



**TOWN OF LOCKPORT
COUNCIL MEETING
FRIDAY APRIL 24, 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 April 24, 2026, meeting with the following additions/deletions.

4. Conflict of Interest

5. Approval of Minutes

- Regular Council Meeting Minutes April 10, 2026

Staff Suggested Motion – That Council approve the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of April 10, 2026.

6. Business arising from Previous Minutes

Response to correspondence from Cory Nickerson regarding the proposed Mermaid Project (Page 1)

Response to correspondence from Sue Crosby regarding Amalgamation (Page 2 – 3)

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

There are no presentations scheduled for this meeting

9. Finance

- List of invoices already paid for the month of March in the amount of \$19,935.89 (Page 4)
- List of invoices already paid for the month of April in the amount of \$49,514.52 (Page 5)
- Conclusion to request from citizen regarding vehicle damage (Page 6 – 9)
- Future Webhosting for new Town website

Staff Suggested Motion – It be duly moved and seconded that Council approve paying the cost of one replacement tire.

10. Department Reports

- Administration Report (Page 10 – 28)
- Public Works Report (Page 29 – 30)

11. Other Business

- Request from “Friends of the Library” (Page 31)

12. Council Reports

13. Correspondence

- Letter from Ryan Chetwynd re: Amalgamation (Page 32 – 33)
- Letter from Emily Swim re: Peace Hut (Page 34)

14. Information Only

- Policing Service recipient Update (Page 35 – 43)
- Letter from Shaun Hatfield to Tim Houston re: NSP rates (Page 44 – 45)
- Notice from NSFMM re: Spring 2026 Legislative Sitting Summary (Page 46 – 49)
- Notice from NSFMM re: 2026 Provincial Budget Update (Page 50 – 52)

15. Date of next meeting

- May 8, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

16. “In Camera”

17. Adjournment

Regular Council Meeting 04242026.agd

1

April 20, 2026

Subject: Re: Proposed Mermaid Project

Dear Mr. Nickerson,

Thank you for taking the time to write and share your thoughts on the proposed mermaid sculpture. I appreciate the care you have for Lockeport and the importance you place on protecting the town's history and identity. That commitment is shared and continues to guide the work we are doing as a Council.

The Heritage and Tourism Committee has since reviewed feedback and made some revisions to the project. As a result, the original story component is no longer being pursued. The Committee has agreed that further work is needed on location, scale, and overall alignment with the Town's branding. Should the project advance following that work and community input, it would then come before Council for consideration and approval.

The Heritage and Tourism Committee is currently working through a number of initiatives as it continues to establish its priorities and approach. Committee meetings are open to the public, and community input is welcomed as this work moves forward.

Thank you again for reaching out and sharing your perspective.

Sincerely,

Derek Amalfa
Mayor, Town of Lockeport

Dear Ms. Crosby,

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughtful and detailed letter. We appreciate the care you put into outlining your concerns and acknowledge that many of the points you raised, particularly around taxes, governance, and public trust, are important areas of discussion.

It is important to clarify the role of the Amalgamation Steering Committee. Its purpose is not to make decisions, but to explore the potential impacts of amalgamation and bring forward information to each respective Council. Any decision about the future of Lockeport will ultimately rest with Lockeport Council.

At this stage, many of the identified concerns, including tax implications, representation, service delivery, and staffing, are not yet known. This is why the committee has recommended a series of independent studies, including a representation and electoral boundary review, asset and infrastructure assessment, human resource analysis, tax strategy, and a financial review. These studies are intended to provide clear, factual information so both Council and residents can better understand the potential impacts before any decisions are made. A request has been made to the Province to support the cost of these studies, and all three municipal units are aligned in that position.

Council's focus is to ensure residents receive clear, accurate, and locally relevant information. As part of this work, the committee has engaged with communities across Nova Scotia and heard from experienced municipal leaders to better understand how similar processes have unfolded, while recognizing that each community's circumstances are unique.

All municipalities have a responsibility to ensure safe, sustainable, and viable communities. For smaller communities, that is becoming increasingly challenging due to rising service delivery costs, infrastructure pressures, and limited tax bases. As a result, Council is exploring a range of options, including amalgamation, expanded shared services, and internal efficiencies, to better understand how we can better position Lockeport for long-term sustainability.

With respect to taxation, this is understandably one of the most important concerns raised by residents. At this stage, the specific impacts of any potential amalgamation on tax rates are not yet known.

What we do know is that all municipalities, including Lockeport, are facing increasing financial pressures. Costs related to essential services, staffing, aging infrastructure, and service delivery continue to rise, while revenue growth has not kept pace. While amalgamation does not guarantee lower taxes, potential impacts will depend on factors such as service levels, infrastructure needs, and how costs are structured across a region. A clear understanding of these impacts, including the Town's long-

term ability to maintain services and infrastructure, is essential before any decisions are made.

With respect to the provincially owned and operated Hayden Lake water system, no discussions have taken place regarding any changes to its current status. You are correct that infrastructure of this nature would require careful consideration, particularly given the potential financial implications for the Town.

You are correct in noting the importance of governance and representation, and we recognize this as a key priority. Ensuring strong, locally connected representation is an essential consideration as this process moves forward. In similar processes, representation is determined through an independent electoral boundary review to ensure fair and effective representation based on population and community structure.

The structure of Council, including the number of representatives and district boundaries, is not predetermined and would be informed through this process. Any future model must ensure that Lockeport residents continue to have a strong and effective voice in local decision-making. As with other aspects of this process, representation models will require further study and careful consideration to ensure they meet the needs of Lockeport residents.

Public engagement is an important part of this process and has been identified as a priority by the Amalgamation Steering Committee and all three municipal units. Experiences from other communities have shown that meaningful input from residents is critical in shaping outcomes.

Council has heard from residents requesting more information, and we recognize the importance of ensuring that both Council and the community are well-informed. As this process moves forward, the focus will shift from information gathering to broader communication. Providing clear, factual information to residents will be essential so that both Council and the community can make informed decisions based on a shared understanding.

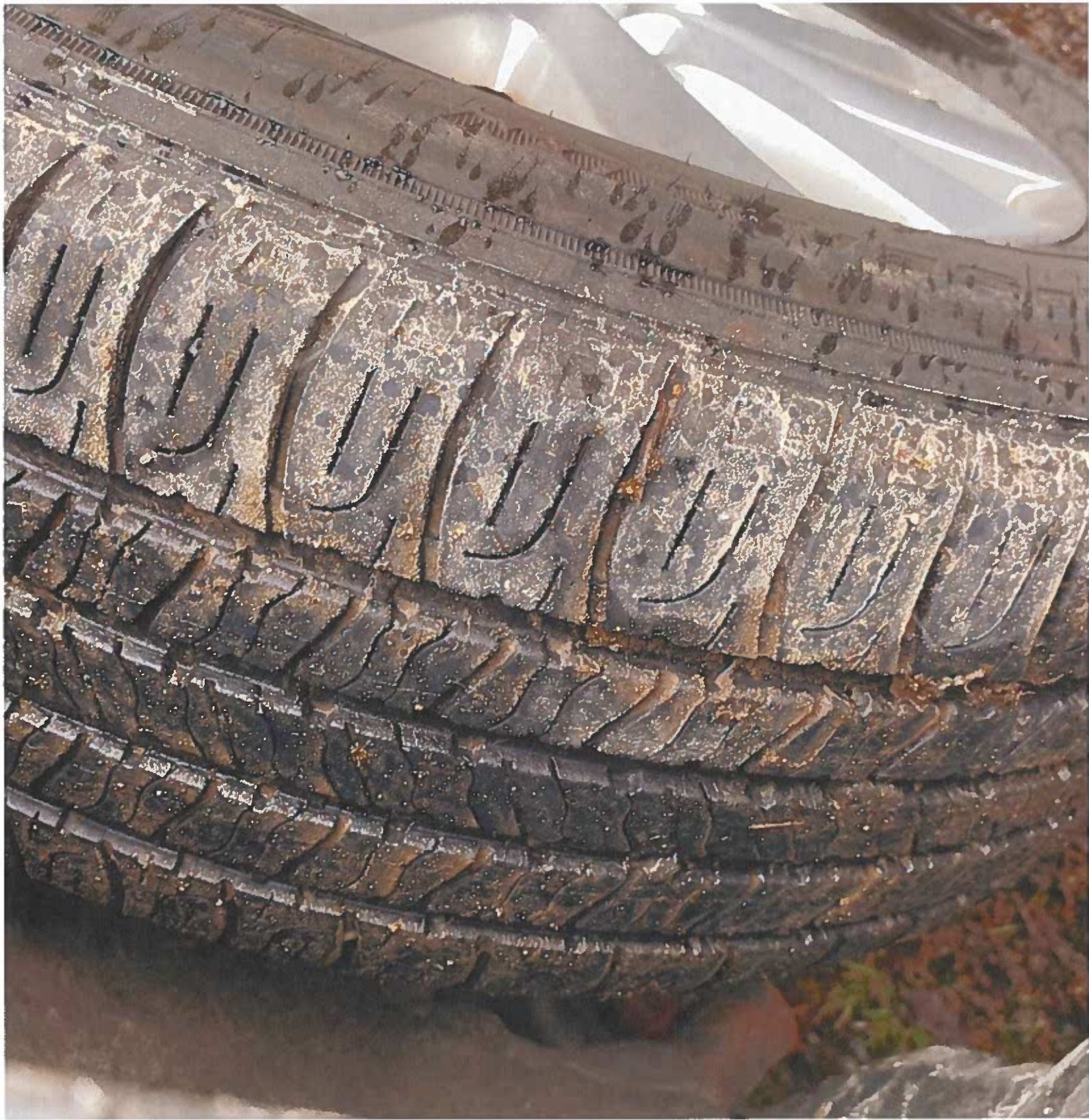
This is an important conversation for our community, and it is essential that it is approached with respect, openness, and a shared commitment to Lockeport's future. Amalgamation is not a simple solution. It is a complex, long-term consideration that will affect taxes, services, governance, and community identity. We are still in the early stages of that process, and it is important that we proceed with caution and openness as we work to position our community for the future.

Thank you again for your input and for being engaged in this important conversation.

APPENDIX A COMPLAINT FORM			
NAME	Melissa Buchanan	DATE	March 30/26
ADDRESS	29 West Green Harbour		
PHONE	902-874-0105		
EMAIL	melissabuchanan1989@gmail.com		
Please include relevant date(s), times(s), location, and background information, including municipal employees you have contacted regarding this matter. Additional space is available on the back of this form. Additional information such as relevant photographs may be attached to this form.			
Wed Mar 25 th at 41 Water Street Lockport between 8:30-1:00pm got a flat tire from metal grates in front of Allendale Electronics Ltd.			
Fri Mar 27 th at 41 Water Street Lockport between 8:30-2:00pm got 2 nd flat tire from metal grates in front of Allendale Electronics Ltd.			
I have pictures of the grates I would like my tires replaced, reimbursed for them.			
* Complaints shall be considered confidential but are subject to Part XX of the <i>Municipal Government Act & Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.</i>			
Below section for office use only			
Received by:	Jim Cass:bo		
Date:	mar 30/26		

Actions Taken	
Date	Action
Mar. 27/26	Kevin Snow checked the grate & discovered that it was sharp so they turned it over so the Sharp side was down until we could do a permanent fix.
Mar. 27/26	Kevin Snow ordered new grates & we have received them. The new grates need some welding done on them before replacement takes place.

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176 Water St., PO Box 279, Shelburne, NS B0T 1W0
Tel : 902 875-4488 Fax : 902 875-4222

Adm. fees 2% per month (24% per year) on overdue accounts.

DEBIT CASH CREDIT CARD CHEQUE BILL ACCOUNT

Privacy - Personal information is collected in accordance with applicable privacy legislation and is governed by Smith & Watt Ltd.'s Privacy Policy. Your privacy is important to us. Ask us if you would like information about our Privacy Policy. We also provide this personal information to Daimler Chrysler Canada Inc. ("DCCI"), parties related to DCCI, and other third parties acting on DCCI's behalf (collectively, the "Third Parties") to enable DCCI and the Third Parties to administer your transaction, to provide you with services to improve automotive related products and services by conducting customer surveys, and to provide you with marketing material which may be of interest to you. Only those employees of DCCI and the Third Parties who need access to your personal information in order to carry out their duties in furtherance of the foregoing purposes will have access to your personal information, which will be kept at One Riverside Drive, Windsor, Ontario, N9A 5K3. You may access your personal information held by DCCI or the Third Parties, and correct any inaccurate or obsolete information by written request at the address mentioned above. To obtain a copy of the DCCI Privacy Policy or if you do not want to receive DCCI marketing or survey material, please call 1-877-639-8629, send an email to privacyofficer@daimlerchrysler.com or visit the website www.daimlerchrysler.com. By signing this document, you consent to the transfer and use of this information to and by DCCI and the Third Parties for the foregoing purposes.

Statement of Disclaimer: the factory warranty constitutes all of the warranties with respect to the sale of this item/items. The seller hereby expressly disclaims all warranties either expressed or implied, including any implied warranty of merchantability, or fitness for a particular purpose. Seller neither assumes nor authorizes any other person to assume for it any liability in connection with the sale of this item/items. Not responsible for damages from freezing due to lack of anti-freeze.

Sold To: Melissa Buchanan CASH00 Ship To: _____
CASH

Sold By .: TIFFANY NASH 51 Prt: 1
Purchase Order #: Date: 04/01/26 PARTS INVOICE IR13200
Ship By: Tax #: 12:04:07 Closed

12D	Qty	Description	Price	Amount
PARTS INVENTORY				
	1.00	CHR 407285374Y	TIRE 236.00	193.00 193.00
	1.00	CHR TT	TIRE RECYCLI 4.50	4.50 4.50
** TOTAL PARTS INVENTORY				197.50
** Payment Modes . . . : THANK YOU			PAID BY MASTER	225.15 **

** SUBTOTAL 197.50
** T1 27.65
** T2

791579907RT0001

x Melissa Buchanan

SIGNATURE ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF ITEMS AND SERVICES LISTED, ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS NOTED AND AGREEMENT TO FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PAYMENT

Date _____ Signature _____

PAY THIS AMOUNT : \$225.15



**ADMINISTRATION REPORT
COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 24, 2026**

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED 2025/2026 FISCAL YEAR

There was a total of Three (7) building permits issued for the 2025/2026 fiscal year.

TAX COLLECTIONS

As of April 21, 2026, taxes are as follows:

2022 & prior = \$34,209.22
2023 = \$12,065.73
2024 = \$25,406.89
2025 = \$102,482.57
2026= \$731,178.32
Total taxes are \$905,342.73

Interim Tax Bills have been issued. Sent out on April 9, 2026. The Interim Tax bills have a due date of May 31, 2026, which is why the current year's amount is so high.

Outstanding Sub-Lease account

The total owed on this sub-leased account is \$26,441.40 plus \$21,034.14 interest. My contact that works in the Government "Grants in Lieu" section has asked me to continue to send the bills to the account holder and to also send them to him, which I have been doing. He is very hopeful that they will take care of this, however, they will pay interest at their rate rather than ours so there will be a difference in the final amount. I will keep Council updated on this situation as I get more information.

The total outstanding taxes on the gear shed accounts are \$3,244.55 plus \$2,593.16 interest on four Gear Sheds. Three of the four gear sheds are owned by the same person who is deceased. The other owner is the same as Lockeport Welding.

Budget 2026/2027

A Finance Committee Meeting was held on April 17, 2026, at which time the budget details were finalized except we must wait until after April 30, 2026, which is the deadline for application for Grants to Organizations. The next Council Meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 8, 2026. at which time the final 2026/2027 budget will be presented for approval by Council.

Meetings

Council Meeting – April 10, 2026

Meeting with PVSC Representatives online – April 16, 2026

Meeting with the Department of Health Representatives online– April 17, 2026

- Mayor Amalfa and I met with Melanie Mooney and Leslie Oliver from the Nova Scotia Department of Health, regarding the use of the Lockeport Medical Centre. Currently the blood clinic is offered every second Wednesday in Lockeport. We told them that this is becoming an issue with people not being able to book in Lockeport. You can only see 21 days in advance on the website which makes it look like there is never any appointments available. They promised to review this.
- The Nurse Practitioner is currently on sick leave so there has been no one coming on Thursdays. They are also working on changing this.

Leadership Meeting, Barrington– April 20, 2026

Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades Project – New Discharge Location

I had to get advice from our solicitor on some paperwork that required my signature for this work to proceed. Originally CBCL only sent the release for me to sign. After speaking with our solicitor and taking his advice, I asked CBCL for a written agreement that states that the Town of Lockeport will be reimbursed for the invoices we will pay from Lindsay Construction. Much time spent on the phone with our Solicitor.

I just got word back on April 20, 2026, that it is fine to sign the agreement but have been advised to hold off on signing the Release until the work has been completed.

The contract has been signed with Lindsay Construction and went by courier on April 21, 2026, so we should soon see the work proceeding at the Wastewater Treatment plant.

Canada Summer Jobs

The Town of Lockeport has been awarded funding for three summer students for 2026. I have been working on Job Descriptions for these positions. The Job Ads will be going up soon. These positions will support Recreation programming, Museum/Tourism initiatives and Festivals and Events planning.

12)

Playpark Inspection

With the Play Park being filled with all new equipment, I felt it prudent for us to have a qualified Inspector do a thorough inspection as soon as possible. The Playpark fundraising group agreed and offered to pay for the inspection this year.

On April 6, 2026, Andrew Steeves, Verisk Precise Services, came and did the inspection while he was in Town doing the playground inspection at the schools. The report is attached.

Respectfully Submitted by:

June Harding-Town Clerk/Treasurer
Town of Lockeport



Andrew Steeves
Regional Manager, Atlantic
Precise Services
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Andrew.steeves@verisk.com

April 9, 2026

Town of Lockeport
12 Howe Street (playground location)
Lockeport, Nova Scotia
BOT 1L0

Attention: June Harding, Clerk-Treasurer

Re: Seaside Play Park, Playground at 12 Howe Street, Lockeport, Nova Scotia

Dear June,

On April 6, 2026, a visit was made to the Town of Lockeport community playground known as the "Seaside Play Park" located at 12 Howe Street. The purpose of the site visit was to examine the new playground equipment that was recently installed in the area. The general purpose was to ensure that all equipment has been installed correctly as per the requirements of CSA-Z614:20 "Children's playspaces and equipment.", to determine if any deficiencies were found, and to make appropriate recommendations if warranted. Equipment was examined and surveyed at that time to determine if all requirements of CSA-Z614:20 "Children's playspaces and equipment" have been met. All equipment is located within a 1.7m (65") chain link fenced area that has a set of entrance gates that are kept locked when required.

Some general observations made at time of survey regarding entire playground area include:

- (a) Temporary fencing has been provided along the south side of the playground as the Town awaits a new swing set to be installed.
- (b) Details on any formal inspection program for playground equipment was not determined at time of survey (no rec. made). A daily/weekly/monthly/annual inspection program is required for this playground.
- (c) An owner/operator sign has been provided at the main entrance gate that states who is the owner of the equipment and their phone number to contact, and the age of who the equipment is approved for (i.e. 18 months +).
- (d) Due to the number of children playing in the playground at time of survey, a photograph of the general playground area from outside of the fenced compound could not be obtained.
- (e) A minimum clearance of 2.4m (94.49") is required to be provided in front of a straight slide as a protective surfacing zone. The south side spiral tube slide has only been provided with a clearance 1.38m (54.5") to the temporary construction fencing. Based on speed generated by users of the tube slide, existing set-up should be sufficient until the new swing sets are installed.

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- (f) A distance of 1.45m (57") of protective surfacing material has only been provided to the front of the pre-primary straight slide. The CSA standard requires a distance of 1.8m (70.87"). It appears that a friction strip has been embedded into the slide the slows the speed of a user. As a result, distance provided to the front of this slide bed to the synthetic deck material should be sufficient.
- (g) Interlocking synthetic mats have been provided on the playground as a protective surfacing material. Proper distance has been provided from the equipment other than what has been reported in (e) and (f) (no rec. made due to maximum speed generated by equipment).



Owner/Operator Sign

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Temporary Construction Fencing



Future Swing Set Area

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CHANGES MADE SINCE LAST SURVEY: The former playground equipment located on this Town property was demolished and two new pieces of play equipment were installed; a large creative play structure as well as a functionally linked game and activity centre. A new swing set is also scheduled to be installed on the playground at the south side of the existing equipment. Currently these two areas are separated by temporary construction fencing.

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Located on the playground area are the following pieces of playground equipment:

1. A painted metal and plastic large creative play structure containing an overhead trapeze, one arched bridge, one step bridge, two angled ramp bridges, one overhead climber, two tic-tac toe games, two cog games, two moon bubble wall panels, one spiral slide, one single straight slide, one straight tube slide, two tube spiral slides, one arch "log" climber, one play bench, several sets of stairs, one climbing ladder, three roofs, two leg presses, two shoulder presses, two sit-up benches, and two chest presses.



Creative Play Structure: West Side View #1 (partial view blocked by other equipment)

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18'



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Creative Play Structure: West Side View #2



Creative Play Structure: West Side View #3

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Creative Play Structure: West Side View #4



Creative Play Structure: South Side View

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Creative Play Structure: East and North Side View



Creative Play Structure: East Side

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The following deficiencies were noted with this piece of play equipment:

- (a) There is some movement with one plastic panel on the roof over the covered angled bridge at the south side of the play structure. This movement may create a pinch hazard and personal injury (rec. made).



Plastic Panel Movement

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- (b) There is a pinch hazard created by an intermediate step in-fill panel on the north side of the structure adjacent to arch climber ladder and step climber (rec. made).



Intermediate Panel Pinch Hazard

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2. A painted metal and plastic activity and game centre containing two xylophones, two play wheels, two set of drums, and two funhouse mirrors.



Activity and Game Centre: View #1

Precise Services reports, prepared in compliance with commonly accepted risk control standards existing at the time services are rendered, are developed from an inspection of the premises and/or from data supplied by or on behalf of the purchaser. Precise Services does not purport to list all hazards. While changes and modifications, referred to in the reports are designed to upgrade protection and loss prevention of premises, Precise Services assumes no responsibility for management and control of these activities. Precise Services will not be responsible to the Purchaser for any losses or damages, whether consequential or other, however caused, incurred or suffered as a result of the services being provided.

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Activity and Game Centre: View #2

Precise Services reports, prepared in compliance with commonly accepted risk control standards existing at the time services are rendered, are developed from an inspection of the premises and/or from data supplied by or on behalf of the purchaser. Precise Services does not purport to list all hazards. While changes and modifications, referred to in the reports are designed to upgrade protection and loss prevention of premises, Precise Services assumes no responsibility for management and control of these activities. Precise Services will not be responsible to the Purchaser for any losses or damages, whether consequential or other, however caused, incurred or suffered as a result of the services being provided.

(25)



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The following deficiencies were noted with this piece of play equipment:

- (a) There is a protruding bolt on the play structure (rec. made).



Plastic Panel Movement

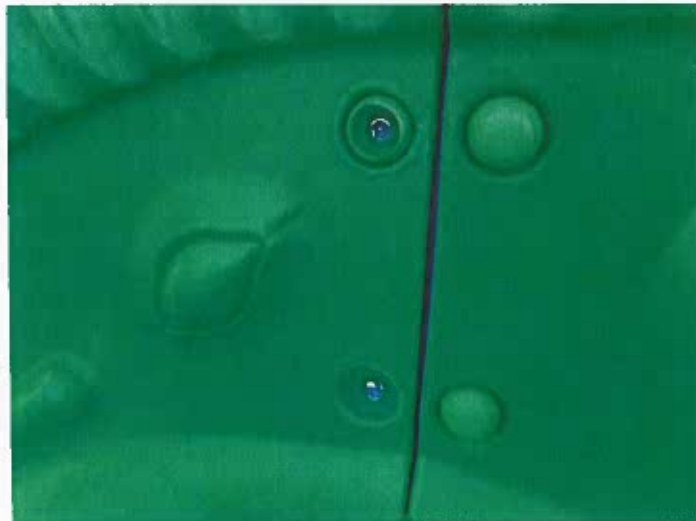
Precise Services reports, prepared in compliance with commonly accepted risk control standards existing at the time services are rendered, are developed from an inspection of the premises and/or from data supplied by or on behalf of the purchaser. Precise Services does not purport to list all hazards. While changes and modifications, referred to in the reports are designed to upgrade protection and loss prevention of premises, Precise Services assumes no responsibility for management and control of these activities. Precise Services will not be responsible to the Purchaser for any losses or damages, whether consequential or other, however caused, incurred or suffered as a result of the services being provided.

26)



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(b) There are twenty-two missing protective caps on nut and bolt connection points on the structure (rec. made).



Missing Protective Caps

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(27)



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Based on observations made at time of survey, we would like to offer the following Recommendations for consideration:

2026-01 To bring the large creative play structure on site up to standard, the following items should be addressed:

- (a) The loose roof panel section over the angled bridge at the south end of the equipment leading to the spiral tube slide should be properly retightened so there is no movement with the panel to create a pinch hazard.
- (b) The gap noted at the top of the step intermediate panel at the north side of the play structure adjacent to arched climber ladder/step climber should be removed by re-setting the panel or alternative caulking the joint opening.

2026-02 To bring the game and activity play structure up to standard, the following items should be addressed:

- (a) The protruding bolt on the play structure should be peened off so no more than two threads are exposed.
- (b) The missing twenty-two protective caps at nut and bolt connection points should be placed on the structure.

Thank you for the opportunity to visit your playground. If we can be of any additional service please feel free to contact our organization.

Sincerely,

Andrew Steeves, P.Eng
Verisk Precise Services

Precise Services reports, prepared in compliance with commonly accepted risk control standards existing at the time services are rendered, are developed from an inspection of the premises and/or from data supplied by or on behalf of the purchaser. Precise Services does not purport to list all hazards. While changes and modifications, referred to in the reports are designed to upgrade protection and loss prevention of premises, Precise Services assumes no responsibility for management and control of these activities. Precise Services will not be responsible to the Purchaser for any losses or damages, whether consequential or other, however caused, incurred or suffered as a result of the services being provided.

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June Harding

From: Anna Chetwynd <annachetwyndlockeport@gmail.com>
Sent: April 15, 2026 10:23 AM
To: June Harding
Cc: 'Sue Crosby'; jfiske57@gmail.com; ddemingstaylor@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Playground Inspection report

Hi June:

Thank you for this. Overall I am extremely pleased with the report.

I have already requested additional caps for the stand alone piece, from Playground Canada. The inspector did say the bolt heads are recessed and not really a concern ...however because it's stand alone the standard says all should be capped. The protruding bolt needs to be cut off...that one got missed.

The loose/ movement on the South side walkway roof just needs the bolt tightened. Someone locked the old stage so I need the tool to do that.

The pinch point is on the floor section of the upper deck going to the North tube slide. The inspector noted a bead of silicon is all that is needed.

As for the inspection, he indicated there should be a check list inspection in place for insurance purposes as it shows due diligence. He said it's up to us how we handle it.... it can be daily or weekly or monthly. We can meet and determine the frequency that we feel is manageable.

The good news is this park will have "proper" annual inspections done. He was great to work with and very reasonable. I have no problem recommending him as our annual inspector. He also said, if we ever had any questions about anything (current equipment or next phase) we could call him and he wouldn't charge us for telephone calls.

I hope you are all as pleased with this report as I am. He was very thorough and said repeatedly that he was very impressed with the equipment and the installation. He said he's been in a lot of parks in the province and this is by far one of /if not the nicest.

Anna

Councillor Anna Chetwynd,
Town of Lockeport
annachetwyndlockeport@gmail.com

From: June Harding <townoflockeport@ns.sympatico.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 8:43:51 AM

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT APRIL 2026

- REMOVED AND STORED DUGOUT SHUTTERS
- FABRICATING GRATES TO REPLACE SHARP GRATES IN FRONT OF ALLENDALE ELECTRONICS
- BOARDED UP PEACE HUT BY PLAYPARK AS INSTRUCTED
- WORKING ON A FEW PLAYPARK TOUCHUPS (WEATHER PLAYING A PART)
- HOSED OFF AND CLEANED UP SALT SPREADER AND STORED FOR SEASON (APRIL 17TH)
- SUBMITTED MONTHLY SEWER SAMPLES TO AGAT LABRATORIES
- TOOK SEVERAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF PAVING PROJECTS THAT WERE COMPLETED AND POSSIBLE FUTURE PAVING THAT IS NEEDED AS INSTRUCTED
- HAVE BEEN COLD PATCHING HOLES IN PAVEMENT THROUGH BRIGHTON RD. AND AROUND TOWN – STILL ONGOING
- REPAIRED ROTTEN DECKING AT BEACH CENTRE
- WASHED/CLEANED UV LIGHT BANKS AT SEWER PLANT
- RECEIVED AND STORED ANOTHER LOAD OF STREET SALT
- HAD RICHARD SWANSBURG DOWN TO QUOTE ON REMOVING ORIGINAL SEWER PLANT DOOR AND REPLACING
- HAD MARK WILLIAMS SUPPLY AND SPREAD GRAVEL ON CHETWYND'S LANE
- MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH COTTERS OCEAN PRODUCTS TO USE THEIR FORKLIFT TO OFF LOAD TWO MORE PALLETS (112-50LBS BAGS OF COLD PATCH AND SEWER PLANT. THANKS MIKE



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June Harding

From: Mary Meagher <marymeagher23@gmail.com>
Sent: April 10, 2026 10:08 AM
To: June Harding; Jill Cassibo
Subject: Library Sign

Good Morning, the Friends of the Library members held their annual meeting yesterday at the library as we usually do this time of year. We discussed our annual Plant and Bake Sale which will be held May 9th. We also look at our finances and make decisions on what we might be able to spend some of the funds on.

In a previous year we contributed \$1000 towards the interior painting of the library with the collaboration of the Town of Lockeport for permission and remaining funds to complete the job. We were very pleased with the outcome and the collaboration.

This year along with working with the Western County Regional Library officials to purchase books for our library we would like to replace the large exterior sign. Once again we are corresponding to ask for permission to do this as it is a town asset but will not be requesting any financial assistance this time. Our plan is to use the same product as has been used in other projects in the town such as the playground and signage around town as well as the same producer if possible. The idea would be to replicate what is there now but in the more durable product. We will report to the Town Office the details and progress of the project for full disclosure and permission as the other groups do. We are hopeful that this project will be agreeable to Council and look forward to hearing back soon.

On behalf of the Friends of the Library

Mary Meagher

To: Town of Lockeport
Mayor and Council
26 North Street
Lockeport NS
B0T1L0

Dear Mayor and Council,

As a long-standing resident and rate payer of the Town of Lockeport, the topic of amalgamation is not for the faint of heart. I have been hearing the phrase since I was a child, and more often before or after an election and financial uncertainty lies ahead. This time, it seems unlike no other.

As you are aware, before the election a public meet and greet of new candidates and reoffering individuals was held in good faith for the constituents to ask questions and get to know each of you. Not all residents attended, nor did all candidates attend. However, good constructive discussion and views were laid upon the attending group. A theme of "transparency" was heard from everyone.

Sadly, I could not attend, however, between face-to-face meetings and messages, I was able to get the views of most running in the past election. The theme was transparency again, and that individuals would act in good faith for the Town of Lockeport and its constituents and **EXPLORE** all options to ensure the stability and growth of Lockeport for years to come. It was known who was in favour of amalgamation, who was not, and who was "on the fence", but the temperature of the view was still **EXPLORE**.

The previous council has also entered in information talks prior to the last election for the possibility of amalgamation with the Town of Shelburne and the Municipality of Shelburne. It was made clear by that Mayor and Council, that it was for information only and for future possibilities/options moving forward and that **NO** decisions would be made without public input.

Transparency

The current Mayor and Council have also agreed to participate in such talk and studies, and forming part of the Steering Committee to hear arguments from other areas of the province who had undergone such a transformation, feasibility studies for infrastructure, services, costs and Provincial guidance to enable all parties involved (Town of Lockeport, Town of Shelburne, Municipality of Shelburne) to make an informed and sound decision regarding the future of the units and their respective constituents.

This has been anything but the case.

Since the steering committee started, the only information that has been shared is via social media. Questions could be sent via email to a stated address, and I believe 1 follow up letter was sent via social media regarding the process. Meetings were available to stream, minutes available to read via internet and meetings available to attend by the public for viewing only. Some may consider this to be transparent, however a number of residents and rate payers, not all are tech savvy, or able to attend, or have an email address.

Likewise, not all are comfortable with the less personal process, especially when it involves such a big impact to everyday lives. Also, the questions we have from Lockeport may differ from those of Shelburne, or the Municipality. We all have our unique niche and infrastructure in place.

With all of this said, I strongly suggest, urge and request that the Mayor and Council to hold a public "Town Hall meeting/forum" well advertised and structured, with a complete visual presentation of the proceedings and findings from the Steering Committee, with a time slot for questions and answers. Projections for non-amalgamation and for amalgamation and the projected end terms of amalgamation. Rates, services, jobs losses/gains, infrastructure renewal from both aspects. The residents and rate payers want to know. It is far more than just a "lower tax" question or a "high tax" rate if Town stays incorporated.

OR, if consolidation is a better fit? (define both and how it pertains and acts with respect to our own circumstances) Holding an in-person forum will alleviate the excessive building of rumors which are currently transpiring across the community. The forum should be open to all residents of the Town of Lockeport and Business owners who are rate payers within the Town, as amalgamation or consolidation affects us both.

This decision, whether for or against, affects a multitude of issues and people in many different ways and many feel that their voice is not heard or represented. Questions are left unanswered.

We have had plebiscites for far less.

It was each of you who said **Transparency** would happen. Kindly make it **TRANSPARENT**.

For the Good and Future of the Town of Lockeport or Lockeport Communities.

Sincerely,

Ryan Chetwynd
Resident & Rate Payer

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June Harding

From: Emily Swim <emily.c.swim@gmail.com>
Sent: April 15, 2026 12:14 PM
To: June Harding; Jill Cassibo; Candace Malik; Councillor Kevin Chetwynd; Deputy Mayor Anna Chetwynd; Mayor Derek Amalfa; Craig Hillen
Subject: Potential Use of the Peace Hut

Dear Council,

I am reaching out regarding the decision on the future use of the Peace Hut that was originally located in the old Seacaps Park and is now located just outside of the new park with no real purpose as of right now.

In regards to the March Recreation Committee meeting minutes as well as the March 27th Council meeting minutes there didn't seem to be much discussion around the other potential uses of that building and I believe is it shortsighted to just board up a good building that was one of the newer element of the old park, therefore I would like to offer some suggestions:

*Move the building closer to the entrance of the playpark so that it can be used as a place to leash your dog as well as a shaded spot for dogs to rest as they are not allowed in the park.

*It could serve as a shaded spot for parents/grandparents/guardians while children are playing in the park as well. I believe it was initially built as a quiet spot for children that may need somewheres to chill out while in the park which it could be used for once again.

*Move it to a spot at the beach centre potentially to be repurposed as a beach library for toys, chairs, etc, or again a shaded building for humans and animals to use.

*This could also be turned into something for down at Roods Head Park in the future as well.

I think more options for this building need to be explored instead of just boarding it up since it is in great shape. If there are concerns around the safety of the use of the building then perhaps we can open it up more with cut outs so that people aren't using it for unsavory activities and if moved to an appropriate area there wouldn't be concerns around people climbing on it.

I am willing to discuss some of the above mentioned ideas with council if you would like.

Thanks,
Emily

Emily Swim (she/her)
P.O. Box 223, Lockeport N.S., B0T 1L0
(902)319-0223

Upcoming Presentations and Training

Item	Background	Update
PPSA 101	Presentation to contract partners that provides an overview of the Provincial Police Services Agreement (PPSA) in Nova Scotia and how it is administered by Department of Justice (DOJ).	Presentations to municipal staff, elected officials and Police Advisory Board members continue to be delivered upon request. To schedule an in-person or virtual presentation for your staff, elected officials and/or Police Advisory Board, please contact Danielle.Desjardins@novascotia.ca
Police Governance Training	Board Orientation Training is available that outlines the roles and responsibilities for police governance boards in Nova Scotia. Police Governance – Consultation and Strategic Planning Training: this training was created jointly with DOJ and the Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG) to provide fundamentals on consultation around strategic planning and priority setting by Policy Advisory Boards for their RCMP Detachment.	To schedule your training session, please contact Charcy.Marchand@novascotia.ca DOJ is pleased to share that CAPG membership is available to municipalities policed by the RCMP as the provincial police service. CAPG membership comes with access to their Learning Portal, reduced pricing for webinars, conferences and other learning opportunities. To obtain a membership for your Board Chair or key municipal staff, please reach out to: Danielle.Desjardins@novascotia.ca Next meetings to be held in Spring 2026. If your municipality is able to provide space to host a meeting and/or has a suggestion for a topic to be covered in the meeting, please contact: Danielle.Desjardins@novascotia.ca A letter sent March 18, 2026, provided contact information should you have any questions about the 2026/27 billing.
Regional Engagement and 2026/27 Financial Updates	Contract partners will be invited to periodic virtual and in-person meetings that may include presentations from DOJ staff, discussions on policing priorities, financial updates, details on matters impacting policing and public safety and other items as required.	

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Policing Agreement Related Updates

Item	Background	Update
Recruitment and Retention	National and local updates on efforts to increase recruitment and retention of police officers as well as mitigation efforts to address staffing challenges.	Regular Member (RM) Applicants: 2023/24 FY – 55 RM applicants from Nova Scotia sent to Depot 2024/25 FY – 50 RM applicants from Nova Scotia sent to Depot

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<p>Equipment Modernization</p>	<p>As policing evolves, so does the equipment required for officers to perform their duties in a safe and efficient manner. Other resources, infrastructure and initiatives may also support modernization of policing service delivery. Updates shared will include high-level details of specific items as well as their associated financial and procurement strategies that are driven at the national level.</p>	<p>2025/26 FY – 55 RM applicants from Nova Scotia sent to Depot (as of March 17, 2026)</p> <p>Cadets to Nova Scotia: 2023/24 FY – 41 cadets posted to “H” Division 2024/25 FY – 77 cadets posted to “H” Division 2025/26 FY (YTD) – 49 cadets posted to “H” Division (as of March 17, 2026)</p> <p>Experienced Police Officer (EPO) Program: 2023/24 FY – hired 39 EPOs in “H” Division 2024/25 FY – hired 11 EPOs “H” Division 2025/26 FY (YTD) – hired 9 EPOs “H” Division (as of March 17, 2026)</p> <p>Overall “H” Division is doing well compared to other RCMP Divisions with respect to staffing as there is significant interest in Nova Scotia as posting for cadets and EPOs.</p> <p>The RCMP has purchased a replacement Tactical Armored Vehicle (TAV) in 2025/26, as part of the equipment modernization strategy. The previous TAV is 12 years old and has reached the end of its useful life of 10 years. The current model of the TAV is becoming more difficult to maintain with availability of parts being a concern. This new, second generation TAV can drive longer distances without the need of secondary transport (flatbed) and is built on a platform for which replacement parts are more readily available, reducing repair costs, complexity and down-time. A second TAV was also purchased in 25/26 to create redundancy for simultaneous operational needs and should one TAV be out of service for repair or maintenance. This strategy advances the vision of a modern police officer by ensuring Regular Members of the RCMP have the</p>
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		<p>appropriate tools to perform their duties as safely and effectively as possible.</p> <p>The second collective agreement between the National Police Federation (NPF), representing RCMP non-commissioned regular members, and the Treasury Board Secretariat, expired March 31, 2025. Collective bargaining for the third agreement is currently under way. Unfortunately, we have been not provided any updates on this matter.</p>
<p>Collective Bargaining</p>	<p>As salary is the largest driver of costs related to policing, potential for increases through the collective bargaining processes remain an important issue for contract partners. Although, as a contract partner, Nova Scotia is not party to the collective bargaining process between unions and the employer, our vested interest in the outcomes of collective bargaining drives efforts to support financial stewardship.</p>	<p>The RCMP has recently published its new strategic plan which can be found here: https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/change-the-rcmp-our-next-chapter-rcmp-2024-27-strategic-plan.pdf</p>
<p>Communications from National RCMP</p>	<p>As required, details of communications received from the RCMP nationally that may have an impact on policing in Nova Scotia will be shared with contract partners.</p>	

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Local "H" Division RCMP Updates		
Item	Background	Update
<p>RCMP Staffing Update</p>	<p>Roadable Rate: Percentage of positions with officers that are actively working and meeting the operational requirements of the position.</p>	<p>As of January 1, 2026, the overall roadable rate for PPSA resources in "H" Division RCMP was 82%.</p> <p>General Duty Police Resource Methodology (GDPRM) reviews are in-depth analysis of General Duty (GD) response areas within the RCMP. The main purpose of a GDPRM review is to determine whether a detachment/district has the recommended minimum number of resources to respond to the occurrence workload for the area while also allowing GD members enough time to perform proactive policing activities. "H" Division has developed a data-led risk matrix that uses detachment specific information to make recommendations on where a GDPRM review may be of highest urgency. Some of the data considered in the risk matrix includes</p>

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		<p>weighted workload per member, years since last review, vacancies, violent and non-violent crime severity index, computer aided dispatch (CAD) file increase. "H" Division has completed 3 GPPRM reviews in 2025/26 and in conjunction with DOJ, has consulted with the relevant municipalities in receipt of policing services by the detachment undergoing the review. Another 3-4 GPPRMs are expected to be undertaken in 2026/27.</p> <p>GPPRMs directly address the recent Comprehensive Nova Scotia Policing Review recommendation to ensure appropriate policing staffing levels.</p>
<p>RCMP Support and Centralized Services</p>	<p>Dozens of units, comprised of hundreds of officers, support policing and public safety in the province through the delivery of specialized and at times, highly technical policing services. Developments such as the creation of new units or additional investments in resources will be shared with contract partners.</p>	<p>The RCMP previously submitted its 2026/27 Multi-Year Financial Plan (MYFP) for the PSSA to the Province. It has been analyzed with associated budget recommendations put forward for decision by the Provincial Treasury Board. The outcome of this process will be shared in a future update following the release of the 2026/27 budget.</p>
<p>RCMP Administration</p>	<p>The delivery of policing services requires a wide range of administrative support. As changes to the types and number of administrative resources change, updates will be shared with contract partners.</p>	<p>The RCMP previously submitted its 2026/27 Multi-Year Financial Plan (MYFP) for the PSSA, inclusive of Divisional and Regional Administrative functions, to the Province. It has been analyzed by DOJ with associated budget recommendations put forward for decision by the Provincial Treasury Board. The outcome of this process will be shared in a future update following the release of the 2026/27 budget.</p>
<p>RCMP Property and Equipment</p>	<p>Updates of significant changes to properties where the RCMP operate and the equipment they use in the course of their duties will be shared with contract partners.</p>	<p>130 new vehicles were put into service in "H" Division RCMP for the 2025/26 FY, this included 27 net new vehicles to support growth in units across the Division.</p> <p>New marked, police package vehicles ordered for delivery in 2026/27 will be black in colour with white vinyl-wrapped doors.</p>

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		<p>The existing inventory of all-white vehicles will be put into service prior to the new design being rolled out.</p> <p>"H" Division RCMP has approved the purchase of six Battery Electric Vehicles (administrative). The installation of charging infrastructure at the New Minas, Lower Sackville and the new Stellarton Detachments is being advanced to support these vehicles. The New Minas Detachment was also selected to receive a marked police package Chevrolet Blazer Battery Electric Vehicle as part of a national pilot to assess electric vehicles in an operational police environment.</p> <p>A replacement for the critical incident vehicle used by "H" Division's Underwater Recovery Team is expected to be delivered in mid-2026.</p> <p>"H" Division RCMP is replacing a vessel stationed in Halifax Regional Detachment which is expected in early 2026. Additionally, Federal RCMP is funding the replacement of two vessels stationed in Nova Scotia including one used by the "H" Division Emergency Response Team in 2026/27.</p> <p>The construction of the new Pictou District RCMP Detachment in Stellarton is expected to be completed in early 2027.</p> <p>The RCMP has submitted its 2026/27 Multi-Year Financial Plan (MYFP) for the PPSA to the Province, inclusive of new and replacement equipment needs. It is undergoing analysis by DOJ with subsequent budget recommendations to be put forward for decision by the Provincial Treasury Board. The outcome of this</p>
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		<p>process will be shared in a future update following the release of the 2026/27 budget.</p>
<p>RCMP Senior Executive</p>	<p>Details of changes to the Nova Scotia RCMP Senior Executive Team will be shared with contract partners.</p>	<p>Commanding Officer, Assistant Commissioner Dennis Daley retired in March 2026. While the process to identify his replacement is under way, Chief Superintendent Dan Morrow will be the Acting Commanding Officer while Superintendent Sean Auld will be the Acting Criminal Operations Officer.</p> <p>Current leadership team: https://rcmp.ca/en/nova-scotia/corporate-information/nova-scotia-rcmp-leadership-team</p>

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Department of Justice Updates		
Item	Background	Update
<p>Ongoing Initiatives</p>	<p>Initiatives are generated in relation to Government mandate, priorities and public interest.</p>	<p>In September 2024, Department of Justice issued 39 <i>Nova Scotia Policing Standards</i> that all police agencies operating in the Province must meet, to ensure adequate and effective policing services for all Nova Scotians.</p> <p>The Public Safety Audit Function Unit was established in April 2024 within Public Safety and Security Division to measure compliance with the <i>Nova Scotia Policing Standards</i>.</p> <p>Between May and August 2025, the Public Safety Audit Function Unit completed risking assessments of all 39 <i>Nova Scotia Policing Standards</i>. Based on the risking assessment, multiple standards have been selected as audit topics for 2025-2026. Audit processes began in September 2025, with multiple agencies selected for initial audits which it is anticipated will take 6-8 months.</p>

		<p>In September 2025, "H" Division RCMP was selected for an audit related to the Community Patrol and Service Response (CPSR) Standard. This audit is focused on aspects of proactive community patrols, and the reporting of personnel counts and availability to the Department of Justice. The CPSR audit remains ongoing.</p> <p>Department of Justice, Public Safety Audit Function (PSAF) is working directly with police agencies to ensure the expectations of the Nova Scotia Policing Standards are understood, and to provide guidance and clarity through the audit process. PSAF is also available to provide training regarding audit processes, and to answer any audit-related questions that Police Advisory Boards or Municipalities may have. Please contact PSAF@novascotia.ca for any specific questions related to audit processes or for audit training information.</p> <p>In June 2025, Department of Justice published "Shaping the Future: Policing in Nova Scotia" which outlines what was heard from Nova Scotians during the Policing Review and the need to modernize policing based on the findings of the review.</p> <p>One of the significant foundational changes identified was the need for a single Records Management System (RMS) for use by all police services including RCMP and municipal police.</p> <p>The Public Safety and Security Division will be inviting all CAOs for municipalities policed by the RCMP to participate in a targeted consultation regarding the new billing mechanism. If you have any questions in advance of this meeting, please contact Hawley.Crichton@novascotia.ca</p>
<p>Comprehensive Nova Scotia Policing Review</p>	<p>The Policing Review was completed in June 2025 with the release of a final report by Deloitte published a final report. The report includes recommendations for a provincial policing model in Nova Scotia and outlines several foundational changes to support police modernization.</p>	

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Policing Priorities	The Provincial Priority setting is a recurrent process that has milestone activities throughout the fiscal year. Engagement drives priority setting.	<p>In December 2025, the Minister of Justice issued a directive to all police services in Nova Scotia to prioritize cannabis enforcement. This directive applies to both the RCMP and municipal police, as the Department of Justice continues to monitor the impact of illicit cannabis and other significant illegal activity.</p> <p>The Minister of Justice will establish Provincial Policing priorities for the 2026/27 fiscal year.</p> <p>We encourage Police Advisory Boards to engage in formal discussions with their police leaders to determine local priorities within their jurisdictions and share those with Department of Justice.</p>
Promising Practices	New and innovative practices of note.	<p>In 2025, Department of Justice delivered three provincial workshops to front line police officers related to sexualized violence investigations. The training focused on trauma-informed and survivor-centred practice and was led by the Sexual Violence Crown Attorneys in partnership with the Public Safety and Security Division. 97 police officers from seven police agencies (RCMP and municipal police agencies) participated in the training, including members of specialized sexual assault units.</p>
Grants and Funding Opportunities	Information on grant programs and funding opportunities which a nexus to public safety and policing which may be available for municipalities, community groups and other stakeholders.	<p>The Community Crime Prevention Grants Program provides up to \$12,000 in funding to various organizations in support of crime prevention work involving youth. The 2025/26 grant program approved 22 applications.</p> <p>The 2026/27 grant program is now accepting applications. Details are available at the following website: https://novascotia.ca/just/prevention/grants.asp.</p> <p>The Civil Forfeiture Grant Program provides one-time funding to organizations that support eligible victims of crime and targeted</p>

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		<p>crime prevention initiatives across Nova Scotia. The Program is funded from the disposition of forfeited property seized by law enforcement agencies. Details are available at the following website, https://novascotia.ca/just/civil-forfeiture-grant-program.asp.</p>
Investments		<p>Firearms Laboratory - The Department of Justice has provided funding to the Halifax Regional Police to support the development of a Firearms Laboratory. The Firearms Laboratory will be available to police agencies across the province and will help improve the recovery and analysis of firearms-related offences in the province.</p> <p>NSOC – The “H” Division RCMP has received approval for the establishment of a new Nova Scotia Organized Crime (NSOC) Unit. The unit will be developed to improve investigation capacity to address mid-level organized crime activities across jurisdictions.</p> <p>ICE – Through a federal funding agreement, the Department of Justice has made significant investments to increase investigative capacity to combat online child exploitation. This includes funding training opportunities for municipal officers and contributing to the purchase of technology, equipment and software for municipal police agencies. This has in turn alleviated pressures on the Provincial internet child exploitation (ICE) unit.</p> <p>PSPNET – PSPNET is a free digital mental health services to current and former public safety personnel, including police officers. The program is supported by the Nova Scotia Department of Justice and the Nova Scotia Office of Addictions and Mental Health. Details are available at the following website, www.pspnet.ca.</p>

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2447 Highway 3, P.O. Box 100, Barrington, Nova Scotia B0W 1E0

April 7, 2026

The Honourable Tim Houston, M.L.A.
Premier of Nova Scotia
P.O. Box 726
Halifax, NS
B3J 2T3

Email: premier@novascotia.ca

**Re: Request for Five-Year Freeze on Power Rates and Exploration of Public Ownership of
Nova Scotia Power**

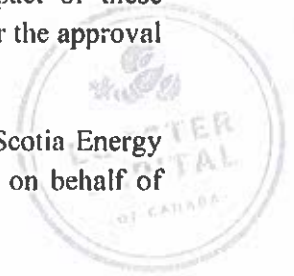
Dear Premier,

On behalf of the Municipality of Barrington, I am writing to express our concerns regarding residential power rates in Nova Scotia. While we understand that the Nova Scotia Energy Board has already approved Nova Scotia Power's recent General Rate Application (GRA) filing for 2026-2027, we feel it is still important to formally express our concerns on behalf of our residents and communities. We also wish to echo the points raised by the County of Antigonish in their recent correspondence.

Specifically, we are concerned that, under the approved rate increases, residential customers continue to see higher percentage increases than some other customer classes. The effect is therefore that households may bear a larger share of the operating and capital costs of Nova Scotia Power relative to other classes. This raises important questions about fairness and equity for residents.

Additionally, the cybersecurity incident at NSP last year, which exposed the sensitive information of hundreds of thousands of customers, has shaken public trust in the corporation. Coupled with the billing difficulties that followed, many residents continue to feel the impact of these disruptions. For these reasons, our council feels it is critical to speak out, even after the approval of the rate increases.

In light of these concerns, we respectfully ask that, while recognizing the Nova Scotia Energy Board operates independently from government, you advocate for the following on behalf of residents:



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2447 Highway 3, P.O. Box 100, Barrington, Nova Scotia B0W 1E0

- Consideration of a five-year freeze on residential power rates to help protect Nova Scotians from further financial strain.
- A thorough exploration of returning Nova Scotia Power to public ownership, ensuring that residents' interests are prioritized over corporate profits.

We recognize that operating and capital costs have risen due to inflation, tariffs, and other factors. Nevertheless, we urge decision-makers to explore ways to fairly distribute costs across customer classes so that residential customers are not disproportionately affected.

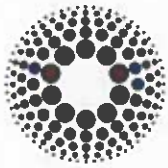
Our communities rely on affordable, reliable, and fair energy, and we feel it is critical for government and regulatory bodies to take steps to protect residents.

Yours sincerely,

Shaun Hatfield
Warden

cc: Nova Scotia Energy Board
Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM)
All Municipal Units in Nova Scotia





Spring 2026 Legislative Sitting Summary

The 2026 Spring legislative sitting adjourned on Thursday, April 9, 2026. NSFM would like to raise awareness among members of the significant pieces of legislation that were announced in the provincial legislature during this sitting. Members are invited to send any questions or concerns that they have to their Regional Representative on the Board of Directors or NSFM staff.

Of the 10 Government Bills and 2 Private and Local Bills that became law, this update will cover the following pieces of legislation:

- [Bill 186: Support for Fire Protection Services Act](#) - Carried and given Royal Assent
- [Bill 193: Powering the Economy Act](#) - Carried and given Royal Assent
- [Bill 198: Financial Measures Act](#) - Carried and given Royal Assent
- [Bill 212: An Act Respecting Administrative Measures for Housing](#) - Carried and given Royal Assent

Bill 186: Support for Fire Protection Services Act

- The Minister of Emergency Management now has oversight for municipal fire services and establishing provincewide standards for fire services, firefighter training and certification, personal protective equipment, transition support for fire services that want to transition to a municipal model, and resources for fire protection service planning, delivery and reporting.
- Bill 186 enables the creation of the Office of the Fire Commissioner. This office will provide provincial oversight, coordination, and support to municipalities and fire service providers.
- All regulated fire protection service training programs will have to be accredited.
- Bill 186 requires municipalities to, at times and in the manner required by regulations:
 - Conduct a fire protection service review to determine its fire protection service level;
 - Ensure that local firefighter competencies, training, and personal protective equipment meet the service standard required by the fire protection service review; and,
 - Participate in a common records management system.

Bill 193: Powering the Economy Act

- Bill 193 creates the new *Offshore Renewable Energy Revenue Act*, which will provide a revenue framework for offshore wind projects.
- The legislation includes a requirement for offshore wind developers to pay the Province \$7,000 per megawatt of their turbines' capacity each year for the first 10 years of operation. An additional levy and bid fees will be established through regulations.



- The *Petroleum Resources Act* will be repealed and replaced with new legislation that addresses emerging natural resource opportunities, including onshore oil and gas, geothermal, natural hydrogen, helium, and carbon storage projects.
- The Independent Energy System Operator (IESO Nova Scotia) is now responsible for procuring clean energy for the grid, and they are able to set new renewable energy targets.

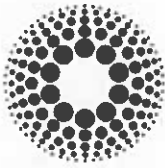
Bill 198: Financial Measures Act

- The Property Valuation Services Corporation is now allowed to deliver property notices electronically (if the owner agrees), and municipal clerks are no longer notified about hearings for assessment appeals under s.70 of the *Assessment Act*.
- Amendments to the *Forests Act* require the owners of forest properties that are being used in a commercial carbon sequestration to file a report with the Minister of Natural Resources. The Minister of Natural Resources may share this report with the municipality or municipalities in which the forest property is located.
- In an effort to expedite the construction of a new casino in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, the *Gaming Control Act* is amended to clarify that the Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation is exempt from both property tax and municipal deed transfer tax.
 - The amendments includes a new term "municipal instrument" ("a municipal planning strategy, a land-use by-law, a development agreement, a policy, a subdivision by-law or any other regulation, by-law or ordinance made by a municipality relating to the development, establishment, siting or construction of a casino or a proposed casino"), and exempts casinos from such instruments in addition to exemptions from Part VIII and IX (Subdivisions) of the *Municipal Government Act* and *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*.
 - The amendments clarify that where a person has entered into an agreement with the Corporation to develop, undertake, construct or operate a casino or a proposed casino, the lands on which the casino is to be situated may be subdivided without the approval of a municipality.
- Proposed amendments to the *Community Easements Act* and the *Conservation Easements Act* which would have created a pathway for landowners to overturn easements via an application to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia were removed from Bill 198.

Bill 212: An Act Respecting Administrative Measures for Housing

Additional Council and Chief Administrative Officer Relationship Clarity

- Bill 212 provides councils with the following abilities with respect to Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) oversight:
 - The ability to delegate oversight and performance management of a municipality's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to a council committee;
 - The ability to exclude or limit participation of their CAO in discussions and training sessions related to their performance;
 - The ability to manage CAO participation on external boards and committees in an effort to align CAO priorities with council expectations; and,



- The ability to intervene in the CAO's delegation of authority if the CAO is absent for more than 30 days.

Mandatory Orientation Training for Newly Elected Councillors

- Bill 212 introduces a requirement for municipalities to provide orientation training (in accordance with incoming regulations) to "newly elected councillors", which is defined in Bill 212 as "a councillor who has been elected to a council and was not a member of that council immediately before that election.
- The Minister of Municipal Affairs has the authority to make regulations respecting the content, format, and timing of the training, as well as prescribing who will be responsible for delivering the training.
- Please note that these amendments will come into force on such a day Governor of Council orders and declares by proclamation.

Ministerial Authority: Improved Infrastructure Coordination in HRM

- Bill 212 will provide the Minister of Housing with the ability to order HRM, or a utility owned by HRM, to:
 - Build, change, reconfigure, or remove water, wastewater, stormwater, or other municipal infrastructure within HRM for the purpose of accelerating and increasing the supply of housing;
 - Apply for infrastructure funding from federal or other available sources for the purpose of accelerating and increasing the supply of housing; and,
 - Do anything necessary or desirable in the interest of safe, efficient, and affordable development of housing-enabling infrastructure.
- The Minister may require HRM or a utility to comply with an order made under this Section within a reasonable time specified in the order.
- The cost of any work undertaken shall be apportioned between HRM or a utility and the Crown in right of the Province in the manner agreed upon by them.
 - If no agreement is reached within a reasonable amount of time, the Minister may determine the apportionment of the cost of any work.
- Where the Minister orders work under this authority, and HRM or a utility does not comply within the time specified in the order, the Minister, or any person acting by or under the Minister's authority, may build, change, reconfigure or remove the infrastructure in such manner as the Minister deems expedient.
 - The cost of any work completed is a debt owed by HRM or a utility to the Crown in right of the Province and may be recovered in any court of competent jurisdiction at the discretion of the Minister.
 - However, HRM or a utility does not incur any costs or debt for any work undertaken under this order within the first 12 months of this section of the Act coming into force.
- Please note that these amendments will come into force on such a day Governor of Council orders and declares by proclamation.

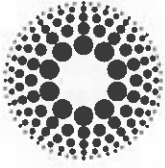
Ministerial Authority: HRM's Urban Service Area Boundary



- Bill 212 will provide the Minister of Municipal Affairs with the ability to, by order, amend HRM's planning documents to extend or alter the urban service area for the purpose of extending growth-enabling infrastructure.
- The Minister may also request any information from HRM, or from any utility owned by HRM, that the Minister considers relevant to growth-enabling infrastructure.
- This ministerial authority will expire on a date prescribed by regulations, or, where no date is prescribed, on November 25, 2028.

Extension of the Executive Panel on Housing

- The Executive Panel on Housing in the Halifax Regional Municipality will be expanded by two years (2028).



2026/2027 Provincial Budget Update

General Overview

- The Government of Nova Scotia is forecasting a deficit of \$1.24 Billion (after contingency) for the 2026/27 fiscal year.
- The 2026/27 Budget includes projected revenues of \$17.3 Billion (an increase of approximately 4.5% from 2025/26) and expenses of \$18.9 Billion (an increase of approximately 7.7% compared to 2025/26).
- In response to global economic uncertainty and other domestic factors, such as slowing population growth, the Government of Nova Scotia is projecting four years of budget deficits that are expected to decline annually.
 - The Government of Nova Scotia projects that the budgetary deficit will be \$759.5 Million by the 2029/30 fiscal year.
- The Government of Nova Scotia plans to reduce the civil service by 5% in 2026/27, with additional annual cuts of 3% over the next four years to diminish government spending.
 - The nature of these cuts will target staff involved in management and administration rather than front-line services (i.e. teachers, healthcare workers, etc.).

Analysis from Departmental Estimates

Cyber Security and Digital Solutions

- Investments of \$263M for Cyber Security and Technology (specifically \$17.3M for Cyber Security and Enterprise Risk) will help support municipalities modernize operations and improve preparedness for cyber-attacks.

Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage

- A new funding formula for libraries that includes increased funds has not been put forward for a second budget since the Library Funding Review Committee completed their work.
- Cuts to tourism staff may impact municipalities that rely on tourism for their local economies.

Education and Early Childhood Development

- An increased level on investment for the School Food program has been identified (up to \$100.4M in 26/27, compared to \$64.5M last year).

Energy

- Significant cuts have been made to Clean Energy (\$8.1M in 26/27, down from \$36.9M last year), though it is possible that efforts will be made with the Powering the Economy Act to make up for budget cuts to Clean Energy.

Environment and Climate Change

- Significant cuts have been made to Environment and Climate Change, particularly in the areas of Sustainability and Applied Science, Climate Change Fund, and Grants and Contributions.

Emergency Management

- Emergency Management maintains a similar budget to last year.
- \$3M has been announced to improve fire services.



- \$33.4M has been announced to expand the province's trunked mobile radio network and for year 3 of the Cellular for Nova Scotia program, a multi-year commitment to expand access to cellular service across Nova Scotia.
- Disaster Recovery Assistance has been budgeted at \$0.62 in 26/27, down from \$2.3M last year. Investment in Regional Emergency Operation Centres (REOCs) has also declined slightly.

Fisheries

- The Department announced increased levels of investment in marketing (\$3.2M in 26/27, up from \$0.9M last year).

Growth and Development

- Significant investment in housing development continues, with a focus on Affordable and Community housing (\$84.3M in 26/27, up from \$47.4M last year).

Justice

- This year's Justice budget increases the budget for provincial functions (Administration, Research and Planning, Enforcement and Compliance, Provincial Police Service), while investment in municipal policing remains flat or is declining.
- Community Safety is budgeted at \$0.91M in 26/27, down from \$2.5M last year.
- \$2.6M has been announced to increase public safety and enhance provincial policing with a single records system for all police.

Labour, Skills, and Immigration

- This department will assume the administration of the Nova Scotia Community College as part of their portfolio.

Municipal Affairs

- As revealed in our communications earlier, the Flood Risk Infrastructure Investment Program (FRIIP), Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP), Municipal Innovation Program (MIP), and Growth & Renewal for Infrastructure Development (GRID) will end in 26/27.
- Roughly \$0.8M in discretionary funding for special projects will also be removed in 26/27.

Restoration of Grant and Program Funding

- On March 10, 2026, Premier Tim Houston announced that \$53.6M in grants and funding to support people with disabilities, seniors, and education initiatives have been reinstated.
- \$33M in fund reductions impacting programming for seniors have been restored for 2026/27, which includes:
 - \$16M for the Meal Delivery Program.
 - \$10M for operating grants for long-term care and disability support facilities, as well as home care agencies.
 - \$133,000 for the Age Friendly Community Program, resulting in a total program budget of \$266,000 in 2026/27.
- \$16.4M in programming to support youth and people with disabilities have been restored for 2026/27, which includes:
 - \$3.5M for the Youth Day Program Pilot.
 - \$3.3M in operating grants for disability support facilities.
 - \$2.9M for community inclusion and day programming.



- \$1.6M to cover dental costs and bus passes for individuals with disabilities.
- \$1.4M for the delivery of disability-based grants.
- \$2.2M in funding to support African Nova Scotia and Indigenous scholarships and student programs have been restored for 2026/27.
- \$370,000 in resources for the African Nova Scotian community have been restored for 2026/27.
- \$1.24M in fund reductions impacting community transportation programming have been restored for 2026/27, which includes.
 - \$827,000 for the Community Transportation Assistance Program, resulting in a total program budget of \$1.65M in 2026/27.
 - \$190,000 for the Public Transit Assistance Program, resulting in a total program budget of \$380,000 in 2026/27.