

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance Committee

Held in Council Chamber, 10 Allée Champlain Drive, Cookville, NS
Tuesday, March 5, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

Attendance

Councillor Martin Bell, District 2, Vice Chair
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Deputy Mayor Wendy Oickle, District 3
Councillor Pam Hubley, District 4
Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5
Councillor Sandra Statton, District 6 (via Teams)
Councillor Michelle Greek, District 7
Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8
Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9
Councillor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10

Regrets

Councillor Leitha Haysom, District 1, Chair

Staff

Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO
Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance
April Whynot-Lohnes, Municipal Clerk
Joanne Powers, Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order

1.1 Councillor Bell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and began by acknowledging that the meeting was held in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

2. Announcements/Acknowledgements/Recognition

2.1 Proclamation – International Women's Day

Mayor Bolivar-Getson proclaimed March 8, 2024, as International Women's Day in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.

Councillor Bell acknowledged the passing of Allen Sullivan, a resident of Pleasantville. He was a MODL volunteer of the year recipient and after his retirement, he continued to volunteer 40 hours per week. He volunteered for numerous organizations throughout MODL, the Town of Bridgewater and neighbouring towns.

3. Public Input

Brian Limoyo and Amanda Rhodenizer, both of Bridgewater, spoke regarding the request for MODL Council to make a motion for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

4. Changes/Approval of Agenda (as circulated)

An item was added to the In Camera agenda – 12.2 Potential Litigation under Section 22(2)(f) of the MGA.

Moved by Councillor Veinotte, seconded by Mayor Bolivar-Getson that the Agenda be approved as amended. Carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes – February 6, 2024

Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Deputy Mayor Oickle that the Minutes of the February 6, 2024, Finance Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

6. Business Arising from Minutes – Nil

7. Presentations/Scheduled Times

7.1 South Shore Cease Fire Now

Ivan Beck and Bill Rodger from Bridgewater presented a letter of support for an immediate ceasefire (included in the agenda package). Their ask included writing to Premier Tim Houston in support of a recent petition submitted to MLA Becky Druhan, to call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire. Also to send a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and MP Rick Perkins to call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, reinstatement of funding to UNRWA, and accelerate measures to get Canadians out of besieged Gaza Strip.

In addition, they also called on MODL Mayor and Council to match the \$10,000 donation made previously to the Red Cross Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal, and to donate to the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

Ivan Beck and Bill Rodger left the meeting at 9:34 a.m.

7.2 Food Vibes – A New Approach to Volunteerism & Collaboration in the Riverport Area

Marc Langlois presented virtually the presentation entitled, “Food Vibes – A New Approach to Volunteerism & Collaboration in the Riverport Area” (included in the agenda package). The presentation included the following topics:

- Your Presenter
- Create the Conditions that Engage

- A Backbone Organization
- Our Difference as a Backbone – the Puzzle Pieces
- Outcomes, Last 20 Month
- Our Request of MODL
- Other Investors
- Some of the 2024 Goals
- Return (Impact) on Investment

Mr. Langlois explained that the work that he and a number of volunteers from the area are doing in the Riverport area, is an experiment and he reviewed some of the things they have accomplished over the past 20 months.

The ask to MODL was to fund a volunteer support manager, and a partnership and evaluation manager. Mr. Langlois was directed to look into the available MODL recreation grants.

Mr. Langlois left the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

8. Consideration of Correspondence - Nil

9. Recommendations from Council – Nil

10. Staff Reports

10.1 Recreation Department

10.1.1 Sport Fund EDIA Grant Approval

Tissy Bolivar, Program Coordinator, reviewed the presentation entitled, “Sport Fund EDIA Grant Approval” (included in the agenda package).

Ms. Bolivar advised that a grant was received from Sport Nova Scotia, called the Sport Fund Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA) Funding, to purchase 6 wheelchairs to use for parasport programming as well as an enclosed trailer to transport the equipment. MODL’s contribution was \$1,500 which was within the operational budget for program equipment.

Council members were happy to see that accessible sport is now available within MODL and suggested the municipal logo and accessible messaging be added to the enclosed trailer as a means of promotion.

The meeting recessed at 10:15 a.m. and resumed at 10:29 a.m.

11. Added Items - Nil

12. In Camera

At 10:29 a.m., it was moved by Deputy Mayor Oickle, seconded by Mayor Bolivar-Getson that Municipal Council go In Camera to discuss the following items:

12.1 Contract Negotiations re Osprey Village Update under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA

12.2 Potential Litigation MGA Section 22(2)(f)

Carried unanimously.

Municipal Council In Camera in session.

At 11:16 a.m. it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Hubley that Municipal Council come out of In Camera and return to open session. Carried unanimously.

Municipal Council in session.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Presented to the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (MODL)
Presented by South Shore Ceasefire Now
Tuesday, March 5, 2023 @ 9:00 am
10 Allée Champlain Drive, Cookville, Nova Scotia B4V 9E4

INTRODUCTION

Hello and good morning. We would like to first acknowledge that we are meeting in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. Peace and Friendship Treaties signed between the Mi'kmaq and the Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) People and the British Crown did not surrender lands or resources but recognized hunting, fishing, and trading rights inherent to the sovereign Indigenous nations. It is this commitment to peace and respectful relations that bring us here today. We are all treaty people.

After we introduce ourselves, we will provide an update on the situation in Palestine, outline why/how this is connected to the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (MODL), followed by our asks of you. As you have just heard, this is an issue that has deeply impacted us and our neighbours.

My name is Ivan: I am here today because the overlapping parallels between the atrocities in Palestine and our own settler-colonial history on Turtle Island are many and it is these global connections that fill me with confidence that we all have a role to play in ending the violence. I am a resident of Bridgewater, a survivor of domestic violence, and a trans academic with Ukrainian ancestry deeply invested in unlearning my own ingrained patterns of white supremacy and colonial ways of thinking because I'm convinced our wellbeing and even our lives depend on it.

My name is Bill Rodger: I was motivated to advocate for a ceasefire in Gaza and for the liberation of the Palestinian people largely because I am a parent. Too many children have been killed and are continuing to be killed in this conflict, and I don't believe our government is doing enough to stop it.

I live in Bridgewater, but I work almost exclusively in MODL as a residential carpenter. My activism experience began two years ago when I fought Bridgewater Public Health's pause on routine infant inoculations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Following this, I was privileged to play a role in Second Story Women's Centre's transition to its current Board of Directors. Currently, I am volunteering on the Desbrisay Museum Commission and am an organizer with South Shore Ceasefire Now.

WHO WE REPRESENT

South Shore Ceasefire Now (SSCN), is a newly formed community organization - a grass-roots coalition of parents, workers, and small business owners. All of us are volunteers, and we are working very hard to do what we believe is right for humanity and for our community.

From the start, SSCN has denounced hate of all kinds. We explicitly denounce antisemitism and islamophobia and our calls for an end to the violence include that which has murdered Palestinian and Israeli civilians. Our call for an end to violence therefore includes what occurred on October 7 along with the violence that preceded and

has come after on all sides. We concur with the UN that a permanent and immediate ceasefire is the way to end the violence and work towards peace¹.

At SSCN we are driven by our shared humanity; and the desire to end all pain and death to civilians, most importantly, children. This empathetic response has fueled the organization of public gatherings such as rallies, vigils, and open mics.

We are extremely proud to say that our highest rally turnout was just this past Saturday, where our Emergency One Hour Rally in Lunenburg drew 170 people. Our support among MODL constituents is not dwindling.

In addition to this strong in-person support we have:

- Raised over \$4,000 for the Palestinian Children's Relief Fund,
- Local artists have designed postcards that can be mailed, free of charge, to our local MP Rick Perkins; asking for his support of a ceasefire,
- Local businesses have offered their services to support events, host postcards, and act as signing stations for our recent petition,
- This petition, (which has been included in our presentation summary package), collected 245 signatures, and was recently delivered to MLA Becky Druhan. In short, it calls "upon the Premier of Nova Scotia to call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza."

Local support and solidarity has been strong and consistent. But there is one past action that is particularly relevant today: On December 11, 2023, SSCN presented to the Town of Bridgewater asking them to voice their support for a ceasefire.

Council followed up on January 15, 2024 when Mayor David Mitchell presented a motion stating that they "hope that peace, a lasting cessation of fighting, along with the delivery of aid to the region materializes quickly." This motion passed unanimously.

Today we continue to respond to the needs of our community; and with the 245 local signatories to our petition, over 170 subscribers to our mailing list, our 640 Instagram followers, and those generous folks who have donated to our cause, we feel confident that we represent the perspective of a sizable portion of MODL constituents.

UPDATE ON SITUATION IN PALESTINE

In 1948, over 750,000 Palestinians were forcibly expelled from their homes by Zionist Militias, taking refuge in camps in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and also what is now referred to as the West Bank and the Gaza Strip².

Today is day 151, marking 5 months, of the genocide in Gaza, home to 2.3 million people, one third of whom are forcibly expelled refugees from their own land.

Currently, the official death toll of Palestinian civilians in Gaza has surpassed 30,000, with another 8,000 people missing/unaccounted for, nearly half of which are children. These deaths do not include the over 342 Palestinians

¹ Al Jazeera. (March 4, 2024). UN says Gaza sexual violence does not 'legitimise' more violence.
<https://aje.io/m9v6oa?update=2749156>

² Al Jazeera (May 15, 2023). The Nakba: Five Palestinian Towns Massacred 75 years ago.
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/5/15/the-nakba-five-palestinian-towns-massacred-75-years-ago>

killed in “attacks by Israeli forces and settlers” in the illegally occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem³ or the more than 5000 Palestinians abducted into Israeli prisons without a charge, let alone a trial⁴.

On January 28, 2024, in response to allegations that 12 UNRWA⁵ workers were involved in the October 7 attacks, 16 major UNRWA donors, including Canada, cut their funding⁶. While Israel has yet to provide evidence in support of these allegations⁷, Canada has not reinstated its financial support, leaving millions dying from hunger trapped in an open air prison. Gaza is also suffering from shortages of medicine and other basic supplies and on February 23, 2024, Doctors Without Borders reported that “there is no health system to speak of left in Gaza.”⁸

Currently, 1.5 million Palestinians have been displaced from the North of Gaza and are seeking refuge in Rafah; they are without sufficient amounts of food, water, fuel, medicine, and housing. They are also facing an imminent Israeli ground offensive, with nowhere else to go.⁹ Further escalation by Israel in this densely populated area would be absolutely catastrophic, and world leaders including Canada have urged Israel to call off the ground invasion of Rafah.¹⁰

With the International Court of Justice (ICJ) recently finding it plausible that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza,¹¹ we find it unconscionable that Canada continues to supply arms and military support for this aggression. Furthermore, we are shocked to see Canada withdraw financial support for UNRWA at a time when the ICJ’s provisional measures specifically call for countries to increase their aid.

It is critical that residents of the Nova Scotia who are privileged to live without fear of war or genocide, who have food, water, housing, healthcare, education, and democratic governance pull together and act now!

CONNECTION TO MODL

We want to take a moment to lean into a topic that can stir up different, often challenging emotions for many people; race, racism, and how MODL’s commitments to Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), anti-discrimination, and anti-racism are connected to the ongoing violence in Palestine, a need for local action, and our asks of you today. Responding to local realities of global violence is within everyone’s jurisdiction.

³ Anadolu Ajansi. (Jan 11 2024). Palestinian death toll from Israeli attacks in occupied West Bank since Oct. 7 rises to 342 (<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/palestinian-death-toll-from-israeli-attacks-in-occupied-west-bank-since-oct-7-rises-to-342/3105605#>)

⁴ Al Jazeera, (Feb 18 2024). ‘Systematic torture’: To be Palestinian in an Israeli prison. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/2/18/systematic-torture-to-be-palestinian-in-an-israeli-prison>

⁵ UNRWA: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

⁶ Al Jazeera, (Jan 28, 2024). Which countries have cut funding to UNRWA, and why? <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/1/28/which-countries-have-cut-funding-to-unrwa-and-why>

⁷ The Guardian, (March 1 2024). Israel yet to provide evidence to back UNRWA 7 October attack claims – UN. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/mar/01/unrwa-funding-pause-employees-october-7-hamas-attack-claims-no-evidence-un>

⁸ The Guardian, (Feb 23, 2024). Middle East Crisis: Netanyahu presents first official post-Gaza war plan; MSF says ‘there is no health system left in Gaza’. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2024/feb/23/middle-east-crisis-live-israel-gaza-ceasefire-talks-rafah-latest-news-updates>

⁹ Al Jazeera (Feb 24 2024). Palestinians cling to life in Rafah as Israel threatens Gaza’s last refuge. <https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2024/2/24/palestinians-cling-to-life-in-rafah-as-israel-threatens-gazas-last-refuge#:~:text=In%20the%20narrow%20crevices%20between,his%20size%20full%20of%20water.>

¹⁰ Times of Israel (Feb 20 2024). 26 EU countries warn Israel against ‘catastrophic’ Rafah offensive. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/26-eu-countries-warn-israel-against-catastrophic-rafah-offensive/#:~:text=The%20statement%20echoed%20a%20declaration,long%2Dterm%20end%20to%20hostilities>

¹¹ BBC News (Jan 26 2024). ICJ says Israel must prevent genocide in Gaza. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-68108260>

In April 2023, MODL, along with 4 other Lunenburg County Municipalities agreed to move forward with a new regional anti-racism and anti-discrimination committee that, among other things, is tasked with identifying and addressing “systemic racism and inequity in government policy, legislation, programs and services”¹². A stated value held by MODL is that of Equity and Inclusion which reads that MODL will “take action to change and grow to be a truly diverse, equitable, and inclusive municipality”. Today, we are asking what does it mean to sign on to such commitments and how can we, collectively, call each other in-to this work?

MODL residents and those who subscribe to the District’s social media platforms witnessed an outpouring of support for Ukrainians when Russia invaded on February 24, 2022. Public statements made on MODL’s Facebook page (Appendix B), flying of the Ukrainian flag, and meaningful actions such as donating \$10,000.00 to Red Cross Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal demonstrate solidarity with Ukrainians and the ability for Council to respond to international issues outside of their immediate area of governance. We want to be clear, this is not a bad thing. In fact, we welcome it and are asking for this council to respond to the violence in Palestine in ways that match the ever mounting levels of damage, destruction, and obliteration of Palestinian life.

Over the past 24 months, the ongoing war in the Ukraine has taken the lives of 587 Ukrainian civilian children, an average of 5.6/week¹³. In comparison, over the past 5 months, the genocide, a term adopted from the International Court of Justice and the UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese, has taken the lives of more than 18,000 Palestinian civilian children¹⁴. Eighteen thousand. That is more than 30 times the death toll of children in the Ukraine. That is more than 3 times the total number of children recorded in the 2021 Census as currently living in MODL¹⁵ (5,785 children). More than 3 times. (see Appendix A for data table).

A cited reason for the development of the anti-racism and anti-discrimination committee was a need for this work in the face of rising incidents of ‘isms’ and ‘obias’ - anti-Indigenous and anti-Black racism, homophobia, transphobia, Islamophobia, and anti-Semitism to name a few. It was also cited that the ongoing need for EDI is demonstrated by the continued lack of people of colour in positions of leadership, including on this council, and in this room.

Today, we are asking for you, as representatives of MODL, as the ones who have signed on to taking up this work, to continue to work towards exceptional leadership, to foster kindness, respect, and meaningful action in moments of crises. In a world where words have increasingly less and less value, our actions have become the metric by which to measure integrity, commitment, and solidarity. Following through on our asks is also a demonstration of your commitment to EDI, anti-discrimination and anti-racism work. We are in this together.

¹² Town of Lunenburg. (April 11, 2023). Council Meeting Agenda. https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/23783435-town_of_lunenburg_2023-04-11_agenda-package#document/p122/a2242994

¹³ Statista (Feb 2024). Number of civilian casualties in Ukraine during Russia's invasion verified by OHCHR from February 24, 2022 to February 15, 2024. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1293492/ukraine-war-casualties/>

¹⁴ Npr. (Feb 29 2024). Gaza's death toll now exceeds 30,000. Here's why it's an incomplete count. <https://www.npr.org/2024/02/29/1234159514/gaza-death-toll-30000-palestinians-israel-hamas-war>

¹⁵ Statistics Canada. (Feb 29 2024). Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population, Profile Table. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&SearchText=Lunenburg&DGUIDlist=2021A00031206&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1&HEADERlist=0>

SPECIFIC ASKS/WHY WE ARE HERE TODAY

Municipal governments are closest to residents and the issues they experience in their daily lives. We believe that when our municipalities make strong moral stands on these pressing issues, they are amplifying the voices of residents and encouraging our national politicians to do the same.

It has become clear to us at SSCN, that our local leaders can be a more responsive and empathetic example of democratic politics than some of our federal leaders. In this regard, I would like to again acknowledge Bridgewater Town Council's positive, although limited, response to our call for a ceasefire; I would also like to acknowledge that MLA Becky Druhan opened her office doors and made a member of her staff available to receive our petition in person.

Without dwelling on the matter, I will make you aware that our local Member of Parliament Rick Perkins has refused to meet with us despite initially agreeing to do so. We do know, however, where Mr. Perkins stands on the issue, as his email responses to concerned constituents attempt to discredit peaceful activism by making unfounded claims that such work is even remotely related to acts of terror.

Receptive and friendly gestures such as those offered by Mayor Mitchell and MLA Becky Druhan make a massive impact on the morale of our community, they show that our local politicians are within reach and are willing to work with us. They also counteract harmful, uninformed rhetoric from people in positions of power that threaten to embolden existing racism in our communities.

The tangible benefits of cooperating with local politicians - while advocating for global peace - is the reason we are appealing to MODL to call for an immediate and lasting ceasefire in Gaza. We ask that this action be escalated in the following ways:

We call on Mayor Bolivar-Getson to:

- Write to Premier Tim Houston:
 - In support of our petition submitted to MLA Becky Druhan;
 - And, to call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire;
- We would also like to ask Mayor Bolivar-Getson to:
- Send a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and our MP Rick Perkins calling for:
 - An immediate and permanent ceasefire
 - The reinstatement of funding to UNRWA, and
 - Accelerated measures to get Canadians out of the besieged Gaza Strip

We call on the Mayor and Councillors to:

- Make a motion to call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza;
 - A draft version summarizing our points from today is attached for your consideration in Appendix C

- Match the donation approved by Council on March 8, 2022 of \$10,000 to the Red Cross Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal¹⁶ – we ask the same amount be approved for donation to the The Palestine Red Crescent Society;
- Condemn all acts of anti-semitism, anti-Palestinian racism, and Islamophobia in our communities, which have risen since this escalation of violence;
- And finally, commit to ensuring our community is just, safe, and welcoming for all.

On behalf of South Shore Ceasefire Now we thank you for your time, attentiveness and the space to make this appeal. We look forward to your response to our requests and will now take any questions you may have. Thank you.

¹⁶ MODL. (March 8, 2022). Minutes of a Meeting of Municipal Council.
https://www.modl.ca/index.php?option=com_docman&view=download&alias=7659-2022-03-08-council-minutes&category_slug=2022-03-08-council-meeting&Itemid=1160

Appendix A - Table 1

Table 1. Civilian Deaths by Regional Conflict

	Ukraine ¹⁷	Palestine ¹⁸
Timeline	24 months (Feb 24 2022)	5 months (Oct 7 2023)
Children	587	More than 18,000 (30 times the Ukraine death toll) (> 3 times the total 5,785 children who live in MODL) ¹⁹
Relativity	5.6 children/week	840 children/week

¹⁷ Statista (Feb 2024). Number of civilian casualties in Ukraine during Russia's invasion verified by OHCHR from February 24, 2022 to February 15, 2024. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1293492/ukraine-war-casualties/>

¹⁸ Npr. (Feb 29 2024). Gaza's death toll now exceeds 30,000. Here's why it's an incomplete count. <https://www.npr.org/2024/02/29/1234159514/gaza-death-toll-30000-palestinians-israel-amas-war>

¹⁹ Statistics Canada. (Feb 29 2024). Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population, Profile Table. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pu/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&SearchText=Lunenburg&DGUIDlist=2021A00031206&GENDERlist=1,2,3&STATISTIClist=1&HEADERlist=0>

Appendix B - MODL Facebook Screenshots

5:15



< ukraine in Municipality of the Distri...

Filters Posts You've Seen Most Recent Tagged

Like Comment Send Share

 Municipality of the District of Lunenburg ...
- MODL

Aug 24, 2022 · 🌐

MODL is flying the Ukrainian flag today for one week, in honour of Ukrainian Independence Day. This day is the main state holiday in modern Ukraine, celebrated on August 24 in commemoration of the Declaration of Independence of 1991.

👍👍 24 1 comment 3 shares

Like Comment Send Share

 Municipality of the District of Lunenburg ...
- MODL

Mar 8, 2022 · 🌐

At today's Council meeting, Council approved a donation in the amount of \$10,000 to the Red Cross Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal. MODL is also currently flying the Ukrainian flag at our Municipal Services Building.

👍👍 22 2 shares

Like Comment Send Share

End of results



Home



Video



Friends



Marketplace



Notifications



Menu

Appendix C - Notice of Motion to Call for a Ceasefire

Presented to Municipality of the District of Lunenburg on Tuesday March 5, 2024

Whereas foreign policy is the prerogative of the Federal Government; and

Whereas municipal councils are the closest to residents who have concerns about global issues that impact their local community and everyday life; and

Whereas other municipals have demonstrated a willingness, capacity, and role to speak about local and global issues affecting their residents; and

Whereas municipal councils have working relationships with representatives at the Provincial and Federal order of Government; and

Whereas the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg has spoken out and taken action in support of International crises including the direct funding of international relief agencies in the past; and

Whereas South Shore Ceasefire Now has 245 local signatories to our petition, over 170 subscribers to our mailing list, 640 Instagram followers demonstrating local and extra-local interest in the outcomes of our work; and

Whereas Palestinian civilians from Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, surrounding refugee camps, and the diaspora have called for an end to the violence; and

Whereas reputable humanitarian agencies, United Nations spokespersons, the International Court of Justice, South Africa, and other municipalities across Canada have expressed deep concern over the deaths and suffering in Palestine and called for an immediate and permanent ceasefire ; and

Whereas 220 Israeli hostages are suffering under the conditions that Gazans are enduring; and

Whereas the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg has signed on to anti-racist, anti-discrimination, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion committees and values and committed to providing exceptional leadership;

Therefore, be it resolved that:

1. The Mayor and the Council of the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg make a motion to call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza; and
2. Council approve a donation of \$10,000.00 to the Palestine Red Crescent Society that matches the donation to the Red Cross Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal approved by Council on March 8, 2022; and
3. Council condemn all acts of anti-semitism, anti-Palestinian racism, and Islamophobia in our communities, which have risen since this escalation of violence; and
4. Mayor Bolivar Getson writes to Premiere Tim Houston
 - a. In support of South Shore Ceasefire Now's petition submitted to MLA Becky Druhan; and
 - b. To call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza; and

5. Mayor Bolivar Getson writes to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Member of Parliament Rick Perkins calling for:
 - a. An immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza; and
 - b. The reinstatement of funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA); and
 - c. Accelerated measures to get Canadians out of the besieged Gaza Strip

Appendix D - Mississauga's Call for a Ceasefire

MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO:

- Relevant minutes:
 - <https://pub-mississauga.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=49795>
- Motion:
 - <https://pub-mississauga.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=49378>

Petition to the Premier of Nova Scotia

WHEREAS The Premier of Nova Scotia stated on 24 October 2023 that,
“The attack by Hamas and the continued acts of aggression against Israel - I feel very strongly that Israel has a right to defend itself. I stand with Israel in this conflict as they try to stamp out Hamas and the terrorist activity that's happening. I will stand, as will our caucus, and we'll encourage members of the House to stand with Israel and its right to defend itself. I cannot stand behind the member's call for a ceasefire. I can only stand behind Israel and its right to defend itself.”

We believe that the Premier of Nova Scotia expressing unwavering support for Israel despite its disproportionate use of force against Palestinian civilians is problematic given the mounting evidence of crimes against humanity;

WHEREAS The Honourable Gary Burrell presented a petition on 23 November 2023 calling on *“the Government of Nova Scotia to join the groundswell of voices across our province and around the world calling for a ceasefire in the Israel-Palestine conflict”*; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada called for a “sustainable ceasefire” on 12 December 2023.

WHEREAS The decision reached on 26 January 2024 by the International Court of Justice that there is plausible reason to believe Israel is committing genocide or failing to prevent genocide is evidence that the Premier of Nova Scotia must call for a ceasefire.

THEREFORE we, the undersigned residents of Lunenburg and Queens Counties, call upon the Premier of Nova Scotia to call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, that would include: the release of all hostages, allow for the flow of sufficient humanitarian aid, and permit Canadian Citizens to safely leave Gaza.

Signature	Address (or Community Name)