inserted into a body cavity).
- While this renovation work is being completed, we will still be able to do most other non-invasive exams with appointments starting to be booked for early March. The service will launch as part-time with plans to increase as staffing is put in place.
- Huge thanks to the Roseway Hospital Charitable Foundation and all the community donors who have done so much to make this a reality.



Emergency department medication system in place

- Renovations are complete in the emergency department trauma room to accommodate the new Pxyis medication delivery system. The redesigned room looks great and is a more appropriate workspace for teams. Pxyis is an automated dispensing system that provides secure storage and electronic tracking of medications allowing for safer patient care.



Equipment helps patients and staff

- The LUCAS compression unit that was purchased by the Roseway Auxiliary has arrived and staff training is now complete. The unit is located in the Emergency Department and used during cardiac arrests. As noted in the last Community Partners report, the Lund University Cardiopulmonary Assist System (LUCAS) device provides mechanical chest compressions to patients in cardiac arrest. It provides more consistent compressions and eliminates the physical strain of doing CPR by hand. Thank you to the Auxiliary.

- Speaking of renovations, we are currently looking into what work would need to be done on the Medical Unit to install a walk-in shower for patients.

Virtual Urgent Care – daily from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. (patients registered up to 7 p.m.)

- Roseway Hospital continues to be a leader in Western Zone in patient use of Virtual Urgent Care, while the Western Zone consistently leads the province.
- Since it was launched, the service has been led by clerical support staff, who have helped patients through their virtual/online appointments. The service will soon transition to become led by a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) over the next month or so. Hiring for the new positions is underway. This means patients will be supported by a local, on-site LPN working with a physician over the computer. This will help provide a more consistent patient experience with other sites that offer Virtual Urgent Care.

Staffing highlights

- Welcome to three new graduate Licensed Practical Nurses who have joined the team at Roseway Hospital. The three new LPNs are well into their orientation and already making a difference for patients.
- We continue to host clinical placements for RN students, LPN students and CCA students. This continues to be a good recruitment tool. Nursing recruitment continues and we are currently conducting interviews for positions.
- Congratulations to our new Internationally Educated Nurse (IEN) who is currently going through orientation and is now a fully licensed Registered Nurse. The nurse recently passed the NCLEX - National Council Licensure Examination – which is the standardized exam used in Canada to determine if nursing graduates can practice. Great work.
- Our newest Diagnostic Imaging (DI) Technologist has also recently passed the required licensing exam. Everyone at Roseway Hospital is thrilled to have these newly qualified providers join our team.



- Dr. Francis Balogun has accepted the position of Medical Site Lead at Roseway Hospital. Dr. Balogun relocated to Shelburne, Nova Scotia, in March 2024 with his wife and two daughters and currently practices full-scope family medicine across community, hospital and long-term care settings. He serves as Chief Medical Director of Roseway Manor Nursing Home in Shelburne and Surf Lodge Nursing Home in Lockeport. Thank you for your continued service Dr. Balogun

“THANK YOU” to our friends and partners

- Staff and physicians of Roseway Hospital / Shelburne Family Practice want to express sincere thanks to our community partners such as the Municipality of Shelburne for their frequent demonstrations of support and deliveries of special treats. This is always enjoyed and appreciated.

Primary Health Update

- Shelburne Family Practice continues to be home to four physicians serving the region - Dr. Balogun, Dr. Khan, Dr. Alenabi and Dr. Onwubuariri. With Dr. Fatokun relocating to another area of Nova Scotia last fall, all of his patients are being transferred to other providers either in Shelburne or Barrington.
- A physician assistant has been hired and will start in March 2026, working with Dr. Balogun and Dr. Khan. The role of physician assistant is growing in Nova Scotia, and we look forward to welcoming this new provider to the team.
 - **What is a physician assistant?** Physician assistants are highly trained medical professionals with advanced clinical education who work alongside physicians and healthcare teams to diagnose and treat illnesses, provide preventive care, and support chronic disease management. This nationally certified profession is a growing part of primary health care. Learn more:

<https://www.nshealth.ca/documents-and-reports/what-physician-assistant>

- Renovations to the Barrington Community Health Clinic are now underway. The work is being done to create two additional patient exam rooms. These new spaces will help support recruitment in the area and also provide an exam room for Dr. Alenabi who is seeing patients two days each week in Barrington.

New patients accepted by Shelburne Family Practice

- **475 patients** have been rostered to a nurse practitioner or family physician since last report (November 2025). These include patients from the area who were on the Need a Family Practice Registry.

Well Women Clinics

- A Well Women Clinic in Barrington on December 2, 2025 was well attended. As always, we appreciate our community partners sharing dates/locations of these clinics. Clinics offer services such as pap tests, breast exams, contraceptive counselling, and sexual health care services for patients with or without a provider by appointment. Check the Shelburne Family Practice Facebook page -OR- or call **902-875-2321**.



Physician Assistant

Physician assistants are highly trained medical professionals with advanced clinical education who work alongside physicians and healthcare teams to diagnose and treat illnesses, provide preventive care, and support chronic disease management. This nationally certified profession is a growing part of primary health care.

A physician assistant can:

- ✓ Assess, diagnose, and develop treatment plans, in collaboration with a supervising physician.
- ✓ Prescribe medications within their scope.
- ✓ Perform minor procedures (e.g., suturing, wound care)
- ✓ Order and interpret diagnostic tests.
- ✓ Support chronic disease management.
- ✓ Provide preventive care and patient education.
- ✓ Collaborate with healthcare teams for comprehensive care.



Note: Each team member may have different skills and responsibilities, and their role may vary depending on the needs of the community or clinic.

May 2025

Hello! I'm Emma



About Me

I am a Registered Social Worker Originally from Newfoundland. I'm proud to now call Shelburne home

Health Care Social Worker

Throughout my social work career, I have had the privilege of working with a diverse range of individuals, and I am committed to providing strength-based and trauma-informed support that ensures people feel heard, respected, and empowered in their lives

How to Connect

I can support people with a primary provider (Physician or Nurse Practitioner) at this clinic or people who do not have a primary provider

How I Can Support

- Helping find and access relevant services and supports based on your needs and goals
- Supporting with skills for self-advocacy as well as advocate on your behalf as appropriate
- Providing brief, solution-focused counselling for mild mental health, grief, loss, or situational concerns

To connect with me you can talk to your healthcare provider or you can also self-refer by asking reception to book a visit

I work out of the Shelburne Family Practice including the Barrington Office

I look forward to connecting with you!

New Social Worker settling in as part of the Shelburne Family Practice team

Primary Care Clinics – November 2025 to January 2026

- Georg MacDonald, Nurse Practitioner, provides Primary Care Clinic services for people in Shelburne County who do not have a regular family provider. She also provides a weekly clinic in Lockeport on Thursday. Angelina DeMings, Nurse Practitioner, provides a weekly clinic at the Clark's Harbour Clinic on Monday.
 - **210 patient visits - Shelburne Primary Care Clinic**
 - **46 patient visits - Lockeport Clinic visits (Thursdays)**
 - **104 patient visits - Clarks Harbour Clinic visits (Mondays)**

Shelburne Same Day Clinic

- The Shelburne Same Day Clinic continues to operate Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. There are approximately 18 appointments available each clinic day.
- Same day appointments are provided for urgent, non-life threatening issues. Many patients being seen have a primary care provider or could more appropriately receive care in a non-hospital setting. People with a primary care provider should always contact their provider first when seeking care. Other options in the area include:
 - **Virtual Urgent Care** at Roseway Hospital, **Monday to Sunday, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.** (patients accepted up to 60 minutes before closing)
 - Community pharmacy primary care clinic at TLC Pharmasave in Shelburne: <https://pans.ns.ca/CPCC>
 - Shelburne Primary Care Clinic: 902-875-2321 to ask about available appointments
 - [VirtualCareNS | Nova Scotia Health](#)
 - YourHealthNS can help people in Shelburne / Shelburne County navigate the different options to access care. Download the app on a mobile device, or visit on computer: <https://www.yourhealthns.ca/>

Mental Health and Addictions Services

- Our Child and Adolescent clinical team offers “Chilled Group” - a free 10 session evidence-based group program for teens who want to build skills to better manage anxiety, increase confidence and independence. There may be optional opportunities for caregivers to attend a parent session focused on parenting teens with anxiety.
- To connect with Mental Health call Central Intake: **1-855-922-1122** to book a Choice appointment. After being seen for a Choice appointment, you will meet with a group facilitator where you will have an opportunity to set goals for group and make sure the Chilled Group is the right fit for you. *For those already connected with Mental Health, speak with your partnership clinician to get connected with a Chilled group facilitator to be screened for group.*
- Welcome to Dr. James Brown, child and adolescent psychiatrist, to our team. He is seeing children/adolescents from Shelburne / tri-counties who have been referred to him by primary care providers (following the intake pathway) and/or patients connected to our therapy clinic as a specialty service.



Welcome

The Mental Health & Addictions Team would like to wish a warm welcome to Dr. James Brown, our new C&A Psychiatrist. Dr. Brown began with us on January 26th.

Welcome to the Team Dr. Brown!

In the news...

- Western Zone recruiter Rebecca Cassidy and Dr. Nicole Boutilier, Nova Scotia Health's Executive Vice President of Medicine and Clinical Affairs, landed in Dublin for the Canadian Society of Physician Recruitment (CASPR) conference in Fall 2025. Rebecca's work in the Northwest Europe continued, attending CASPR in London to recruit physicians practicing in the UK to come practice in Nova Scotia.



- Recruiter Patti Smith and Dr. Sam Hickox, Office of Mental Health and Addictions attended the Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine 2025 Scientific Conference. The team worked to engage and recruit physicians specializing in addiction medicine.

Community Wellness Fund applications now open

- Shelburne County Community Health Board (CHB) encourages local organizations to apply for the Community Wellness Fund. The fund provides up to \$3,500 for community-led health and wellness projects that help people live healthier lives. If you know of an innovative non-profit initiative that would benefit from financial assistance and has not been previously supported by a wellness fund, now is the time to apply.
- For application information, visit: www.communityhealthboards.ns.ca/wellness-funds.
- The deadline for applications is Wednesday, April 15 at 5 p.m.

June Harding

From: Hon. Jim Karygiannis - GTA Strategies <contact@gtastrategies.com>
Sent: March 5, 2026 11:25 AM
To: townoflockeport@ns.sympatico.ca
Subject: Iran Conflict: What It Means for Your Business, Costs, Canada–U.S. Trade, Cultural Communities and everyday Canadians



Hon. Jim Karygiannis
GTA Strategies

Dear Friend,

**Conflict in Iran and how it is affecting Canadian Businesses
 and Canadians in general**

The ongoing conflict in Iran is creating significant geopolitical and economic uncertainty, with direct and indirect implications for Canadian businesses, key industries, and households across the country.

Impact on Canadian Businesses

The most immediate effect has been rising global oil prices, which are driving higher fuel and transportation costs. For Canadian businesses, this translates into increased logistics expenses, supply chain pressures, and potential margin compression.

Construction Industry

The construction sector is particularly sensitive to energy price volatility. Higher diesel and transportation costs increase expenses for equipment operation, materials delivery, and site work. Additionally, global instability can affect the pricing and availability of key inputs such as steel, aluminum, and manufactured components. If sustained, these pressures could impact project timelines, bidding strategies, and overall investment confidence.

Manufacturing Sector

Manufacturers face dual pressures:

- Rising energy and input costs.
- Continued uncertainty in cross-border trade flows, particularly with the United States.

Energy is a foundational cost for many industrial processes, and even modest increases can ripple across supply chains. Businesses that rely on U.S. markets or U.S.-sourced inputs should closely monitor developments, as prolonged instability could influence tariff discussions, regulatory measures, or broader trade dynamics.

Canada–U.S. Relationship

Prime Minister Mark Carney has expressed support for efforts to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear capabilities while ruling out direct Canadian military involvement. The position aims to balance diplomatic alignment with the United States under President Donald Trump while protecting Canadian sovereignty and economic interests. Given the depth of Canada–U.S. integration under CUSMA and in sectors such as energy, manufacturing, and defence production, any prolonged conflict could introduce new trade, security, or political pressures that businesses should be prepared for.

Impact on Everyday Canadians

For households, the effects are already visible in higher gasoline prices and potential upward pressure on goods and grocery costs. If energy prices remain elevated, inflation expectations may rise, potentially influencing interest rate decisions and household spending patterns.

Impact on Cultural Communities in Canada

The war in Iran may significantly affect cultural communities in Canada, particularly Iranian-Canadians and others with close ties to the Middle East. Many families have relatives in the region, creating anxiety and emotional strain as the conflict unfolds.

Public debate may become more polarized, and community institutions may increase security precautions. While Canada remains socially resilient, periods of international conflict can place added pressure on social cohesion.

Government Measures and Response

The Canadian government is:

- Monitoring global energy markets and supply chain impacts.
- Maintaining diplomatic engagement and urging de-escalation.
- Providing consular support to Canadians in affected regions.
- Assessing economic and security risks, including cyber threats.
- Utilizing existing economic tools and trade response programs should further stabilization measures be required.
- Is increasing security monitoring, engaging community leaders, promoting public messaging against hate, and providing consular support to help maintain social cohesion and protect affected cultural communities.

While no sector-specific emergency measures have been announced at this time, we are advised that Ottawa retains the ability to deploy targeted supports, trade adjustments, and regulatory responses if the situation escalates.

At **GTA Strategies**, we are actively monitoring developments and their policy, trade, and regulatory implications. We are prepared to assist business, cultural organizations and individuals with:

- Sector-specific impact assessments
- Government relations and advocacy strategies
- Trade and tariff risk analysis
- Strategic positioning and scenario planning
- Ongoing policy monitoring and updates

We encourage you to drop us a line with any questions, concerns, or observations about how this evolving situation may affect your business or sector. We are here to help you navigate uncertainty and position your organization effectively. We will continue to provide updates as circumstances evolve.

Contact us today to learn more about how we can support your business in this dynamic environment at info@qtastrategies.com or by phone at (888) 241 9948 ext 1.

For a copy of our company profile, please [click here](#)
For our company services, [click here](#)

If this message does not pertain to you, please pass it along to a client and or a friend who might need assistance and can benefit from it.

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Thank you,

Hon. Jim Karygiannis
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GTA Strategies

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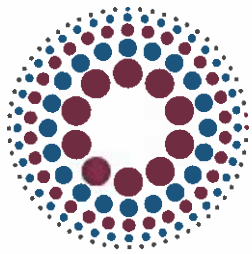
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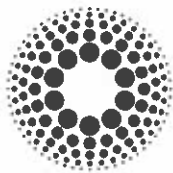
NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF MUNICIPALITIES

Summary Report:

Budget 2026/27- Mayors, Wardens, and CAOs Call with the Department of Municipal Affairs

Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

March 4, 2026



The NSFM would like to thank all of our members who took the time to participate in the Provincial Budget 2026/27 Call with Mayors, Wardens, CAOs, as well as Deputy Minister Paul LaFleche and Associate Deputy Minister Valerie Pottie Bunge from the Department of Municipal Affairs (DMA) on Thursday, February 26, 2026.

78 people registered and participated in the call to share their questions, concerns, and comments about the recently announced 2026/27 Provincial Budget.

The following questions and topics were addressed during our conversation with DMA:

Alternative Funding Arrangements

- DMA was asked to explain if the Province is able to provide opportunities for funding beyond the budgeted amounts in 2026/27, acknowledging that program cuts have a significant impact on municipal budgets.
- DMA explained that all ongoing 250 active infrastructure projects will continue to receive support, and the services that Municipal Affairs provides through their Municipal Infrastructure branch will continue to be provided.
- DMA also mentioned that departments are still able to forward in-year financial requests to the Treasury Policy Board, though there will likely be greater scrutiny applied to these requests.

Adjustments for Municipal Expectations and Requirements

- Given the provincial fiscal outlook for the next few years, a question was asked to clarify if the provincial government will slow down legislated municipal requirements in lieu of funding. Would there be a change in municipal expectations and a reduction in burden if financial support will not be readily available?
- DMA noted that widespread provincial fiscal realities across Canada (i.e. British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, etc.) have led the Government of Canada to ease the requirements and expectations for various programs.
- DMA committed to following up with their federal and provincial counterparts to learn more about these requirements.

Library Funding

- The topic of library funding featured heavily throughout our conversation.
- Although it has been confirmed that the level of operating and capital funding for libraries will remain unchanged in 2026/27, several municipalities identified that the current level of funding for libraries is inadequate, and the cuts to other cultural and social programs will exacerbate the significant pressures that are already being placed on public libraries and their staff.
- DMA committed to following up with the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage (CCTH) to discuss the status of bridge funding and the long-term expectations for library funding moving forward.
- Library funding is an advocacy priority for the NSFM, and we will continue to request further information about this issue from the Province.



Museum Funding and Next Steps

- Several municipalities also expressed their concerns about the impacts museum and cultural program reductions will have on local communities.
- A few municipalities had questions about the next steps for specific museums in their community:
 - What is the Province's plan for former museums?
 - Will museums become derelict properties?
 - Are there opportunities for conversations between the Province and municipalities to deal with these properties?
- DMA committed to connecting with the Department of Public Works, the department responsible for the provincially owned property matters, for an update.

Forest Resource Properties

- There was a question about Bill 198 – the *Financial Measures Act* requiring forest property owners to report and prove that their properties contributing to forestry activity.
- DMA explained that these Bill 198 amendments are a direct response to large international companies exploiting the provincial forestry system to recoup emission tax credits for the forestry properties they own.
- In other words, these are instances where international companies are purchasing significant amounts of forestry property in Nova Scotia with no intention of pursuing forestry activity.
- These changes are designed to ensure that forestry lands are available and used for actual forestry activities.

Status of 12-Months' Notice

- Since there was no advanced notice of various program reductions, questions were raised about the nature of 12-months' Notice, and if there are going to be changes to this notice going forward.
- DMA explained that 12-Months' Notice was not required for cuts to application-based programs, but they confirmed that 12-Months' Notice still applies, and the typical process for 2027/28 notice is underway.

Status of MOU Negotiations

- In response to the complete reduction of the Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program (GRID), which was a program that was negotiated in good faith between municipalities and the Province during Service Exchange, there was a question about the implications for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) going forward.
- DMA confirmed that the remaining Schedule A items included within the MOU are still proceeding, and there has been progress on several of these items, such as the reviews of fire prevention and policing.
- DMA also confirmed that the GRID funding for 2025/26 was delivered earlier this month.



Bill 186 – Support for Fire Services Act

- Some municipalities were surprised to see that Bill 186 – the *Support for Fire Services Act* did not include an amendment to change s.293 of the *Municipal Government Act* from “may” to “shall”.
- Municipalities asked for additional clarity around the timelines for additional legislative amendments and regulations associated with fire prevention.
- Although DMA was unable to comment on the future of fire legislation, they did reiterate that more information will be provided to Mayors and Wardens in the coming days, and that conversations will continue throughout the proposed 3-year roadmap for fire prevention.

Cuts to the Rural Enterprise Network (REN) Program

- Explaining the significant cuts to the Rural Enterprise Network (REN) Program, DMA confirmed this program is being converted into an application-based program.
- Some municipalities explained that there are contractual implications associated with this program change, since various funding arrangements have already been made.
- Municipalities expressed that the REN Program was established to improve municipal collaboration, and this lack of notice puts municipalities who have worked together in a very difficult situation.
- DMA committed to speaking with the Department of Growth & Development, the department who delivers the REN Program, to learn more about the associated timelines with this program change.

Grant Reductions - Details by Department
Fiscal Year: 2026-27

Ref.	Department	Name of Grant/Program	Grant Budget (\$ 000s)	Reduction (\$ 000s)
1	Advanced Education	Strategy, Partnerships & Innovation	100	100
2	Advanced Education	Research & Innovation - Brain Repair Centre	250	250
3	Advanced Education	Targeted Funding - Rent	1,000	1,000
4	Advanced Education	Targeted Funding - EduNova funding	100	100
5	Advanced Education	Targeted Funding - Graduate Outcomes Survey	100	100
6	Advanced Education	Targeted Funding - Flexible Funding	78	78
7	Advanced Education	Targeted Funding - Biomedical Waste Dalhousie University	30	30
8	Advanced Education	Targeted Funding - Technical Education Acadia University	14	14
9	Advanced Education	Program and Service Delivery	47	47
10	Advanced Education	Programs and Accountability - Graduate Scholarships	3,700	3,700
11	Advanced Education	Programs and Accountability - Graduate Scholarships	18	18
12	Advanced Education	Targeted Funding - Education Ph.D. Mount St. Vincent University	215	215
13	Advanced Education	Targeted Funding - Education Ph.D. Acadia University	103	103
14	Advanced Education	Targeted Funding - Education Ph.D St. FX University	103	103
15	Advanced Education	Targeted Funding - Ph.D. Programs St. Mary's University	100	100
16	Advanced Education	Targeted Funding - Transition Year Program Dalhousie University	50	50
17	Advanced Education	Targeted Funding - Aboriginal Programming Accessibility Cape Breton University	50	50
18	Advanced Education	Targeted Funding - Francophone/Acadian Health Dalhousie University	25	25
19	Advanced Education	Targeted Funding - Promoting Leadership in Health for African NS Dalhousie University	25	25
20	Advanced Education	Targeted Funding - Social Work Clinic Dalhousie University	25	25
21	Advanced Education	Targeted Funding - Beaton Institute/Art Gallery Cape Breton University	700	700

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Ref.	Department	Name of Grant/Program	Grant Budget (\$ 000s)	Reduction (\$ 000s)
22	Advanced Education	Targeted Funding - Operations Transfer NS College of Art and Design	360	360
23	Advanced Education	Operating Funding - One time reduction St. Mary's University	39,431	11,000
24	Advanced Education	Research & Innovation - Operating Grant	6,396	1,279
25	Agriculture	Remaining Agr Operations	2	2
26	Agriculture	Discretionary	10	10
27	Agriculture	Taste of Nova Scotia	189	90
28	Agriculture	Perennia Grant	3,050	610
29	Agriculture	Building Maintenance	59	12
30	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Arts Nova Scotia - Art Bank Investments	40	40
31	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Creative Economy - Publishers Assistance Program	700	700
32	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Trail Grants - Community Trails Leadership	80	80
33	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Arts Nova Scotia - Artists in Schools	135	135
34	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Arts Nova Scotia - LG Award	50	50
35	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Arts Nova Scotia - Confederation Center	10	10
36	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Arts Nova Scotia - NS College of Art & Design - Gordon Parson Scholarship	1	1
37	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Arts Nova Scotia - Artists in Communities	203	203
38	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Hosting Events	80	80
39	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Business Plan Priorities - Atlantic University Sport (AUS)	20	20
40	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Leadership Development	91	91
41	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Sport Development - Aboriginal Sport	5	5
42	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Combat Sports Authority	10	10
43	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Active Living - Bicycle NS	75	75
44	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Active Living - Tumblebugs	40	40

Ref.	Department	Name of Grant/Program	Grant Budget (\$ 000s)	Reduction (\$ 000s)
45	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Active Living - Active Transportation Programming	105	105
46	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Let's Get Moving - Program Evaluation	70	70
47	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Let's Get Moving - PA Counselling	75	75
48	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Let's Get Moving - Workplace Tools	50	50
49	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Let's Get Moving - Connect2	400	400
50	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Community Engagement Grants - Community Recreation Capital Grants	275	275
51	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Community Engagement Grants	386	386
52	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Community Technology Program	250	250
53	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Community Supports and Infrastructure - Cultural Communities and Identities Program	35	35
54	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Community Recognition and Celebration - Inspiring Communities	407	407
55	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Administration	100	100
56	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Arts Equity Funding Initiative	350	175
57	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Artistic Innovation Program	84	42
58	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Creative Collaborations	250	125
59	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Interpretive Renewal Project Fund	100	50
60	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Community Museum Assistance Program Agreement with Association of NS Museum (MOU)	100	50
61	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Diversity and Community Capacity Fund	500	250
62	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Mi'Kmaq Cultural Activities Program	100	50
63	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Mi'Kmaq History Month Program	75	38
64	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	The Strategic Research Program	100	50
65	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Support 4 Culture	858	429
66	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	African Culture Activities	100	50

Ref.	Department	Name of Grant/Program	Grant Budget (\$ 000s)	Reduction (\$ 000s)
67	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Gaelic Culture Activities	100	50
68	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Gaelic Intensive Immersion Program	25	13
69	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Culture Innovation Fund	500	250
70	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Screen Writers Development Fund	362	181
71	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	African Heritage Month Proclamation	10	5
72	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Heritage Day	50	25
73	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	CIF - Decade for Persons of African Descent	200	100
74	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Community Mawio'mi Development Fund	95	48
75	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	ANS: Access Support Supplement	50	25
76	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Hope Blooms	40	20
77	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Festival and Community Event Development	350	175
78	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Let's Get Moving - Active Communities Fund	1,206	603
79	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Creative Economy - Creative Industries Fund	1,869	748
80	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Arts Nova Scotia - Grants to Individuals	632	190
81	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Arts Nova Scotia - Grants to Organizations and Small Groups	500.5	150
82	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Arts Nova Scotia - Operating Assistance to Arts Organizations	2,834	850
83	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Arts Nova Scotia - Talent Trust	115	35
84	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	African Nova Scotian Affairs - Community Engagement	439	88
85	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Anchor Organizations	8,127	1,625
86	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Provincial Recreation Organizations	647	129
87	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Provincial Sport Organizations	1,133	227
88	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Community Engagement Grants - Recreation Facilities Development	1,641	328
89	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Community Engagement Grants - Planning Assistance	110	22

Ref.	Department	Name of Grant/Program	Grant Budget (\$ 000s)	Reduction (\$ 000s)
90	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Trail Grants - Trail Maintenance	88	18
91	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Executive - AML - Bluenose II	1,189	238
92	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Community Museum Assistance Program	1,628	326
93	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Locally Managed Museums	8,001	1,600
94	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	African Nova Scotian Affairs - Int'l Decade for People of African Descent	100	20
95	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Art Gallery Nova Scotia	2,487	497
96	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Sport Development - NS School Athletic Federation (NSSAF)	15	3
97	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Sport Development - Sport Development Projects	117	23
98	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Community Supports and Infrastructure - Community ACCESS-Ability	1,000	200
99	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Community Supports and Infrastructure - Business ACCESS-Ability	1,000	200
100	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Food Security Supports - Community Food Literacy and Access	200	40
101	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Food Security Supports - Food Security Initiatives	853	171
102	Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Community Supports and Infrastructure - Engage NS	600	100
103	Education and Early Childhood Development	Educational Leadership Consortium of Nova Scotia	105	105
104	Education and Early Childhood Development	Various Scholarships and Awards	1,462	1,462
105	Education and Early Childhood Development	Early Years - Professional Learning Support Sites	1,054	1,054
106	Education and Early Childhood Development	Early Years - Continuing Education Program for Early Childhood Educators	592	592
107	Education and Early Childhood Development	Artists in Schools	220	220
108	Education and Early Childhood Development	Out-of-School-Time Learning Grants	176	176
109	Education and Early Childhood Development	Mi'kmaq Services	148	148
110	Education and Early Childhood Development	Career Exploration and Community Based Learning	110	110

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Ref.	Department	Name of Grant/Program	Grant Budget (\$ 000s)	Reduction (\$ 000s)
111	Education and Early Childhood Development	Africentric Summer Scholar Program for African Nova Scotia Youth	90	90
112	Education and Early Childhood Development	Post-secondary initiatives	45	45
113	Education and Early Childhood Development	Summer STEM Project	11	11
114	Education and Early Childhood Development	Community Education - Uncommitted discretionary funding	31	31
115	Education and Early Childhood Development	Post-secondary initiatives	35	35
116	Education and Early Childhood Development	Staff development and support funding	30	30
117	Education and Early Childhood Development	Minister's Awards for Creative Excellence in the Arts	5	5
118	Education and Early Childhood Development	Curriculum Development Consulting	396	396
119	Education and Early Childhood Development	Student Advisory Council (SAC) Innovation Fund	250	250
120	Education and Early Childhood Development	Inclusive Education Funding - Uncommitted discretionary funding	78	78
121	Education and Early Childhood Development	Women in Engineering Scholarship	12	12
122	Education and Early Childhood Development	Third-party non-profit literacy initiatives	10	10
123	Education and Early Childhood Development	Student Advisory Council (SAC) Conference	150	150
124	Education and Early Childhood Development	Staff development and support funding	51	51
125	Education and Early Childhood Development	Post-secondary initiatives	150	150
126	Education and Early Childhood Development	Post-secondary initiatives	100	100
127	Education and Early Childhood Development	Curriculum Development - Uncommitted discretionary funding	77	77
128	Education and Early Childhood Development	Staff development and support funding	70	70
129	Education and Early Childhood Development	Curriculum Development - Uncommitted discretionary funding	50	50
130	Education and Early Childhood Development	Curriculum Development - Uncommitted discretionary funding	30	30
131	Education and Early Childhood Development	Curriculum Development - Uncommitted discretionary funding	20	20

Ref.	Department	Name of Grant/Program	Grant Budget (\$ 000s)	Reduction (\$ 000s)
132	Education and Early Childhood Development	Curriculum Development - Uncommitted discretionary funding	20	20
133	Education and Early Childhood Development	Funding for third-party non-profit literacy initiatives	16	16
134	Education and Early Childhood Development	Third-party non-profit literacy initiatives	7	7
135	Education and Early Childhood Development	Curriculum Development - Uncommitted discretionary funding	4	4
136	Education and Early Childhood Development	Uncommitted discretionary funding	28	28
137	Education and Early Childhood Development	Outdoor Learning Space	6	6
138	Education and Early Childhood Development	Student Transit Pass Pilot Program	1,200	600
139	Education and Early Childhood Development	Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training - Uncommitted discretionary funding	120	50
140	Education and Early Childhood Development	Inclusive Education Funding - Uncommitted discretionary funding	440	88
141	Education and Early Childhood Development	Third-party community equity programing	1,100	220
142	Education and Early Childhood Development	Third-party community equity programing	1,040	208
143	Education and Early Childhood Development	Third-party non-profit literacy initiatives	16	3
144	Emergency Management	Contracts/Grants to NGOs	850	170
145	Energy	Energy Resource Development - Energy Sector Development	160	160
146	Energy	Energy Resource Development - Energy Sector Development	35	35
147	Energy	Energy Resource Development - Energy Sector Development	27	27
148	Energy	Energy Resource Development - Subsurface Energy Development	100	100
149	Energy	Energy Resource Development - Subsurface Energy Development	50	50
150	Energy	Energy Resource Development - Subsurface Energy Development	50	50
151	Energy	Clean Energy	328	66
152	Environment and Climate Change	Sustainability and Applied Sciences grants	132	132

Ref.	Department	Name of Grant/Program	Grant Budget (\$ 000s)	Reduction (\$ 000s)
153	Environment and Climate Change	Nova Scotia Climate Change Fund (2026-27 is last year of funding)	1,886	1,886
154	Environment and Climate Change	Nova Scotia Climate Change Fund (2026-27 is last year of funding)	3,000	3,000
155	Environment and Climate Change	Climate Change	262	52
156	Finance and Treasury Board	Municipal Finance - Sponsorship Grants	14	14
157	Fisheries and Aquaculture	Marine Debris Clean Up Program	20	20
158	Fisheries and Aquaculture	Marine Division grant program funding	443	89
159	Growth and Development	Rental Rehabilitation	4,600	4,600
160	Growth and Development	Business Relations and Innovation	262	262
161	Growth and Development	Secondary Suite	4,800	2,800
162	Growth and Development	Regional Enterprise Networks	1,866	373
163	Health and Wellness	Tajikeimik	215	215.0
164	Health and Wellness	Other Programs - Nursing Transcripts	1,548	309.7
165	Health and Wellness	General Administration	170	34.0
166	Health and Wellness	Diversity Initiatives	55	11.0
167	Health and Wellness	IWK Health Transformation Workforce Strategy	3,021	604.2
168	Health and Wellness	Other Programs - Acute and Primary Health Care	218	43.6
169	Health and Wellness	Other Programs - Health System Workforce	5,064	1,012.8
170	Health and Wellness	Other Programs - Health System Workforce	518	103.6
171	Health and Wellness	Other Programs - IT Systems	2,563	512.6
172	Health and Wellness	Other Programs - Public Health	242	48.4
173	Health and Wellness	Other Programs - Public Health	10	2.0

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Ref.	Department	Name of Grant/Program	Grant Budget (\$ 000s)	Reduction (\$ 000s)
174	Health and Wellness	Other Programs - Public Health	20	4.0
175	Intergovernmental Affairs	Military Relations	46	9
176	Justice	Restorative Justice International Centre of Excellence	150	150
177	Justice	Uniform Law Conference of Canada general and research activities	16	16
178	Justice	Domestic Violence Court in Halifax	75	15
179	Justice	Domestic Violence Court in Sydney	75	15
180	Justice	Indigenous Blacks & Mi'kmaq Program	415	83
181	Justice	Financial Assistance for Legal Information Society of NS	150	30
182	Labour, Skills and Immigration	Grant - Halifax Chamber of Commerce	55	55
183	Labour, Skills and Immigration	Skills and Learning Grant	100	100
184	Labour, Skills and Immigration	Workplace Initiatives Employer Supports	300	300
185	Labour, Skills and Immigration	Graduate to Opportunity	5	5
186	Labour, Skills and Immigration	NS Apprenticeship Agency Program Grants	35,041	7,008
187	Labour, Skills and Immigration	NS Apprenticeship Agency Technical Training	13,992	2,798
188	Labour, Skills and Immigration	NS School for Adult Learning	4,622	924
189	Labour, Skills and Immigration	Graduate to Opportunity	3,843	769
190	Labour, Skills and Immigration	Co-op	3,750	750
191	Labour, Skills and Immigration	Summer Skills	3,438	688
192	Municipal Affairs	Flood Risk Infrastructure Program (FRIIP)	250	250
193	Municipal Affairs	Provincial Capital Assistance (PCAP)	1,690	1,690
194	Municipal Affairs	Municipal Innovation Program (MIP)	578	578
195	Municipal Affairs	Growth & Renewal for Infrastructure Development (GRID)	15,000	15,000
196	Natural Resources	Ecological Forestry Implementation	1,750	350.0

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Ref.	Department	Name of Grant/Program	Grant Budget (\$ 000s)	Reduction (\$ 000s)
197	Natural Resources	Biospring / Greenspring	700	140.0
198	Natural Resources	Outreach private woodlot	1,000	200.0
199	Natural Resources	Various grants regional services and public education	105	21.0
200	Office of Addictions and Mental Health	Community Wellness Framework - Research Nova Scotia	300	200
201	Office of Addictions and Mental Health	NSHA E-Mental Health	6,821	1,364
202	Office of Addictions and Mental Health	IWK Trauma Informed Care	1,069	214
203	Office of Addictions and Mental Health	Mental Health initiatives	863	173
204	Office of Addictions and Mental Health	Other Mental Health initiatives	861	172
205	Office of Addictions and Mental Health	NSHA E-health Innovation	757	151
206	Office of Addictions and Mental Health	Independent Living Nova Scotia	250	50
207	Office of Addictions and Mental Health	Mass Casualty Commission: Needs and Impact Assessment	200	40
208	Office of Addictions and Mental Health	Recovery Houses	1,574	157
209	Office of Addictions and Mental Health	Mass Casualty Commission: Trauma Informed Care	700	70
210	Office of Addictions and Mental Health	NSHA Mental Health Strategy and Training	140	14
211	Office of Addictions and Mental Health	IWK Mental Health Strategy & Training	33	3
212	Office of Addictions and Mental Health	Mental Health Strategy	17	2
213	Office of Addictions and Mental Health	Community Supports	43	4
214	Office of Equity and Anti-Racism	Program Grants and Assistance	620	124
215	Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment	Community Fund	2,000	400
216	Office of L'nu Affairs	Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre	30	30
217	Office of L'nu Affairs	Capacity Development & Program Support	40	40
218	Office of L'nu Affairs	Treaty Day Awards Ceremony and Mi'kmaw History Month	27	27
219	Office of L'nu Affairs	MK Treaty Education Lead and Administrative Support	100	100

Ref.	Department	Name of Grant/Program	Grant Budget (\$ 000s)	Reduction (\$ 000s)
220	Office of L'nu Affairs	Tripartite Forum	558	558
221	Office of L'nu Affairs	Aboriginal Community Development Fund	100	100
222	Office of L'nu Affairs	Atlantic Indigenous Economic Development Integrated Research Program (AIEDIRP)	25	25
223	Office of L'nu Affairs	Clean Leadership Summer Internship	50	50
224	Office of L'nu Affairs	Annual Mi'kmaw Summer Games	10	10
225	Office of L'nu Affairs	Mi'kmaw Language Revitalization Strategy	1,300	260
226	Office of L'nu Affairs	Moose Management Initiative	50	10
227	Opportunities and Social Development	One-time initiatives	1,812	1,812
228	Opportunities and Social Development	Indigenous Social Work Practice Conference	5	5
229	Opportunities and Social Development	Child and Family Wellbeing - Administration	532	532
230	Opportunities and Social Development	Child and Youth Caring Programs	82.0	82.0
231	Opportunities and Social Development	Child and Family Wellbeing - Community Resource Support (Association of Black Social Workers)	300.0	225.0
232	Opportunities and Social Development	Disability Support Program: Administration	119	60
233	Opportunities and Social Development	Youth Day Program Pilot	7,166	3,583
234	Opportunities and Social Development	Foster Parent Resources	1,147.2	573.6
235	Opportunities and Social Development	Hearing Aid Assistance Program	410	164
236	Opportunities and Social Development	Youth Programming	10,040	3,504
237	Opportunities and Social Development	Disability Support Program - Community Resource Support	301	96
238	Opportunities and Social Development	Prevention & Early Intervention - Other Programs	5,519.0	1,379.8
239	Opportunities and Social Development	Work Activity Projects	4,885	1,075
240	Opportunities and Social Development	Strategic Investment Fund Grants	145	29

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Ref.	Department	Name of Grant/Program	Grant Budget (\$ 000s)	Reduction (\$ 000s)
241	Opportunities and Social Development	Reimbursements for Service Provider Collective Agreement Negotiations	210	42
242	Opportunities and Social Development	Disability Support Program Administration - Education and Training Funding	30	6
243	Opportunities and Social Development	Youth Outreach	7,354.0	1,470.8
244	Opportunities and Social Development	A Place to Belong	1,870.0	374.0
245	Opportunities and Social Development	Mentoring	315.0	63.0
246	Opportunities and Social Development	Ability Works	2,021	404
247	Opportunities and Social Development	Skills Work	3,071	614
248	Opportunities and Social Development	Poverty Reduction Credit	6,990	1,398
249	Opportunities and Social Development	Special Needs - Dental costs, Bus Passes	8,037	1,607
250	Opportunities and Social Development	Creating Communities of Care	500	100
251	Opportunities and Social Development	Alternative Family Care	3,721.8	446.6
252	Opportunities and Social Development	Temporary Emergency Arrangements	8,196.4	859.0
253	Opportunities and Social Development	Day Programs	29,438	2,944
254	Opportunities and Social Development	Families Plus	1,950.0	195.0
255	Opportunities and Social Development	Family Resource Centres	6,203.0	310.2
256	Opportunities and Social Development	Parenting Journeys	4,140.0	207.0
257	Public Works	School Bus Campaign Sponsorship	10	10
258	Public Works	Bicycle safety initiatives	100	100
259	Public Works	Blue Route Provincial Cycling Network	100	100
260	Public Works	Public Policy Forum Sponsorship	26	26
261	Public Works	Dalhousie concrete bridge research	55	55
262	Public Works	Institute of Public Administration of Canada student membership.	150	150
263	Public Works	Nova Scotia Road Builders Association	75	75

Ref.	Department	Name of Grant/Program	Grant Budget (\$ 000s)	Reduction (\$ 000s)
264	Public Works	Nova Scotia Transit Research Incentive Program	151	151
265	Public Works	Strategic Community Transit Investments	873	175
266	Public Works	Community Transportation Assistance Program	4,134	827
267	Public Works	Public Transit Assistance Program	950	190
268	Public Works	Agreement for Community Transit Organization	250	50
269	Seniors and Long-term Care	Miscellaneous Capital (small scale projects)	725	725
270	Seniors and Long-term Care	Policy and Planning	29.1	29
271	Seniors and Long-term Care	Capital Infrastructure	10,500	2,100
272	Seniors and Long-term Care	Capital Infrastructure - legacy projects	3,500	700
273	Seniors and Long-term Care	Emergency Capital	1,500	300
274	Seniors and Long-term Care	Strategic Program Initiatives	1,403	281
275	Seniors and Long-term Care	Personal Use Allowance	261	52
276	Seniors and Long-term Care	Caregivers Benefit	12,727	2,545
277	Seniors and Long-term Care	Alzheimer Society of NS - Dementia Strategy	2,251	450
278	Seniors and Long-term Care	Instrumental Activities of Daily Living	1,000	200
279	Seniors and Long-term Care	Age Friendly Community Program	664	133
280	Seniors and Long-term Care	Caregivers NS	487	97
281	Seniors and Long-term Care	Volunteer Programs	136.7	27
282	Seniors and Long-term Care	Chebucto Links	76	15
283	Seniors and Long-term Care	Volunteer Programs	60.4	12
284	Seniors and Long-term Care	Volunteer Programs	29.6	6
285	Seniors and Long-term Care	Volunteer Programs	24.7	5
286	Service Nova Scotia	Provincial Archival Development Program	50	50
287	Service Nova Scotia	Better Business Bureau	25	25

February 24, 2025

To Mayors, Wardens, Village Chairs:

Yesterday, February 23, the Government of Nova Scotia released Budget 2026-27 - Defending Nova Scotia (<https://novascotia.ca/budget>).

Over the past five years, Government has made significant investments in programs and services to improve healthcare, strengthen our communities and support those who need it most.

In the face of continuing global uncertainty and slower revenue growth, we need to manage expenses carefully. Government is undertaking a number of measures including reducing the size of the civil service by 5%, reducing the size of the broader public service by 3% and reducing Government operating costs. We have also made the difficult decision to reduce discretionary grants.

For the Department of Municipal Affairs, the following programs will end:

- Flood Risk Infrastructure Investment Program (FRIIP)
- Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP)
- Municipal Innovation Program (MIP)
- Growth & Renewal for Infrastructure Development (GRID)

Since 2021, this Government has committed nearly \$500 million to municipalities to support critical projects such as drinking water, wastewater, disaster mitigation, accessibility, and transit. Today, the Department continues to support more than 250 active projects in communities across the province, bringing real value and ongoing benefits to municipalities.

I appreciate this may be concerning and I want you to know we continue to be focused on working with municipalities to drive growth.

Many of the projects that would have been eligible under these provincial grant programs will also be eligible for consideration under other programs.

As well, these program changes do not affect funding agreements in place for previous fiscal years. Should you have questions, I encourage you to contact Hardy Stuckless, Executive Director, at hardy.stuckless@novascotia.ca for further information.

Sincerely,

Paul LaFleche
Deputy Minister

c: Chief Administrative Officers
Village Clerk Treasurers
Juanita Spencer, NSFM
Jeff Sunderland, AMANS