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Policy & Strategy Committee Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, March 18, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.

MODL Council Chambers, 10 Allée Champlain Drive Cookville NS

- 1. Call to Order**
 - 1.1. Mi'kma'ki Territorial Acknowledgement
- 2. Announcements, Acknowledgements, Recognition**
- 3. Public Input (15 Minutes)**
- 4. Changes/Approval of Agenda (as circulated)**
- 5. Approval of Minutes – Nil**
- 6. Business Arising from Minutes - Nil**
- 7. Presentations/Scheduled Times**
 - 7.1 South Shore I.C.E. Storm Para Hockey – Brian Zwicker 10:15 a.m. 1-5
- 8. Referral from Dangerous & Unsightly Committee**
 - 8.1 Amendment to MODL Policy 74 - Unsightly Premises Clean-up Assistance 6-11
Program
- 9. Staff Reports**
 - 9.1 Economic Development**
 - 9.1.1 Third Sector Enhancement, Tom Dalmazzi – Food Hub Feasibility Engagement..... 12-19
Results
 - 9.2 Administration Department**
 - 9.2.1 Lunenburg County Accessibility Plan 2025-2028..... 20-57
 - 9.2.2 Proposed Agreement for Joint Police Advisory Board..... 58-61
 - 9.3 Planning & Development**
 - 9.3.1 Annual Climate Change Impact Survey 2025..... 62-74
 - 9.4 Recreation Department**
 - 9.4.1 Major Event Grant – Canadian National Para Hockey Championship..... 75-77
 - 9.4.2 Major Event Grant – Hike Nova Scotia, Hiking Summit..... 78-80
 - 9.5 Finance Department**
 - 9.5.1 Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations MODL Policy 012 Renewals..... 81-84

9.6 Engineering & Public Works

- 9.6.1 Direction Regarding By-law 013 – Capital Cost Recovery Charges for Water 85-87
Systems - Proposed MacCulloch Road Development

10. Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters

- 10.1 FCM Sustainability Conference 2025 Update (Councillor DeLong)

11. Added Items

12. In Camera

- 12.1 Contract Negotiations re Housing under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA

13. Adjournment

Canadian National Parahockey Championship – South Shore, Nova Scotia



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Agenda

- 2025 Canadian National Para Hockey Championship
- First ever National Championship in Atlantic Canada
- Economic Impact and Benefits of the event
- Event Impact and legacy
- Grant Request
- Questions



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2025 Canadian National Para Hockey Championship

- May 14 -18
- Seven Teams across Canada
 - British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Team Atlantic
- Total athlete/staff participation should exceed 200 plus family members
- The teams are made up of both female and male players
- The National Championship is used as an opportunity for both the National Para Hockey team and Women's National hockey team to scout new players to represent Canada at international events

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First Ever Canadian National Championship held in Atlantic Canada

**This years Championship will be the first time
a national Championship has been held east
of Montreal**

- ▶ In 2016 Nova Scotia was the first team in Atlantic Canada to play at the National Championship
- ▶ In 2024 Team Atlantic (NB, NS and PEI) won the B division at the National Championship
- ▶ In 2025 Team Atlantic (NB, NS, PEI and NFLD) will attending the Championship in Bridgewater NS

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Economic Impact and benefits of the event

- ▶ **Primary benefits to the area will be the 200 athletes/ coaches and support staff spending on Hotels, Food, flights, entertainment and personal spending**
- ▶ **Plus**
 - Family members
 - Rental at the LCLC
 - Visitors from other areas of Atlantic Canada that would come to see the event
 - Promotion of the Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre
 - Promotion of the sport to continue to grow the sport
 - Participants will see the area and extend stays or come back to enjoy the area in the future

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Event Impact and Legacy

- ▶ The Canadian Championship is used as an opportunity for the National Para Hockey Team and Women's National Hockey Team to scout and recruit new players that can represent Team Canada at international events
- ▶ Team Atlantic has a member on the Women's National Hockey Team and has competed at to world Championship - Hadley Frittenburg (Bedford, NS)
- ▶ Team Canada has invited 4 members of Team Atlantic to the National training camps over the past two years.
 - Remi Ouellette (Moncton, NB)
 - Gavin Baggs (Paradise, NFLD)
 - Logan Munden (Fall River, NS)
 - Jiesheng Boutilier (Pine Grove, NS)



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2024 National Championship Images



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Event Budget

Canadian National Para Hockey Championship			
Revenue		Expenses	
Tournament Admission Fee	\$8,000	Airport Delivery	\$2,300
Donation (Michelin)	\$5,000	Advertising	\$5,710
MODL Grant	\$18,000	Medals Etc	\$5,000
Town of Bridgewater	\$18,000	Facility Rental	\$12,000
Province of NS	\$10,000	Officials	\$8,000
Sponsorship	\$5,000	EMS	\$2,500
In-Kind Donations	\$5,000	Volunteer Apparel and Food	\$3,800
Total	\$69,000	Recognition	\$4,255
		Announcers	\$2,760
		Live Stream	\$3,000
		Hospitality Room	\$3,000
		Misc	\$5,000
		Contingency/Legacy	\$11,675
		Total	\$69,000
		Net	\$0

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Grant Request

The local Para Hockey Team – South Shore I.C.E. Storm is the sponsor of this years Championship and is requesting assistance from both the Town of Bridgewater and MODL

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg – \$18,000

Town of Bridgewater – \$18,000



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*Thank
you!*

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Municipality of the District of Lunenburg Planning & Development Services

January 29, 2025

To Her Worship, Mayor McLean-Wile and Councillors
of The District of Lunenburg

Dear Mayor and Councillors:

The Dangerous & Unsightly Property Committee, in session on January 29, 2025, made the following recommendation to Municipal Council:

“that Council consider an amendment to MDL Policy 74 Unsightly Premises Clean Up Assistance Policy to increase the assistance amount to \$1500.00 and that the assistance not be limited to equipment or machinery”.

Respectfully submitted,

The Chair and Members
of the D&UPC

/sb

Attachments



Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Request for Decision

Report to: Policy & Strategy Committee
Submitted by: Graham Hopkins, Inspection Services Manager
Date: March 18, 2025
Re: Unsightly Premises Clean-up Assistance Program Policy -
Amendment

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Committee approves the amendment to Policy 074 Unsightly Premises Clean Up Assistance Program as presented in the staff report.

Motion

The Dangerous & Unsightly Property Committee, in session on January 29, 2025, made the following recommendation to Municipal Council:

“that Council consider an amendment to MODL Policy 074 Unsightly Premises Clean Up Assistance Policy to increase the assistance amount to \$1500.00 and that the assistance not be limited to equipment or machinery”.

Discussion

The Dangerous & Unsightly Property Committee requested staff review Policy MDL-74 regarding the dollar value of the clean-up as well as how the money can be used.

Policy MDL-74 was created 10 October 2017. Currently the policy provides funding for up to five hundred dollars (\$500) to be used to provide a container, trucking or other machinery, and tipping fees for clean-up.

Staff have obtained pricing from a local disposal company, the cost to have a dumpster delivered to a property in Bridgewater, hauled to the waste site and dumped, and container returned was approximately \$1300 including tax. Depending on the location of the clean-up the prices may increase, as a result staff recommend the Committee increase the available funding

up to \$1500.00. The base cost of renting a roll off container for residents to conduct their own cleanup has increased over the years, the \$500.00 allowance will no longer cover the cost of the use of a container preventing some residents from being able to clean up their property.

The Committee also would like to expand how the assistance can be provided, as the accumulation of garbage/debris is not the only reason for a property to be deemed unsightly. Recently we had a resident with a plumbing issue that resulted in an unsightly complaint. Allowing the fund to be used to correct the plumbing issue would have resolved at least part of the unsightly complaint.

Alternatives

- a) Do nothing and keep policy as written
- b) Make other recommendations of value of financial assistance.
- c) Make other recommendations for allowable uses for financial assistance.

Conclusion

Clean-up of unsightly properties can be hindered by the inability of the property owner to afford the cost of clean-up. Enhancing the Policy by increasing the maximum dollar amount and the types of work permitted will make the program more accessible to residents.

To date we are unaware of any applications made to access this funding.

The Dangerous & Unsightly Property Committee is recommending increasing the maximum amount of assistance and broadening the types of work permitted.

Report Preparation	
Department	Planning & Development
Report Prepared by	Graham Hopkins, Inspection Services Manager
Report Approved by	Jeff Merrill, Director of Planning & Development Services
Date Reviewed by C.A.O.	

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Policy Details	
Name	Unightly Premises Clean Up Assistance Program
Number	074
Legislative Authority	
Effective Date	October 17, 2017

1. The following ~~shall~~ will be the Policy of the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg as it relates to **clean up assistance of unsightly premises, including but not limited to**, regular and special collections of waste found upon premises deemed to be unsightly. For this policy, defined terms ~~shall~~ will have the same meaning as those defined within the Solid Waste Collection and Disposal By-Law.
2. An owner of a premise deemed to be unsightly may apply to the Municipality for collection of Special Waste located upon those premises pursuant to this policy.
3.
 - (1) The owner, in an application, must document to the satisfaction of the Municipality, that there is a financial need on the part of the owner(s) to qualify for Municipal assistance ~~in the collection of Special Waste~~.
 - (2) The income thresholds for financial assistance ~~shall~~ will be the thresholds set by Council in ~~the~~ **Policy 049** Property Tax Rebate Policy ~~MDL-49~~;
 - (3) For clarity, financial assistance (grant) under this policy is not limited to the owner's principal residence.
4. There must be sufficient quantity of waste upon the premises to justify a collection and the minimum amount that would qualify would be approximately that amount that exceeds the capacity of two-ton truck loads.
5. **Where the remedy of the unsightly condition can be achieved by means other than waste collection, a property owner may apply for financial assistance to repair or replace equipment; or other services as required.**
6.
 - (1) As a condition of approval **for collection of special waste**, the owner may be required to:
 - a) Agree to supply whatever labour and machinery may be required to gather up the Special Waste.

- b) Agree to meet with the Community Recycling Centre's Outreach & Communications department to discuss waste separation, construction and demolition disposal and the collectable waste programs.
 - c) Agree to have Special Waste gathered up within specified time period as set out by the Municipality at the time.
 - d) Agree not to allow Special Waste to accumulate again upon the premises so that it becomes unsightly.
7. All applications for ~~collection~~ assistance ~~of Special Waste~~ under this Policy ~~shall~~ will be presented to the Dangerous & Unightly Property Committee (the Committee) by either ~~a~~ Dangerous and Unightly Property Administrator or the local Councillor for consideration.
8. Upon review by the Committee, the degree and manner of assistance will be determined and recommended to Council.
9. Normally the value of the assistance provided will not exceed ~~Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)~~ Fifteen Hundred Dollars (\$1500.00) and may be in the form of one or more of the following:
 - a) Providing and removal of containers from the premises;
 - b) Providing a truck or other machinery;
 - c) Providing a purchase order, for all or a portion of the tipping fees, to a waste management facility.
 - d) Other means necessary to remedy the unsightly premises.
10. The owner will be responsible to have the waste gathered up from the premises and deposited into the container or truck. Sufficient waste must be removed from the premises so that it is no longer deemed to be unsightly.
11. Unless there are extraordinary circumstances, once an owner has received ~~collection~~ assistance under this Policy, then that owner ~~shall~~ will not be eligible to receive further ~~collection~~ assistance. If the premises should become unsightly again, then the owner would be subject to the normal procedures that deal with unsightly premises as set out in the Municipal Government Act.

Policy Adoption	
Date of Original Passage	October 10, 2017
Date of Notice of Intent to Amend	March 11, 2025
Date of Council Approval	
Date of Effective Date (if different from approval date)	
I certify that this Policy 074 Unightly Premise Clean-up Assistance Program was adopted by Municipal Council as indicated above.	
Signature of Municipal Clerk	Date

Version	Amendment Description	Approval Date
Original V1	Unightly Premise Clean-up Assistance Program	Oct 10, 2017
V2	Updates to value and type of assistance; re-formatted to follow accessible guidelines.	



Food Hub Feasibility

Engagement Results

Overview:

Digital Survey

- Responses:** 60 completed
- Dates active:** February 10 - March 4th
- Rationale:** To provide an opportunity to educate the public on key definitions relating to the food hub concept, and to collect perceptions of local food accessibility, the desired size and scope of a food hub in DoL.
- Target group:** General Public

Collaborator Interviews

- Total:** 57 completed
- Groups:** government, institutions, growers/producers, other food distributors and processors.
- Rationale:** To have in-depth discussions with potential contributors to or beneficiaries of a food hub concept in the District of Lunenburg (DoL) to explore pain points in the current local food supply chain. Discussions aimed to glean from interviewees their key ideas, concerns, connections, and questions relating to local food production, distribution, and access.
- Target group:** Potential collaborators

In-Person Community Engagement Session

- Date hosted:** 6:30-8:30PM, February 26th
- Location:** Best Western Bridgewater
- Attendance:** 90 community members
- Rationale:** To provide an opportunity for the general community to attend an educational presentation that defined the spectrum of food hub possibilities in DoL, and allowed for participants to provide feedback orally or in handwritten form to articulate their reactions to the subject.
- Target group:** General public



Theme Category	Key themes	Survey	In-Person	Interview
General Community Perceptions	General confusion in the community about what a food hub is and who it will benefit	X		X
	Belief that the food hub can reduce food miles, reduce imported food reliance, improve health, increase access to quality food	X	X	X
	Both enthusiasm and scepticism exist that a food hub can have long-term impacts on food affordability	X		X
	Potential for positive impact on local school food programs			X
	Enthusiasm that it could increase DOL food security	X	X	
	A food hub should also include Queens, Shelburne, Yarmouth, Digby and Annapolis Counties		X	
	Funding should be a joint stakeholder effort	X	X	X
	Hub model needs to increase access to food for the most vulnerable populations?	X	X	X
Insights from Local Food Consumers	Access to affordable food to reduce disparity. Local food is not necessarily a cheaper option	X		X
	Desire for broader access to diverse food options year-round (ethnic, vegan, gluten-free, organic, specialty foods)	X	X	
	Expressed need for food literacy and food education initiatives (awareness, gardens, programming, mentoring, budgeting, etc.)	X		
	I drive across the province every week to bring in products that I sell at my store and use in my cafe/bakery. If I didn't have to do that driving, I'd be very happy.	X	X	X



	We do not need a food hub, it will not be beneficial for local consumers, poor use of tax dollars	X		
	Do we need a local food hub or greater focus on grocery stores carrying more local food. (Break the monopoly)	X		
Insights from Local Food Producers	Belief there is limited land capacity to expand production, expressed need to protect local agricultural land, cost of land			X
	Concerns over price stability and fair returns for goods sold; producers need to get every dollar from their products			X
	Security concerns over the lack of viable, long-term, and permanent market facilities and options in the region			X
	Many producers lack ambition to grow their enterprise beyond current levels	X		X
	Desire for increased access to wholesale markets and opportunity with new buyers (institutions, restaurants, retail, food service)		X	X
	Access to customers more than just one market day per week		X	X
	Without supporting infrastructures and greater market opportunity farms will continue to scale back production		X	X
	Are there enough local producers to supply a food hub and will it benefit producers?			X
Community Food Infrastructure	The need is for small scale food processing and value adding facilities (commercial kitchens, co-packing, etc.)		X	X
	Strongly emphasized need for core local food infrastructure (storages, aggregation points, distribution, and marketing)		X	X
	Concern there will be competition conflicts with existing food businesses	X		
	Desire for systems to improve access to a greater range of local, nutritious food, including availability, quality,	X		



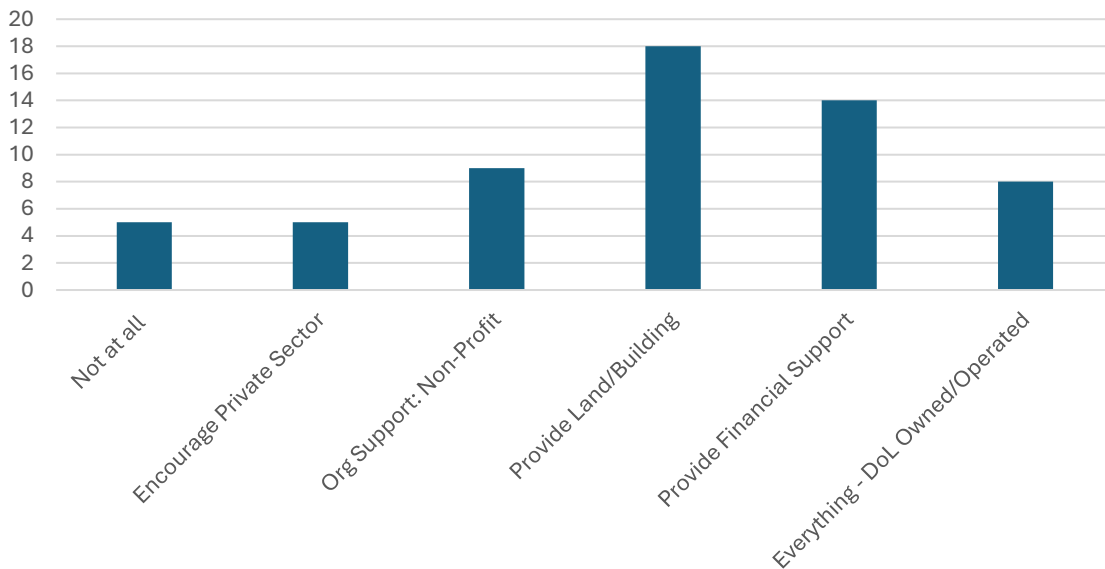
	affordability and consistency in supply of food items			
	Loss of local food networks and social capital (closure of co-ops, buyers' groups, retailers etc.)	X		
	Connections with other food hubs in the region to help secure supplies		X	X
	Government could provide building and/or land	X		
Food Hub Operations	A food hub will need to leverage technology to remain efficient, effective, profitable and transparent		X	X
	Incremental food hub growth is the preferred approach, but advanced features and services are desired long-term		X	
	Concern and skepticism over suitable food hub business structures & governance models: not-for-profit/co-op/for-profit/government-operated/social enterprise)	X	X	
	Food safety regulations and lack of certified food supporting facilities are holding producers back, making it difficult to grow our businesses	X		X
	Explore investment and equity options for community and stakeholders (E.g.: CEDIF Community Economic Development Investment funds, ACOA, private investment)		X	X
	A profitable food hub is the only way to ensure fair returns for producers, location is key, producer focused		X	X



Summary of Community Survey Results

Survey Quick Facts	
Total Completed Responses	60
Defines “local food” as coming from within Nova Scotia	83%
Experienced difficulty accessing enough nutritious food this past year	22%
Biggest perceived barriers to food access	Cost (1), Limited supply of traditional/local food sources (2), limited access to stores or markets (3)
Most difficult food categories to access	Produce (1), Meat/Poultry (2), Dairy (3)
Most desired increase of local supply/improved access	Produce (1), Meat/Poultry (T2), Dairy (T2), Organic no-spray (4)
Perceive improved food security to be ESSENTIAL	75%
Preferred Scope of a food hub in DoL	57% “Advanced” (expanded functions like advocacy, communication, education, kitchen and other community facilities)

How should DoL support a Food Hub?

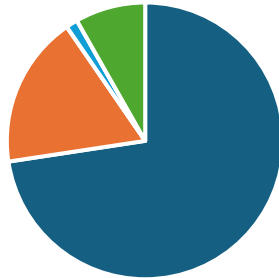




Survey - Who Responded?

Main Role (select all that apply)

- Consumer
- Farmer /Grower
- Fisher
- Producer /Processor
- Distributor
- Vendor

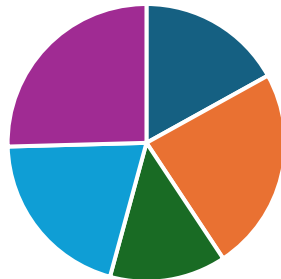


Home Community



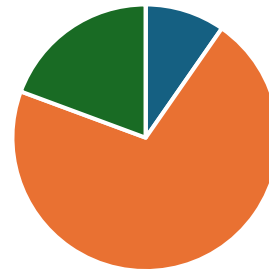
Age Range

- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+



People in Household

- 1 person
- 2-3 people
- 4-5 people
- 6 or more



Selection of Quotes:

- "Many of our youth and single-parent families can't afford food prices these days. Food security is really an income issue."
- "A food hub would help us reach more people. It would help seniors so much, and our other clients: newcomers, youth."
- "There must be a better way to connect with consumers than selling fish/seafood from the back of our truck. It takes away from fishing time and the sales are inconsistent and don't align with our supply."
- "Having to order from 10 different people, we spend a lot of time traveling to vendors. Need an online component where we can order from a website and get everything from one place."



- "Farmers should not be expected to subsidize food costs for the consumer."
- "Are there enough farmers in the region to support a viable food hub?"
- "We do not have time to go to a farmers' market multiple days a week, but we need access to customers more than just one day a week."
- "If we are to grow our businesses and be sustainable, we need markets larger than what a farmers' market can offer us." Our interest in is getting more wholesale market connections (retail, restaurants, institutions).
- "We have concern over price stability and fair returns for producers from a food hub."
- "Livestock producers have few options to process animals locally. Without local abattoirs, we cannot consistently offer fresh local meat to customers or sell to local restaurants and grocers."
- "We need commercial kitchens with storage space, where we can access our products anytime of the day as needed."
- "There is only about 30% local food in school food programs."
- "A hub could have different layers of functionality – a space for workshops and bring more value to the community."
- "We do not need a food hub, buy from local farmers and at farmers' markets, support the local suppliers we already have."
- "Very enthusiastic about anything we can do to improve food security in the DoL area."

Emerging Conclusions

- There is a general lack of understanding of food hubs, the associated opportunities, and how food systems work.
- Producers desire having greater access to customers and security in the marketplace.
- There is a need for more available supporting infrastructures to process and value-add local food products.
- A one-stop centralized food product service to aggregate, market and distribute to customers appears to be what is needed.
- Opportunities exist to expand the local food opportunity to supply schools, institutions, restaurants, social good NGOs, and retail grocers, etc.
- There are expectations that DoL will have a role in establishing a food hub, but not necessarily a LEAD role.



- The project investments should be the result of a joint effort by all stakeholder groups.
- Step-by-step growth toward the advanced level food hub would best serve food producers, buyers, and community needs.

Next Steps

- Wrap up stakeholder interviews.
- Continued analysis and assessment of our findings and engagement feedback.
- Refinement of conclusions, and final reporting. We anticipate having a draft report assembled by the end of March.

Subject: Lunenburg County Accessibility Plan 2025-2028

Prepared by: Ellen Johnson, Regional Accessibility Coordinator

Date: March 18, 2025

Submitting to: Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Recommendation

To approve the Lunenburg County Accessibility Plan 2025-2028 as recommended by the Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Alternatives

1. Request modifications to the plan and refer it back to the LCAAC for feedback.
2. Request additional information and defer the decision.
3. Deny this request.

Background

Nova Scotia's Accessibility Act was passed in 2017 and provides the framework for how the province intends to create an accessible province by 2030. Under the Act, municipalities are required to have an Accessibility Advisory Committee and to create an Accessibility Plan. The five municipalities in Lunenburg County agreed to approach these obligations as a region. They created the Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee (LCAAC) in 2019 and the Lunenburg County Accessibility Plan in 2021. It is also required under the Act to update the Accessibility Plan. The update is due on April 1, 2025.

Discussion

The Lunenburg County Accessibility Plan 2025-2028 is an update of the original 2021 accessibility plan and is the result of consultation with municipal staff, the LCAAC, and the public as well as research into promising and best practices related to accessibility and equity, diversity and inclusion.

The plan updates the previous plan content and adds specific actions that the five municipalities will address collaboratively over the next three years. It also indicates several next steps, one of which is for each municipal unit to create and make public an individual plan with actions intended to address barriers to accessibility.

This plan has been reviewed by the LCAAC. The LCAAC's role is to provide advice to the municipalities on matters related to accessibility and is made up of a minimum of 50% persons with disabilities or representatives of organizations representing persons with disabilities in Lunenburg County. At their March 5, 2025, meeting, the LCAAC recommended that the five municipalities in Lunenburg County adopt the Lunenburg County Accessibility Plan 2025-2028.

This will fulfill the obligation to produce an updated accessibility plan under the Act and guide work related to accessibility across the region.

It is relevant to note that Nova Scotia's Dismantling Racism and Hate act (2022) also requires a municipal plan, which is in progress. This Act is relevant to all people in Nova Scotia who are members of underserved and underrepresented groups, including persons with disabilities. There are opportunities to combine efforts to support achieving goals under both Acts, which is reflected in some of the regional actions in the accessibility plan.

Responsibilities to complete the actions in this plan will ultimately lie with the municipalities and be supported by the Regional Accessibility Coordinator and, in some cases where actions overlap with broader EDIA efforts, the Regional Anti-Racism and Diversity Coordinator.

Relevant Legislation

Accessibility Act (2017)

Dismantling Racism and Hate Act (2022)

Human Rights Act (2014)

Financial

The joint accessibility budget draft has been submitted to the five municipal units for review as part of the 2025-2026 fiscal year and consideration for future years will be developed collaboratively.

Communications

Consultation with the community to support development of the accessibility plan took place between September 2024 and February 2025. A survey was conducted online with 28 respondents and 11 in-person drop-in sessions took place, most of them jointly exploring EDI issues in the community. There were more than 80 people engaged during these sessions.

Communication with the public in future is indicated in the plan and will include:

- Public sharing of this plan and the resulting individual municipal accessibility actions
- An annual progress report to the public
- Ongoing public engagement sessions throughout each year to ensure consistent feedback to and from community is maintained

Attachments

- Lunenburg County Accessibility Plan 2025-2028

Lunenburg County Accessibility Plan

~~Perfection~~
progress

2025-2028

Submitted to the Province of Nova Scotia on April 1, 2025



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Acknowledgements

First, we acknowledge the Mi'kmaq, the First People of this land they've nurtured, that experienced the first and continuous inequities. As we acknowledge the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed, we recognize that as we do this work as Treaty People, we have a responsibility to intentionally, thoughtfully, and deeply engage to move forward this work of truth, reconciliation, diversity, equity and inclusion.

Often in the presence of inequity lies resilience. We acknowledge the resilient African Nova Scotian community we also serve, that has been in Nova Scotia for over 400 years. We not only honor and offer gratitude to those ancestors of African descent who came before us to this land but also continue to work to dismantle the centuries long hate and racism that has shaped present day inequities. We acknowledge that, to do this work and move forward, one must acknowledge true history, which is often unwritten. So, we continuously work towards respectfully engaging with and hearing the experiences of the descendants of these communities.

We acknowledge that we work in affirmation that accessibility is a human right. We also recognize that barriers to accessibility are greater for people who are typically marginalized in our society.

Introduction

The five municipalities in Lunenburg County are working together to improve and develop equity within our region. The five municipalities include: Municipality of Chester (including the Village of Chester), Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (including the Village of Hebbville), Town of Bridgewater, Town of Lunenburg, and Town of Mahone Bay.

Background

In 2021, we worked with the Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee to develop the Lunenburg County Accessibility Plan. The plan outlined the overarching commitments for improving accessibility in all of Lunenburg County and some of the actions we would take to reach those commitments.

Objective

We know that inclusive communities are stronger communities and we are committed to working individually and as a region to make our municipal programs, services, initiatives and facilities more accessible, equitable and inclusive.

This plan looks ahead to the next three years (April 2025-March 2028). The Accessibility Plan updates information from the first plan and outlines specific actions we will take to help us reach our long-term goals.

Provincial Legislation

Under the Accessibility Act (2017), we must update the Lunenburg County Accessibility Plan. The focus is development of a plan that will identify and address barriers to access in public policies, programs and services.

Key strategies

We commit to taking actions to encourage a culture of equity in our organizations and communities. We believe in supporting staff, Councils, and the people in our communities to not only become aware of inequities but become educated and equipped on how to remove and prevent barriers, while creating a culture of continuous learning.

Note: We recognize that language around equity work is always evolving and that people have different preferences about how to describe themselves. Although we intend to be respectful and inclusive, we know our language choices may not fit for everyone. If you have feedback about our choices, please let us know.

What We Believe

The first Lunenburg County Accessibility Plan was created using some key principles. We have continued to use and add to the list of these principles as we do our work around equity development. We plan to use them as we implement the 2025-2028 Lunenburg County Accessibility Plan.

1

Equitable Access

Working towards equitable access for everyone in our community means that every person has access to opportunities and is treated fairly. Equitable access means understanding that a person's individual circumstances will impact what barriers they might face and what we can do to remove those barriers. Creating equity doesn't mean treating everyone the same.

2

First Voice

It is essential to include first voice perspectives of people who have lived experience in our work. That means hearing first voice perspectives on our plans, the work we have already done, and our decision-making processes.

It also means working to make our processes more accessible and equitable so we hear from persons from equity deserving groups about all our work, not only related to Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA). This work is a lens to all the work, not its own separate project.

3

Flexibility

We know that things change and that we need to be flexible to respond to changes. Various Acts and Standards will come into effect and legislation may change in the coming years. Things like technology and world occurrences will also change. We understand that this plan must be flexible to make sure we can respond to these changes, take advantage of opportunities and respond to the emerging needs of community. We consider this plan to be a living document.

4

Collaboration

It is essential to continue to collaborate with other municipal units, the regional committees, organizations at the provincial level, and community partners to advance this plan and work towards a community of belonging.

5

Intersectionality

We know that people have multiple identities and that can mean they face multiple barriers to feeling belonging in our communities. These might be related to cultural or ethnic background, gender, disability, sexuality, or other identities people may have. When these identities overlap, it can magnify the impact of the barriers that person faces overall. We must consider intersectionality and align our plans with broader equity, diversity and inclusion work.

Lunenburg County Accessibility Plan

Glossary of Terms

We recognize that language around equity work is always evolving and that people have different preferences about how to describe themselves. Although we intend to be respectful and inclusive, we know our language choices may not fit for everyone. If you have feedback about our choices, please let us know.



Glossary of Terms

Accessibility Act (2017): The provincial law enacted to achieve accessibility by preventing and removing barriers for people with disabilities. The law defines the role and responsibilities of the Accessibility Directorate and the Accessibility Advisory Board, and addresses standards, compliance, and enforcement.

(nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/legc/statutes/accessibility.pdf)

Accessibility Lens: An Accessibility Lens is a tool for identifying and clarifying issues affecting persons with disabilities used by policy developers and analysts to assess and address the impact of all initiatives (policies, programs or decisions) on persons with disabilities. It is also a resource in creating policies and programs reflective of the rights and needs of persons with disabilities.

Accessibility Standard: Under the Accessibility Act (2017), standards are the laws that will be developed to increase accessibility in Nova Scotia. Standards will be developed in six areas; Built Environment, Education, Employment, Goods and Services, Public Transportation, and Information and Communications. As standards are enacted into law, they will include who needs to comply with them.

Barrier: Something that makes it harder for some people to participate. Nova Scotia's Accessibility Act defines a barrier as "anything that hinders or challenges the full and effective participation in society of persons with disabilities, including a physical barrier, an architectural barrier, an information or communications barrier, an attitudinal barrier, a technological barrier, a policy, or a practice."

Disability: As defined in Nova Scotia's Accessibility Act: "a physical, mental, intellectual, learning or sensory impairment, including an episodic disability that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders an individual's full and effective participation in society."

Diversity: Diversity is the range of human differences, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, social class, physical ability or attributes, religious or ethical values system, national origin, and political beliefs. Differences in racial and ethnic, socioeconomic, geographic, and academic/professional backgrounds. People with different opinions, backgrounds (degrees and social experience), heritage and life experience.

Equitable/equity: A commitment to fairness. Equitable access is different from equal access. Equality means everybody is treated the same; equity means everybody is treated fairly, based on their needs and abilities. Equity recognizes and values differences, removing systemic barriers and accommodating individual differences, as needed.

Equity Deserving Groups: A group of people who, because of systemic discrimination, face barriers that prevent them from having the same access to the resources and opportunities that are available to other members of society, and that are necessary for them to attain just

outcomes (Canada.ca)

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Glossary of Terms

Intersectionality: How a person’s identities, such as their gender, ethnicity, and sexuality, affect their access to opportunities and privileges.

Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee (LCAAC): The committee established by the five municipalities in Lunenburg County that is responsible for advising the municipal councils on identifying, preventing, and removing barriers to people with disabilities in municipal programs, services, initiatives, and facilities. The LCAAC is made up of one elected official from each of the five municipalities and the Village of Chester and six community members. At least half of LCAAC members must be persons with disabilities or represent an organization that represents persons with disabilities.

Lunenburg County Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination Advisory Committee (ARADAC): The committee established by the five municipalities in Lunenburg County that is responsible for advising the municipal councils on identifying, preventing, and removing barriers to people from underserved and underrepresented groups in municipal programs, services, initiatives, and facilities. The ARADAC is made up of one elected official from each of the five municipalities, six community members and two indigenous members (1 each from Acadia and Sipekne’katik First Nation). A matrix is used to have wide diversity of representation from equity deserving groups.

Meaningful: In the context of our work, the term meaningful is used to ensure the efforts being made are deemed valuable by those affected by the efforts.

Plain language: Clear, conversational communication that makes sense to the intended audience. The goal of plain language is to communicate so clearly that the intended audience can easily find what they need, understand what they find, and use the information (plainlanguagenetwork.org/).

Prescribed: The Accessibility Act and Dismantling Racism and Hate Act enables the government to use the regulations to identify which organizations must comply with certain requirements. The use of the word “prescribed” in legislation is intended to give wide authority for regulations to be made that set down a specific rule or direction.

Letter from Mayors & Warden

Dear

Signature

Evaluation

In the Lunenburg County Accessibility Plan, we have identified 17 actions we will take to increase accessibility within our community. We will track our progress on these actions and update on progress to the community every year.

We will continue to connect with the community, especially persons from equity deserving communities, to learn about their experiences and if what we are doing is making a meaningful difference. We will do this through community engagement sessions, surveys, and monitoring complaints and comments from the public.

We will also ask municipal staff, volunteers and elected officials about equity in our organizations to make sure we are increasing understanding over time.

As this work is both change focused and human-centred, we will continue to partner with organizations that specialize in data and evaluation. This makes sure we are not duplicating efforts and we engage with organizations that specialize in this area.

Disability in our Community

Based on the Canadian Survey on Disability (2022), Nova Scotia has the highest disability rate in Canada at 37.9%. The Canadian disability rate is 27%. This survey asks people to report on their disability and function. The data includes people 15 years and older and does not include people living on First Nations reserves,

Armed Forces bases, or in institutional settings such as long-term care facilities. The disability rate goes up with age. For Nova Scotians aged 65 and older, 43.2% reported having one or more disabilities. That rate decreases to 35.4% for those aged 25 to 64 years, and again to 28.8% for youth aged 15 to 24 years.

Disabilities

Of persons with disabilities in Nova Scotia, 65.7% reported having a pain related disability. This was the most common answer, followed by flexibility at 44.1% and mobility at 42.3%. Mental health related disabilities were reported by 41.0% of Nova Scotians with disabilities. The remaining types of disabilities reported include seeing (25.9%), hearing (24.4%), learning (22.5%), dexterity (20.5%), memory (17.0%), and developmental (4.7%). Many people reported having more than one type of disability.

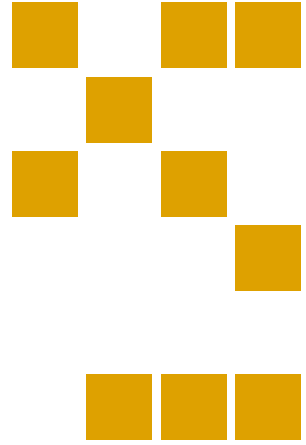
Barriers

We know that creating accessible communities means identifying, removing, and preventing barriers. Nova Scotians who reported having disabilities also reported which types of barriers were most common in their lives.

The most common answer was physical barriers (58.6%). Next, 49.4% reported experiencing barriers to communication, while 38.2% reported experiencing barriers related to attitudes from others.

Progress

Since 2021, many things have changed in the way we incorporate accessibility into our work. Using the first plan as a guide, we have made changes to policies, processes, bylaws and spaces to improve accessibility. As a region we continue to build and support processes that help ensure these improvements continue.



Regional Progress

Regional Committee

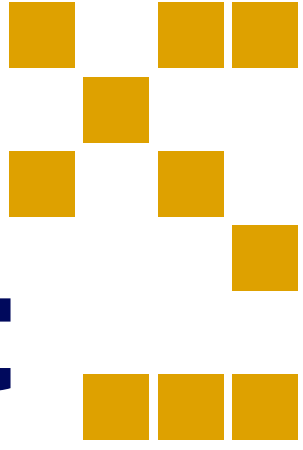
The Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee (LCAAC) continued meeting following the completion of the first plan and has provided accessibility advice to municipalities on multiple projects. They currently meet 10 times per year.

Regional Collaboration

Following the first plan, we hired a Regional Accessibility Coordinator to support accessibility work. Since August 2021, the coordinator has worked to support accessibility in each municipality and across the region. This contract position became permanent in fall 2024, showing a commitment by our region to continue to prioritize accessibility improvements. Starting in 2024, we created a group that meets regularly to focus on equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility issues. This group includes senior staff from each municipality, the Regional Accessibility Coordinator, Regional Anti-Racism and Diversity Coordinator, and additional staff who are responsible for equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility work within their own organizations. By meeting regularly, we can make sure we are sharing updates, concerns, and successes, working together where we can, and keeping issues of equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility a priority.

All five municipalities have been working to increase accessibility guided by the first accessibility plan. You can read a summary of progress from each municipality in the appendix at the end of this plan.

Public Engagement



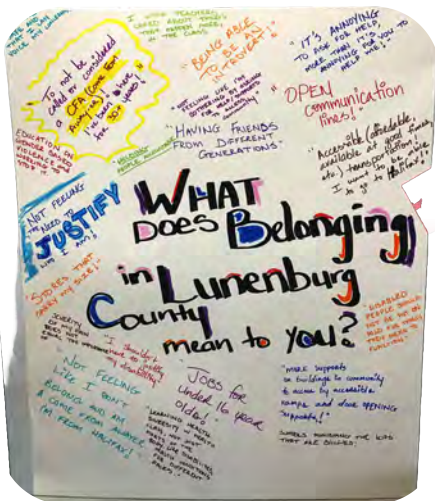
As we prepared this updated plan, we reached out to the community. We created an online survey, hosted public drop in sessions, and had individual conversations with community members and organizations concerned with disability and accessibility.

Community Engagement

Survey

We created a survey asking about the accessibility of municipal services, programs, and spaces. The survey ran for 17 days in December 2024 and received 28 responses.

Everyone who took the survey reported having a disability, Deaf or Neurodivergent, having a close relationship with disability (such as a family member, friend), or working or volunteering with an organization that supports or represents persons with disabilities. More than half (57%) reported having a disability themselves.



Community Drop-in Sessions and Events

The Regional Accessibility Coordinator participated in 11 public drop-in sessions and events between September 2024 and February 2025. Eight of these sessions were joint sessions with the Regional Anti-Racism and Diversity Coordinator. More than 70 people engaged with the coordinators at these sessions.

No one was asked about disability status, but many people disclosed that they live with one or more disabilities and shared their experiences.

At each session, people were asked to tell or write their answer to the question, "What does belonging mean in Lunenburg County?"

Key Findings

The first plan organized information into five categories that were taken from the Standard areas in the Accessibility Act. We continued to use these categories to guide our questions to community and to help organize what we heard. However, we found there was a sixth idea that people consistently mentioned. We have called this “Awareness” and it is woven through the other five categories.

Goods & Services



People told us the goods and services they receive from us do not consistently meet their accessibility needs. This includes interactions with us (for example, paying a bill, getting a permit), meetings and events, and recreation programming.

People said that they may not participate in recreation programs because the programs and facilities are too far away, they don't know if their accessibility needs will be met, don't feel safe trying something new with unfamiliar staff, or they have had experiences in the past when their accessibility needs were not met.

Although the accessibility of businesses is not a municipal responsibility, we heard that people continue to face barriers to accessing businesses in our region.

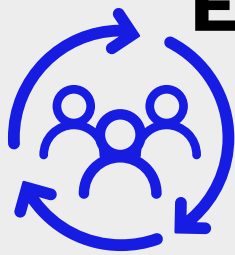
Information & Communications



Many people said they can find, access, and understand information from their municipalities. For others who faced barriers accessing information, finding what they need when visiting the website, knowing where to find information about the accessibility of municipal spaces and events, and knowing how to share a concern or complaint about accessibility were all mentioned as problems. Many people also said they cannot always access and understand emergency communications from their municipality, or that there is a lack of information shared with the public about urgent and non-urgent issues.

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Key Findings



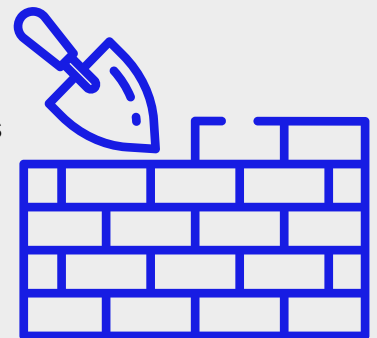
Employment

People told us that negative attitudes of employers and others toward disability is a major barrier to getting a job. Difficulty learning about job opportunities, lack of flexibility in working hours, accommodations, and other supports are also barriers to getting and keeping a job. Of those who described positive employment situations, they said it was because their employer provided flexibility or they are self-employed and can make decisions to support their own needs.

Built Environment

Although some people told us they can access municipal facilities without encountering accessibility barriers, many are still encountering barriers in these spaces. This tells us that, although we have been working to increase accessibility in our buildings, we still have work to do. In particular, access to accessible washrooms is a challenge, with more than half of people in our survey saying that these facilities sometimes or rarely meet their needs.

Several people mentioned the improvements that are happening in parks and outdoor spaces. For example, LaHave Sunset Park and Mushamush Beach Park in MODL and Wild Rose Park in MOC, which have each had significant improvements to accessibility in the past year.



continued ->

Key Findings



Transportation

People identified getting to where they need or want to go as a challenge. Public transportation is limited in Lunenburg County and does not meet the needs of many people with disabilities. People described being grateful for accessible transportation services but that they still have trouble getting everywhere they want or need to go, especially on evenings and weekends.

People told us that getting around using sidewalks and road shoulders can be challenging or impossible, especially with a mobility disability. They also said that events like snow and construction can create barriers to getting around and that we don't always manage these situations in ways that meet their accessibility needs.

Accessible parking is also a concern. People said there is not always enough accessible parking and when they are available, they are sometimes too far from destinations, making them less accessible. The design of the existing accessible parking spaces only works for some people and not others. In particular, people who use accessible vans described having difficulty finding appropriate places to park.

Feedback

Wins

People also had positive things to share about accessibility in Lunenburg County. Some examples are:

- Interactions with municipal staff who really listen and follow up when there is a problem
- Asking persons with disabilities for input and having it taken seriously
- Improvements to the physical spaces in municipal buildings (Municipality of Chester, District of Lunenburg)
- The DesBrisay Museum in Bridgewater
- Improvements to outdoor spaces accessibility
- Wheelchair basketball in Town of Lunenburg

Areas of Growth

We know we can never hear from everyone in the community but we want to make sure we are hearing from people with different experiences so we can make good decisions about accessibility. We recognize that our public engagement did not include enough diversity of experience and that this means we may be missing important information about the barriers people are facing.

We need to hear more from people and organizations with experiences related to:

- Youth with disabilities
- Persons who are blind or low vision
- Persons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- Persons with intellectual disabilities
- Persons with episodic disabilities
- Persons from the 2SLGBTQAI+ community
- Persons who are Black, Indigenous, or persons of colour

Areas of Focus



The findings from community engagement tell us that the five areas we used to organize our actions in the first Lunenburg County Accessibility Plan are still areas where people with disabilities are facing barriers and where we can focus our efforts. In addition, we have added Awareness as a sixth area of focus. This is a way to acknowledge we have a role to play in raising awareness both in our own organizations and in the broader community about accessibility and disability. This is also an area that can overlap with our regional Anti-Racism and Diversity Plan.

Each of the six areas of focus are shown here with their long term goal.

Goods & Services

Residents and visitors with disabilities have equitable access to goods and services provided by our municipalities.

Information & Communications

People with disabilities can equitably access information and communications provided by our municipalities.

Transportation

Residents and visitors with disabilities have equitable access to transportation provided by our municipalities.

Employment

Our municipalities are accessible and equitable employers and support the careers of employees with disabilities. We will seek to attract and retain a skilled workforce that reflects the diverse residents of the municipalities.

Built Environment

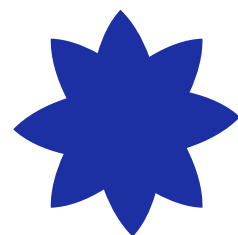
Municipal buildings and outdoor spaces within the municipalities provide meaningful and equitable access for users with disabilities.

Awareness

Municipal staff, volunteers, and elected officials consider accessibility in decision making and encourage a culture of accessibility and equity in their organizations and in the community.

Priorities

To help us reach these goals, we have 28 priorities. We have used these to help select actions we will take as a region. We will also use them to select actions we will take in our individual municipalities.



List of priorities by category :

Goods and Services	
Services	Enhance services provided by municipal units by making municipal services and events more accessible to persons with disabilities
Physical Space	The entrance areas of our municipal buildings should support positive accessible customer service experiences.
Programs	Deliver programming to people of all ages and abilities.
Meetings and Events	Improve accessibility of public meetings and events planned and delivered by a municipal unit by using an accessibility lens including location, event delivery, and participation.
Procurement	Apply an accessibility lens to all procurement processes, including creating common accessibility language, accessibility requirements, and including accessibility into the scoring process for procurement.
Policy	Apply an accessibility lens to all policy, by-laws, procedures, and practices.
Emergency Management	Municipal planning for emergencies will consider the needs of persons with disabilities. This means considering accessibility barriers in how we prepare for and respond to emergencies.

Priorities

Information and Communications

Communications Delivery	Improve communications about existing municipal programs, services, and events by delivering communications in a wide range of accessible formats.
Advertising/Marketing	Create and use a standardized symbol system when we communicate about public programs and events. This will let people know what accessibility features and barriers they can expect.
Wayfinding	Improve signage and wayfinding for municipal buildings and public facilities by having new signage and wayfinding projects designed using best practice in accessibility.

Transportation

Pedestrian Infrastructure	Make it easier for people to move around our communities while walking, cycling, and using mobility devices. This may include building and improving sidewalks, improving lighting, adding seating where people can rest, and including tactile attention indicators, curb ramps, and accessible pedestrian signals at pedestrian crossings.
Snow Removal	Ensure snow clearance of transit stops, public buildings, and municipally managed parking areas is timely and thorough.
Parking	Ensure all municipal parking areas and municipally managed parking areas have accessible parking spaces and appropriate drop-off locations for larger vehicles. Accessible parking shall meet the Accessibility Act's Built Environment Standard (when implemented).
Transit Connectivity	Where possible, support improving transit connectivity by expanding public transportation systems.
Transit Infrastructure	Improve existing transit infrastructure and ensure transit vehicles, transit stops, and signage are accessible to people with disabilities.

Priorities

Employment	
Job Opportunities	Improve opportunities for persons with disabilities to gain employment at the municipality by ensuring job postings clearly state they are open to persons with disabilities, accommodations may be available in the workplace, and/or advertise job postings across different platforms.
Hiring	Improve processes, policies, and practices to remove accessibility barriers and encourage the recruitment, selection, transition, and advancement of persons with disabilities in their employment at the municipalities. Update job standards to make sure they reflect the actual standards of the job.
Flexibility	Improve support and flexibility in the workplace by ensuring municipal staff and Council with disabilities have access to assistive technology, possible accommodations in the workplace, appropriate and supportive leave practices and return to work plans, and a flexible work environment such as the ability to work from home.
Culture of Inclusion	Build capacity among staff and senior leadership to cultivate a culture of inclusion that supports, retains, and provides opportunities for career growth to persons with disabilities.
Representation	Actively recruit persons with disabilities on all municipal committees and working groups. Review committee and Council recruitment materials to ensure they are accessible.

Priorities

Built Environment	
Buildings	Improve and maintain the accessibility of municipal buildings and outdoor spaces to comply with the Nova Scotia Building Code, and the Accessibility Act's Built Environment Standard (when implemented), aiming to exceed them when feasible.
Public Spaces	Improve access to public spaces and opportunities for recreation by improving access to parks and playgrounds, lakes and beaches, diversifying recreation equipment, and creating accessible parks, playgrounds and trails. Municipalities will comply with the Accessibility Act's Built Environment Standard (when implemented).
Washrooms	Look for opportunities to construct and maintain more accessible public washrooms and retrofit existing washrooms where possible.
Temporary Disruptions	Put processes in place to ensure accessibility is maintained during temporary disruptions including emergencies, evacuations, and special events.
Emergencies	Ensure emergency management and building evacuation plans are reviewed with accessibility in mind.
Construction Mitigation	Municipalities should ensure accessible detours are available and communicated to the public when a sidewalk is affected by construction.

Awareness	
Internally (Organizationally)	Support new and existing municipal staff and Councils to increase knowledge and understanding of accessibility, equity, human rights, disability rights, and accessibility barriers in our community by providing ongoing awareness and training programs.
Externally (In Community)	Build an understanding and awareness of disability and accessibility within our community by supporting development of programming and awareness materials and events that highlight the experiences of people with disabilities in our community.

Regional Actions

To work toward meeting the priorities in this plan, we will work together on 17 actions.

Goods and Services	
Action	Priorities
Create or adopt a guide to be used by staff that provides guidance on how to plan a meeting or event using equitable best practices, including accessibility.	Meetings and Events - Improve accessibility of public meetings and events planned and delivered by a municipal unit by using an accessibility lens including location, event delivery, and participation.
Provide support to community members who face barriers to participating in municipal meetings and events to enable engagement. We will explore how to do this within the scope of our role as municipalities.	Meetings and Events - Improve accessibility of public meetings and events planned and delivered by a municipal unit by using an accessibility lens including location, event delivery, and participation.
Develop a guide for staff and council members of municipal units on how to review and update policies, by-laws, procedures, and practices with an equitable best practices lens.	Policy– Apply an accessibility lens to all policy, by-laws, procedures, and practices.
Develop an Anti-Hate & Anti-Discrimination Policy to support regional municipal units for anti-hate and anti-discriminatory efforts until all policies can be reviewed with an equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility lens.	Policy– Apply an accessibility lens to all policy, by-laws, procedures, and practices.
Ensure that emergency information from the Lunenburg County Regional Emergency Management Organization (REMO) is communicated using Plain Language.	Emergency Management – Municipal planning for emergencies will consider the needs of persons with disabilities. This means considering accessibility barriers in how we prepare for and respond to emergencies.
Schedule regular meetings between REMO staff and the Regional Accessibility Coordinator to support considering accessibility in emergency management.	Emergency Management – Municipal planning for emergencies will consider the needs of persons with disabilities. This means considering accessibility barriers in how we prepare for and respond to emergencies.
Look for opportunities to provide emergency preparedness information to persons with disabilities through digital and written materials and presentations.	Emergency Management – Municipal planning for emergencies will consider the needs of persons with disabilities. This means considering accessibility barriers in how we prepare for and respond to emergencies.

Information and Communication

Action	Priorities
Collect and share information about the accessibility of municipal facilities and outdoor spaces using a standardized symbol system.	Advertising/Marketing – Create and use a standardized symbol system when we communicate about public programs and events. This will let people know what accessibility features and barriers they can expect.
Create a website dedicated to equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility work in Lunenburg County to create a consistent space for people to find information about accessibility in the region.	Advertising/Marketing – Create and use a standardized symbol system when we communicate about public programs and events. This will let people know what accessibility features and barriers they can expect.

Transportation

Action	Priorities
Collaborate regionally to learn more about what barriers people face related to transportation access as they move within, between, and beyond our municipalities.	Transit Connectivity – Where possible, support improving transit connectivity by expanding public transportation systems.

Employment

Action	Priorities
Explore the development of a safe space for municipal employees who belong to equity deserving groups. This could be in the form of an affinity group or employee resource group where employees can explore shared experiences, barriers, and solutions.	Culture of Inclusion – Build capacity among staff and senior leadership to cultivate a culture of inclusion that supports, retains, and provides opportunities for career growth to persons with disabilities.
Assess Municipal/Town physical spaces for opportunities to display signs of inclusion and belonging.	Culture of Inclusion – Build capacity among staff and senior leadership to cultivate a culture of inclusion that supports, retains, and provides opportunities for career growth to persons with disabilities.
Create opportunities for youth with disabilities to provide feedback to municipalities on accessibility matters.	Representation – Actively recruit persons with disabilities on all municipal committees and working groups. Review committee and Council recruitment materials to ensure they are accessible.

Awareness

Action	Priorities
<p>Review our governance processes related to equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility. This includes determining responsibilities for decision making, accountability and how we interact with other organizations doing similar work in the community.</p>	<p>Building Awareness in our organizations) – Support new and existing municipal staff and Councils to increase knowledge and understanding of accessibility, equity, human rights, disability rights, and accessibility barriers in our community by providing ongoing awareness and training programs.</p>
<p>Create an awareness plan to support our organizations to learn about and comply with the Built Environment Accessibility Standard when it is released.</p>	<p>Building Awareness in our organizations) – Support new and existing municipal staff and Councils to increase knowledge and understanding of accessibility, equity, human rights, disability rights, and accessibility barriers in our community by providing ongoing awareness and training programs.</p>
<p>Create a community awareness plan outlining how to engage the community on equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility.</p>	<p>Building Awareness in Community – Build an understanding and awareness of disability and accessibility within our community by supporting development of programming and awareness materials and events that highlight the experiences of people with disabilities in our community.</p>
<p>Encourage awareness about accessibility and disability through participating in Access Awareness Week and the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities.</p>	<p>Building Awareness in Community – Build an understanding and awareness of disability and accessibility within our community by supporting development of programming and awareness materials and events that highlight the experiences of people with disabilities in our community.</p>

Community Collaboration

As we conducted engagement and continue to do so, we have partnered with many community organizations to implement actions and have wider community impact. Some of these partners are:

PARTNERS



South Shore
Regional Centre for Education



**YOUR ORGANIZATION
HERE**

We understand as this is community work, we need to grow in collaboration. We anticipate tracking the additional partners we engage with over the years to capture larger community ownership and awareness of equity work

If you are interested in working with us, please connect with the regional coordinator: ejohnson@chester.ca.

Next Steps & Conclusion

As we have identified opportunities to begin this work, it is only the start...



- ➔ Each municipality in Lunenburg County will prepare and make public an implementation plan showing what they will do to meet the commitments in this plan.
- ➔ We will work to support addressing gaps in local data available about persons with disabilities in Lunenburg County to help us make good decisions about accessibility.
- ➔ We will continue to ask the community for feedback as part of our evaluation process.
- ➔ We will support the LCAAC, ARADAC, Regional Accessibility Coordinator and Regional Anti-Racism and Diversity Coordinator to work together to make sure we learn more about barriers faced by persons with disabilities who are also Black, Indigenous, persons of colour, and part of the 2SLGBTQAI+ community.
- ➔ We will seek opportunities to connect with people and organizations who have experience and knowledge of barriers faced by people with experiences of disability that we did not hear enough from in our public engagement (people who are blind or low vision, Deaf or Hard of Hearing, have intellectual disabilities, or experience episodic disabilities).

Appendix

Summaries

Summary of Progress: Town of Lunenburg

The Town of Lunenburg has been working to improve accessibility in a variety of ways.

Our town is a unique, historic community with a built heritage dating back more than 270 years. This, along with our location on a steep hill, means there are barriers to accessibility in our built environment. We have been working hard to identify, prevent and remove barriers where it is possible. Examples of some of our efforts include:

- Applying an accessibility lens to our updated Heritage Conservation Policy and Bylaw
- Working with the business community to support accessibility improvements
- Working with the Province of Nova Scotia to support the development of education materials about new accessibility requirements for restaurants.
- Incorporating accessibility reviews into key community development and engineering projects
- Including tactile attention indicators and curb ramps in new and redesigned sidewalks and crosswalks
- Completing accessibility audits of the arena and community centre
- Adding a ramp to the arena entrance
- Adopting an accessible housing unit incentive policy

We also took steps to make parking more accessible. We incorporated accessibility into our parking and traffic study in 2024. The study mapped all existing accessible parking spaces and gave recommendations on how to improve parking and access. New designated accessible parking spaces have been placed on Bluenose Drive and meet a higher standard of accessible design than we have used in the past. We also hired a full-time bylaw enforcement officer, who monitors and enforces accessible parking use, making it easier for people who need accessible parking to find it.

To make sure more people can access and participate in our council meetings, committee meetings, and public engagement, we have made several improvements. Some examples include:

- Adding an accommodation request process to the planning and public input policy
- Hosting our first focus group specifically to hear from persons with disabilities about a major project
- Recording and livestreaming all council, committee and working group meetings so they can be accessed in different ways

We know there are challenges to increasing accessibility in our historic town and are committed to taking steps to ensure that all residents and visitors can access and enjoy our community.

Summary of Progress: Municipality of Chester

The Municipality of Chester made a commitment to improving accessibility in 2018. Since then, we have worked on how we can translate that commitment into action. We have paid particular attention to our public spaces, our municipal buildings, and delivery of services.

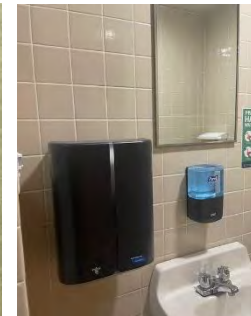
Facilities and public spaces

In 2022, we completed an accessibility audit of our municipal buildings, where the public comes to attend meetings, pay taxes, apply for permits, and access other services. As expected, the audit showed that we have a lot of work to do. We used (and continue to use) the recommendations from the report to plan and implement improvements. Some examples of our improvements include:

- Added accessible signage and automatic soap and paper towel dispensers to washrooms.
- Repaved an outdoor pathway to improve the surface quality.
- Improved signage for accessible parking spaces.

We are also making efforts to increase the accessibility of the physical environment of trails and outdoor spaces and to share information about accessibility of these spaces so people can decide for themselves if they want to visit. Some examples include:

- Reviewed wayfinding and information signage using an accessibility lens.
- Adopted consistent, high colour contrast and intuitive pictograms to communicate information about parks and trails such as difficulty level.
- Incorporated information about a trail's level of difficulty in the communication on signs, websites, etc. so people can make decisions about where to go.
- Purchased trail rider adaptive equipment to facilitate access to trails for persons with disabilities.
- Upgraded Wild Rose Park to include universal washrooms, adult change table, and improved walking paths with additional improvements to come.



Communicating

We identified large gaps in the way that we share information and invite feedback. Recognizing that we still have quite a bit of work to do (as outlined in our Action Plan), these are some examples of what we have put in place so far:

- Upgraded Council Chambers technology to improve audio and visual quality for in-person and virtual meetings, including an assistive listening system and arranging equipment to provide an optimal location for ASL interpreters when needed.
- Added speech transfer systems/hearing loops to reception desks and our two meeting rooms.
- Livestream and record council meetings so people can view remotely or at a later date.
- Use more accessible online platforms when we do community engagement.
- Had a number of staff participate in plain language training.
- Supported three staff to complete Presentation Skills training which included an accessibility component.
- Apply Braille to 20% of business cards printed.

Governance

In terms of governance, we continue to create avenues and support for services that provide accessible options. Leading up to 2025, we have already implemented some actions, such as:

- Support for Chester Community Wheels through an annual financial contribution.
- Developed an Outdoor Dining By-Law using an accessibility lens.
- Reviewed our Village of Chester Land Use By-Law and Secondary Planning Strategy with an accessibility lens. After approval, we have made a commitment to create the lengthy document as an accessible pdf.
- Added medical, dental, and life insurance benefits for Councillors and regional employees, which removes some barriers for people and encourages retention.
- Created a draft policy to minimize scents in the workplace and will implement a plan to educate employees, Councillors, and the public.
- Revised our Human Resources Policy to include accessibility language and provisions.
- Improved the municipal website to meet the public's needs as well as applied accessibility practices to social media posts, such as contrast, language, and alt text, etc.

Summary of Progress: Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Since 2020, the District of Lunenburg has made significant strides in accessibility, ensuring that all residents can participate fully in community life. It began with the construction and opening of the new Municipal Services Building, a transformative milestone. The old facility lacked wheelchair access at one of the customer service entrances or an elevator, and visitors with mobility challenges had no access to public washrooms. Today, the new building features fully accessible doors, assisted hearing technology, bariatric seating, and more, welcoming everyone with fully accessible amenities and services under one roof.

The District also adopted a proactive approach by integrating an accessibility lens into the development of proposed capital projects. Accessibility audits for five park facilities uncovered barriers and opportunities for improvement, guiding thoughtful changes. For example, Mushamush Beach now features a Mobi-mat, providing all users seamless access to the water. At Church Lake, visitors can enjoy accessible picnic tables, promoting inclusive outdoor recreation.

Digital accessibility has also been a priority. In 2020, the District's website, modl.ca, achieved 99% accessibility. Collaborating with the Association of Municipal Administrators' Municipal Website Venture and digital accessibility experts Access Changes Everything, the District ensured the site met Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) standards. The result is a platform where residents can access vital information with ease, regardless of ability.

Council operations have also embraced inclusivity. Meetings are now livestreamed, enabling residents with mobility or transportation challenges to participate remotely. Council agendas include contact information for accessibility inquiries, and all reports, bylaws, and policies are prepared using accessible templates. Training in accessible social media practices has further enhanced the reach and inclusivity of District communications.

Inclusivity extends beyond infrastructure and digital spaces. Expanded recreation programs cater to diverse abilities, reflecting the District's commitment to providing opportunities for all. Advocacy and funding efforts have also transformed Senior Wheels into Lunenburg County Wheels, a dial-a-ride service now available across the entire municipality. This door-to-door service has become a lifeline for residents with mobility challenges, fostering independence and community connection.

Each improvement reflects the District of Lunenburg's dedication to breaking down barriers and building a more inclusive community. We look forward to more opportunities to consider accessibility in major capital spending plans and everyday operational decisions.

Summary of Progress: Town of Bridgewater

In 2017, the Province of Nova Scotia passed the Accessibility Act with the goal of creating an accessible province by 2030. The Town partnered with the Municipal Districts of Lunenburg and Chester, Village of Chester, and the Towns of Lunenburg and Mahone Bay to create the Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee (LCAAC) in 2019 and the Lunenburg County Accessibility Plan in 2021.

The Province is developing standards in six areas, including education. The other five areas of accessibility standards are:

1. Goods and Services
2. Information and Communications
3. Transportation
4. Employment
5. Built Environment

As part of the regional effort, since 2020 the Town of Bridgewater has been focused on these five areas and has made significant progress.

Goods & Services

There have been several modifications made to the Council Chambers and Committee room to improve public accessibility. There has been accessibility awareness training delivered to the new Council and some planning staff have undergone specialized accessibility training. When people come to the main counter in Town Hall, there is a Speech Transfer system for staff to better hear people and there is technology available to which people can connect certain personal hearing devices. When purchasing significant software systems, accessibility requirements were included as part of the procurement process.

Information and Communication

Some staff have had further training in using plain language when writing. We have changed our communications standards to ensure website and social media posts include either alt text or that all information embedded in image files is also included in postings in screen-reader compatible format. We have also made some changes to the printed Recreation Guide to improve accessibility.

Transportation

In 2020 we purchased two low-floor buses with accessible ramps, and we are now installing an accessible bus shelter near the Regional Hospital and on North Street. When designing bridges, sidewalks and other aspects of active transportation, accessibility considerations have been incorporated. In 2022, we installed our first rectangular rapid flashing beacon at a crosswalk on Jubilee Avenue and we now include Tactile Walking Indicator Surfaces (TWIS) at crosswalks. From a planning perspective, we have incorporated accessibility design requirements into the Sidewalk Café By-law. The Traffic Operations study, that included accessibility review, is foundational work for future projects.

Employment

As part of our attraction and retention strategy we have embraced a flexible work policy that enables our people with different life needs to contribute effectively to delivering our services. We have incorporated our communications standards into our onboarding guide for new staff. Recognizing that sometimes people just need a little extra support, we now provide menstrual products in all washrooms. We have also added automatic door openers.

Built Environment

While it is challenging to change what has already been built, we have taken advantage of certain renovation opportunities. At the Bridgewater Memorial Arena, we have included an exterior ramp, an accessible door and an elevator. There are now accessible, gender-neutral, washrooms at Town Hall. We have conducted an accessibility audit of the Town's outdoor pool and improvements to signage, contrast painting and pool accessibility modifications are ongoing. At Shipyard's Landing, cobble-type pavers have been replaced with accessible-standard concrete sidewalks. Finally, Shipyard's Landing Public Washrooms will soon be open to the public!

While there is still lots of work to do to improve the life of our residents, accessibility thinking will continue to be integrated into our everyday work.

Summary of Progress: Town of Mahone Bay

The Town of Mahone Bay is a place for people to live, work, and play, and with that the Town recognizes the importance of having accessible spaces and services. Since the passage of the *Accessibility Act*, the Town has worked diligently to improve access for those living in or visiting Mahone Bay. The following is a broad overview of accomplishments made since 2020 in this vein.

Built Environment

The Town has had a large focus on accessibility in its built environment via the upgrading of facilities and adoption of regulations including:

- Built a new, accessible fire station
- Town Hall Upgrades
 - Barrier free entrance
 - Accessible washroom
 - Painted door frames for greater contrast
 - Replaced/added colour contrast strips on stairs
 - Added colour contrast strips on glass gates
 - Removed plexi glass barriers in the public section of Town Hall
 - Replaced the debit machine with a more accessible one
 - Added a building directory at all public entrances
 - Added room identifying signage in consistent places in relation to doors for intuitive location
 - Replaced all door knobs with lever handles
 - Purchased lamps for staff to have better control over lighting in work spaces (as requested)
 - Purchased adjustable height desk additions (as requested)
- Added RRFBs at trail/road intersections
- Upgraded pathway along waterfront
- Upgraded field track surface
- Audited nine (9) outdoor spaces for accessibility
- Upgraded Aquatic Garden Park bridge
- Community Orchard Design
 - Benches and picnic tables on concrete pads
 - Paths have gentle slopes and crushed gravel surface with planned paving
 - Currently addressing concerns about drop off areas and visibility of tree guards.
- Added accessible picnic table at the Visitor Information Centre
- Painted slopes on curb ramps

- Upgraded tennis court parking lot by paving and designing accessible parking
- Revised all road side accessible parking spaces to align with the CSA B-651 standard
- Assessed and plan to renovate public washrooms on Edgewater Street to increase accessibility and include an adult change table
- Incorporate accessibility standards into all new built infrastructure projects
- Ordered various styles of chairs for Council Chambers and front entrance

Education

- Provided social media accessibility training to community groups to increase accessibility of posts shared by the Town

Information and Communication

- Adopted in-house communication standards for print communications internally and externally
- Livestream and record Council meetings with ability to add auto-generated captioning if needed

Transportation

- Provided financial support to Lunenburg County Wheels

Governance

- Update Human Resources Policies and procedures and use CAN/ASC-1.1:2024 National Standard of Canada- Employment as a reference guide
- Adopted the Accessibility Implementation Plan
- Adopted CSA/ASC B651:23 Accessible Design for the Build Environment to inform design of accessible parking spaces

Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee

Name	Role
Louise Hopper	Community Member
Peggy McCalla	Community Member
Teresa Alexander-Arab	Community Member
Scott Lutes	Community Member
Vacancy	Community Member
Vacancy	Community Member
Kacy DeLong	Councillor, Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
Abdella Assaff	Deputy Warden, Municipality of Chester
Jennifer McDonald	Deputy Mayor, Town of Bridgewater
Gale Fullerton	Councillor, Town of Lunenburg
Penny Carver	Councillor, Town of Mahone Bay
Geraldine Pauley	Chair, Village of Chester Commission



Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Request for Decision

Report to: Municipal Councils of the District of Lunenburg and the Town of Lunenburg

Submitted by: Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO, MODL

Date: March 18, 2025

Re: Proposed Agreement for Joint Police Advisory Board

Recommendation

Move that Council authorize the execution of the intermunicipal agreement for a joint police advisory board

Background

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) provide police services to four of the five municipalities in Lunenburg County. Under the Police Act, all municipalities contracting with the RCMP must have an advisory board. Section 57A permits municipalities to create a joint advisory board. The composition of a joint board includes 2 members from each partner council, two resident members from each partner unit and one member appointed by the Minister. Police Board meetings are required to be held quarterly.

In 2024, The Town of Lunenburg approached MODL about creating a Joint board. After review and recommendation by MODL's existing board, Council supported the concept and wrote to the Minister seeking approval to proceed with a joint board, noting the inter-jurisdictional nature of policing and the reduction in administrative burden. The minister responded positively in September of 2024.

Discussion

The draft agreement is required between the units to satisfy the requirements of the police act for a police board. The provisions follow the same committee functions as set out in the existing bylaw governing the police board for the Municipality of the district of Lunenburg. The primary change is to the membership, which reflects the requirements for a joint board in section 57(A) of the police Act. A revised bylaw will follow for councils consideration to formally adopt the joint board approach, once the agreement is in place.

Alternatives

If Council has concerns with an element of the agreement, direction to staff to conduct further research or to prepare revisions could be made.

Conclusion

The RCMP provide policing services to both the Town and the District. A joint board would provide a more cohesive view for the local governance of policing, better aligning with the jurisdictional scope of the police force. Switching to a joint Board would address the Town of Lunenburg's lack of a committee, reduce the administrative burden, and free up more of the RCMP's time for other policing duties.

Report Preparation	
Department	
Report Prepared by	
Report Approved by	
Date Reviewed by C.A.O.	



**Attorney General
Justice
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 7, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2L6 • Telephone 902-424-4044 Fax 902-424-0510 • novascotia.ca

September 16, 2024

Via Email: Tina.Bond@modl.ca, mayor@modl.ca

Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of the District of Lunenburg
10 Allee Champlain Drive,
Cookville, NS B4V 9E4

Dear Mayor Bolivar-Getson,

Re: Joint Police Board

Thank you for letter on August 1, 2024, requesting the creation of a joint Police Advisory Board for the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg and the Town of Lunenburg, both policed by the Nova Scotia ('H' Division) Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

Police Advisory Boards are an important element of police governance and function to assist in ensuring police are responsive to the needs and priorities of local communities, especially as the nature of crime continues to evolve across Nova Scotia.

As you know, criminal activity does not remain restricted to a single jurisdiction, and can affect several neighbouring communities at once. There is a need for all police services in Nova Scotia to work closely together when crime trends affect multiple jurisdictions.

I am pleased that both the Municipality and the Town understand the importance of working together to ensure the safety and security of your citizens, and all Nova Scotians. I am supportive of the creation of a joint Police Advisory Board for the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg and the Town of Lunenburg.

If you have any questions regarding governance or the functionality of a joint police advisory board, please contact our Director of Public Safety, Charcy Marchand, by email Charcy.Marchand@novascotia.ca or by phone at 902-424-3178.

I look forward to engaging further with municipal and police partners in exploring the future of Police Advisory Boards in Nova Scotia and ensuring that Nova Scotians receive the most effective and efficient police services.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Barbara Adams in blue ink.

Barbara Adams
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

cc: Mayor Jamie Myra, Town of Lunenburg (Via email: jmyra@townoflunenburg.ca)

Survey Results Report

Annual Climate Change Impact Survey

2025



Introduction and Background

The Annual Climate Impact Survey invited the Districts' residents to share their experiences and contribute valuable insights to help the municipality plan for a more sustainable, prepared future.

Introduction

The Annual Climate Change Impact Survey Report summarizes community responses regarding the effects of climate change and preparedness measures. The survey aimed to collect feedback from residents about experiences, concerns, and actions related to climate change. The information gathered clarifies how individuals and households are affected and their challenges adapting to changing conditions.

The report addresses several topics, including personal experiences with climate impacts, preparedness efforts, and obstacles to taking action. It also examines interest in community programs and highlights the resources and support residents believe would help them better prepare for climate-related challenges. This survey is valuable for understanding community perspectives and informing ongoing local climate planning.

Background



The Annual Climate Change Impact Survey is part of the Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP2030) under category 8 – Emergency Preparedness and Response.

LOCAL CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN 2030



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF LUNENBURG
NOVA SCOTIA

How We Engaged

Purpose

A variety of engagement methods were used to ensure that as many residents as possible were aware of the survey and had the opportunity to complete it if they wished.

Advertising

An array of strategic methods was utilized to effectively promote the survey, including:

- Radio ads - 2 week duration
- Engage website
- MODL website front page
- District of Lunenburg Digest
- Email blast
- Social media
 - Facebook posting

Engagement Website

The Emergency Preparedness and Climate Change Impacts page on the Engage MODL website was launched in January 2025 to provide residents with easy access to information about emergency preparedness and the effects of climate change on it. Additionally, visitors to the page can enter their email addresses to receive updates on the project's progress. A total of 20 community members have subscribed to the Engage page.

Since its launch in early January, the project page has received over 465 visits. The page highlights the need for the District to prepare for rising sea levels, coastal erosion, extreme storms, and flooding that can potentially threaten lives, property, and the local economy.



Scan the QR code to visit the Emergency Preparedness and Climate Change Impacts page on the engage MODL website.

Survey

The Annual Climate Change Impact Survey, part of the Local Climate Change Action Plan 2030 (LCCAP2030), gathers residents' experiences to help the municipality identify concerns and enhance emergency preparedness and response strategies. The survey was accessible online through the Engagement Website, and paper copies were available at the municipal office for anonymous responses. However, all submissions were made online, and no paper responses were received. The survey was conducted from January 9 to February 7, 2025, with 91 participants. This report presents the results from the online submissions.

Survey Limitations

Postal Codes

The District of Lunenburg shares postal codes with neighbouring communities, including the Town of Lunenburg and Mahone Bay. Consequently, some survey respondents from the District may have accurately provided their postal codes but were classified as being from "Lunenburg," for example, in the results. This overlap created uncertainty about whether respondents lived within or outside the District's boundaries. Moving forward, the survey will include a question asking which community residents reside in to ensure accurate location information from respondents regarding their residence within the District.

Who We Heard From

Ninety-one submissions were completed in the Annual Climate Change Impact survey. Two of the submissions submitted a postal code outside the area, and one of the two submissions outside the area resides part-time in the District. As this survey pertains only to the area's residents, responses from people with postal codes outside the area are not included in the findings. Out of the ninety-one completed surveys, ninety will be included in this survey's findings to provide an accurate report of what residents within the area want.

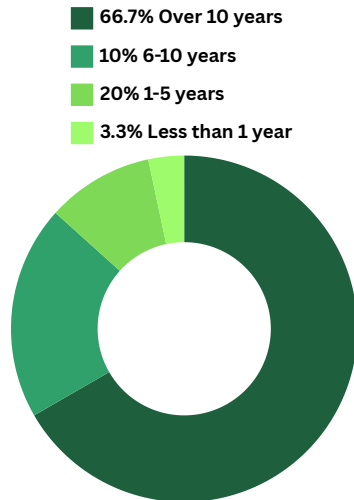
Total responses
in report

90

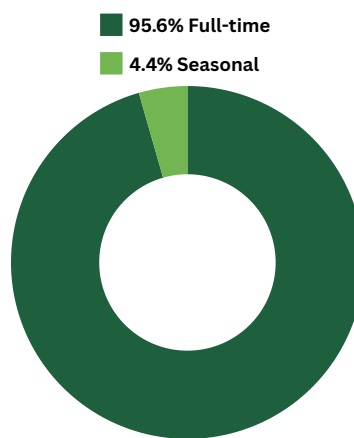
Survey Results

Demographic

How long have you lived in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg?

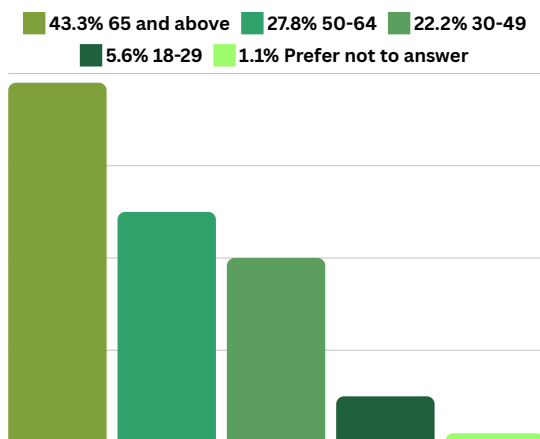


Over half of the survey respondents (66.7%) have lived in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg for over 10 years, indicating a strong sense of long-term community connection. Additionally, 20% of respondents have been residents for 1 to 5 years, 10% for 6 to 10 years, and 3.3% for less than a year.



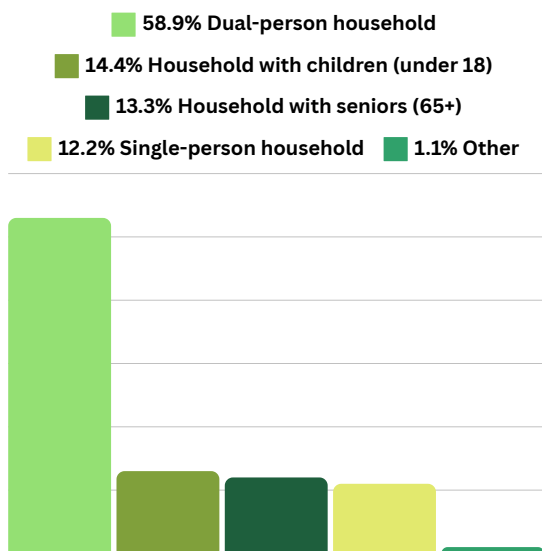
Are you a full-time or seasonal resident?

The survey results reveal that 95.6% of respondents are full-time residents of the District of Lunenburg, indicating strong community engagement year-round. Only 4.4% identified as seasonal residents. This suggests that the feedback mainly reflects the views of full-time residents, with seasonal residents offering a limited perspective.



What age group do you fall under?

The survey results show that most respondents are older adults, with 43.3% in the 65 and above age group and 27.8% in the 50-64 age range. This indicates that over 70% of participants are aged 50 and older, reflecting a strong response from an older demographic. Meanwhile, 22.2% of respondents are between 30 and 49 years old, and only 5.6% fall within the 18-29 age group. Additionally, 1.1% of respondents preferred not to disclose their age.

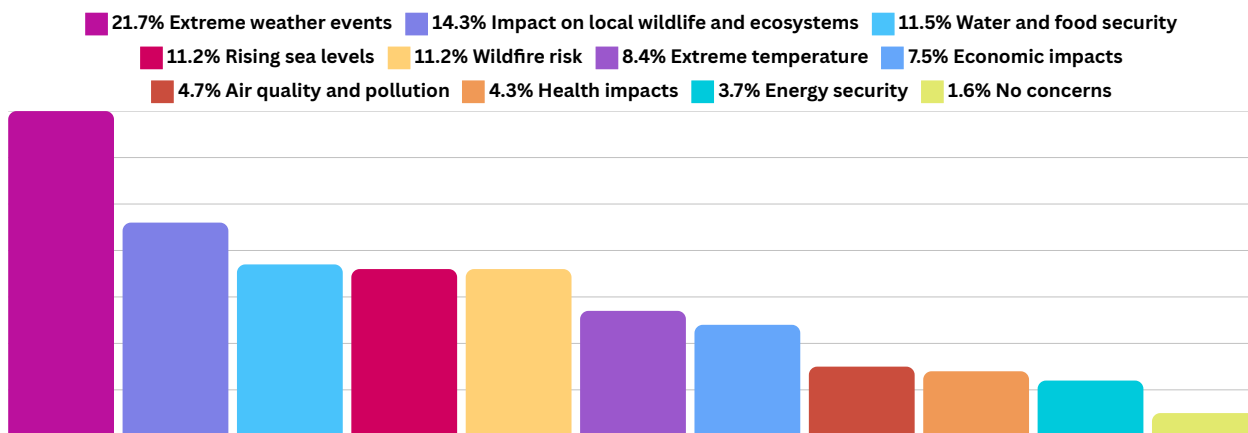


Which best describes your household?

Over half (58.9%) of respondents live in dual-person households. Households with children under 18 comprise 14.4%, while single-person households account for 12.2%. Additionally, 13.3% of households have households with seniors (65+), and 1.1% selected "other," which includes families with older children residing at home part-time. This data highlights the diversity of household types, with dual-person households being the most common among the survey participants

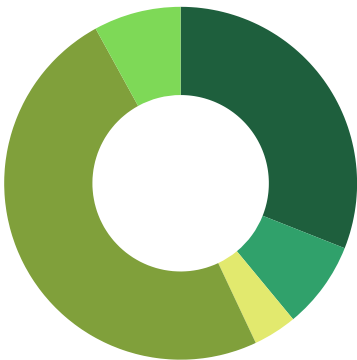
Climate Change Concerns

What climate issues are you most concerned about? (Select up to 4)



Respondents are most concerned about extreme weather events, with 21.7% selecting this as a top issue. The impact on local wildlife and ecosystems was the second most concern chosen at 14.3%, followed by water and food security (11.5%), rising sea levels (11.2%), and the risk of wildfires (11.2%). Extreme temperature events were a concern for 8.4% of respondents. Other climate issues received lower levels of concern, including economic impacts (7.5%), air quality and pollution (4.7%), health impacts (4.3%), and energy security (3.7%). A proportion of respondents (1.6%) indicated no concerns about climate issues.

- 31% Property damage
- 8% Health issues
- 4% Loss of income or employment
- 49% None
- 8% Other (please specify)



Have you or your household personally experienced any of the following because of climate change impacts? (Select all that apply)

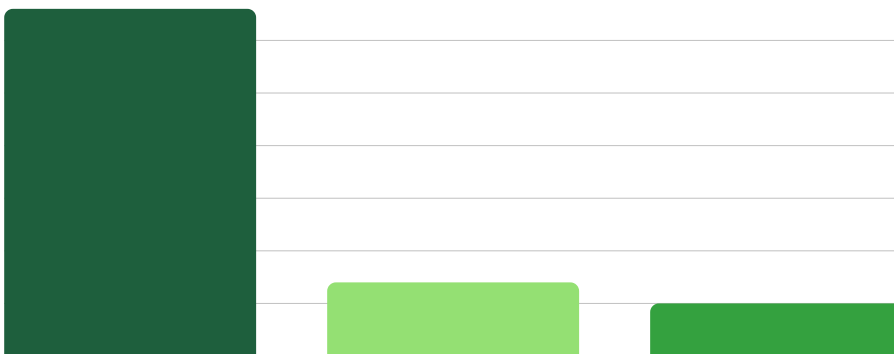
The survey results show that nearly half of the respondents (49%) have not experienced any direct impacts from climate change. However, 31% reported property damage due to climate-related effects, making it the most frequently mentioned issue. Health issues related to climate change were reported by 8% of respondents, while another 4% indicated they had experienced a loss of income or employment. Additionally, 8% selected "other," indicating a variety of experiences that were not covered by the predefined categories.

The experiences reported in the "other" category—such as wells running dry, reduced garden crop yields due to drought, lack of drinking water, declining water quality, and water rationing—are clear indicators of growing water security challenges.

Residential Preparedness

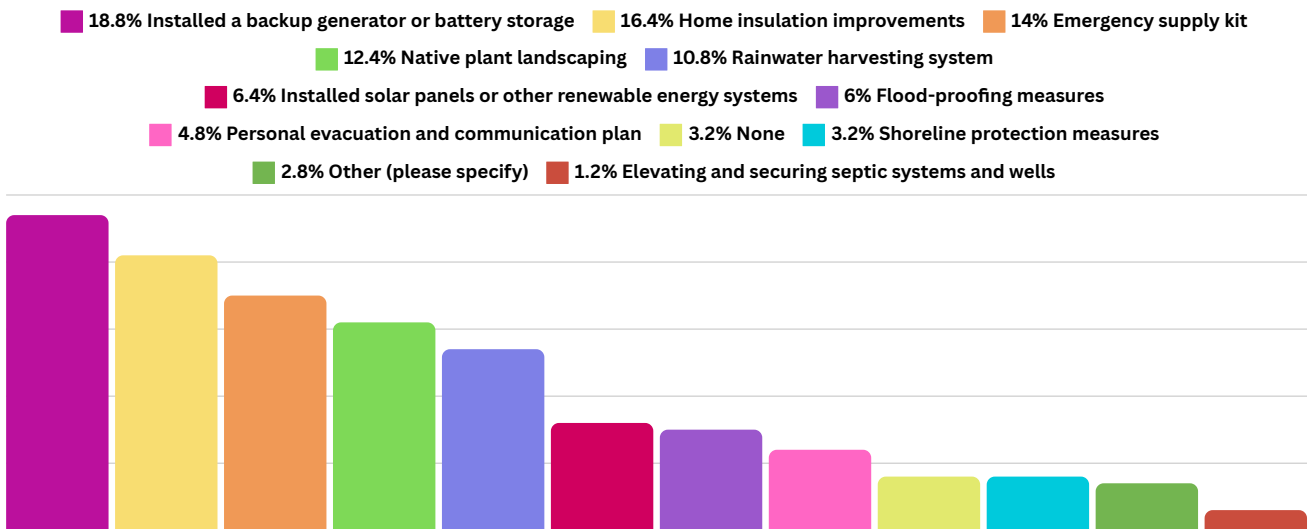
How confident are you in your preparedness for the impacts of climate change?

- 73.3% Somewhat confident - I have taken some steps, but there is room for improvement
- 15.6% Confident - I have taken extensive measures and feel well-prepared
- 11.1% Not confident - I have not taken any measures and feel completely unprepared



The survey results indicate that the majority of respondents (73.3%) feel somewhat confident in their preparedness for the impacts of climate change. Meanwhile, 15.6% of respondents feel confident, having taken extensive steps and believing they are well-prepared for potential impacts. On the other hand, 11.1% of respondents reported being unconfident, having taken no measures and feeling completely unprepared.

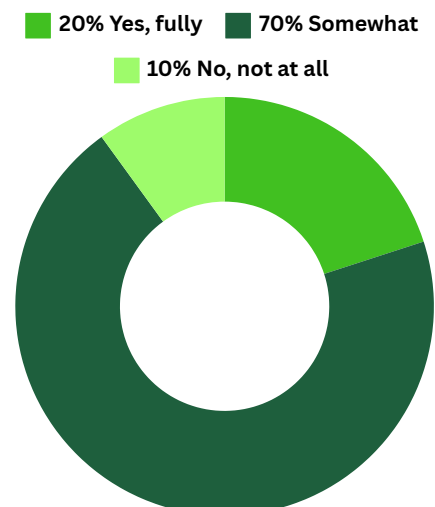
What measures, if any, have you taken to prepare for climate change impacts? (Select all that apply)



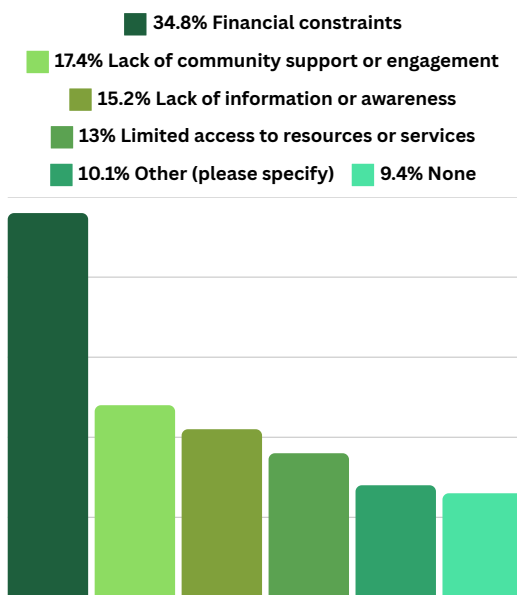
The survey results indicate various preparedness measures for climate change among respondents. The most common action was improving home insulation (16.4%) and installing backup generators or battery storage (18.8%). Other notable actions included creating emergency supply kits (14%), landscaping with native plants (12.4%), and setting up rainwater harvesting systems (10.8%). Less common measures included personal evacuation plans (4.8%), shoreline protection (3.2%), and elevating or securing septic systems (1.2%). Additionally, 3.2% of respondents reported taking no measures, while 2.8% mentioned other strategies not listed in the survey. Additional measures noted in the "other" section included proactive building measures to improve resilience, expanding garden spaces for local food production, repurposing deadfall as firewood, reinforcing home exteriors for greater durability against extreme weather, and transitioning to hybrid vehicles.

Do you feel you have access to adequate information to prepare for climate change impacts?

The survey results show that 70% of respondents have partial access to information on preparing for climate change impacts. Meanwhile, 20% feel they have full access to the necessary information, whereas 10% reported having no access and feeling entirely uninformed.



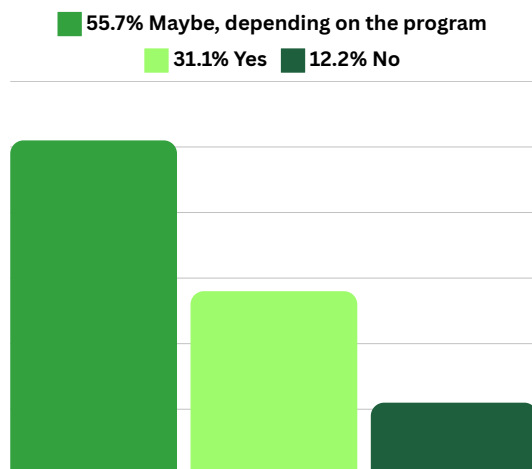
What challenges are you facing that affect your ability to prepare for the impacts of climate change? (Select all that apply)



Financial constraints were identified as the most significant challenge in preparing for the impacts of climate change, with 34.8% of respondents selecting this option. Other common barriers include a lack of community support or engagement (17.4%), limited access to necessary resources or services (13%), and insufficient information and awareness (15.2%). Additionally, 10.1% of respondents marked 'other,' indicating various challenges not covered by the listed categories. Meanwhile, 9.4% of respondents stated that they do not face any significant obstacles in their preparedness efforts. The "other" category responses highlighted challenges such as limited cell service in certain areas and age-related difficulties associated with being an older resident.

Municipal Action

Would you be interested in participating in community programs related to climate change?

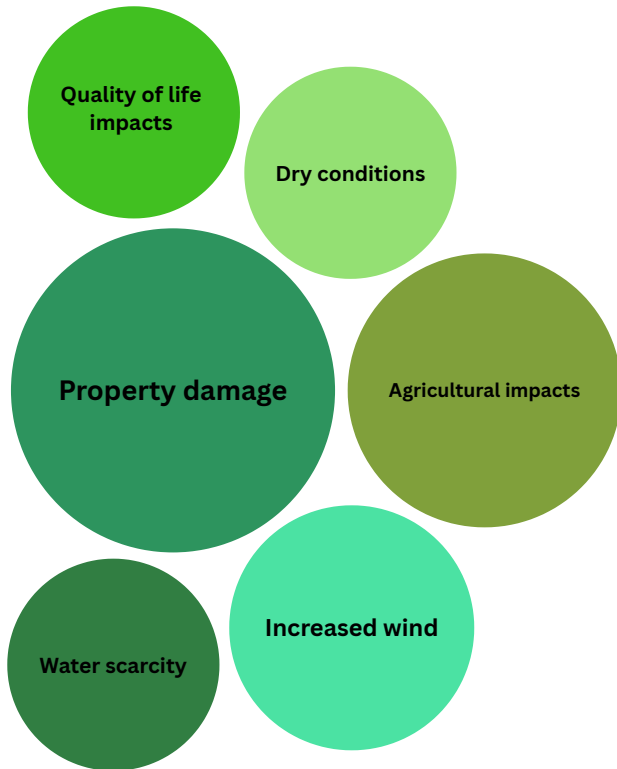


The survey results reveal a notable potential interest in community programs focused on climate change. Specifically, 31.1% of respondents expressed a clear willingness to participate, while over half (55.7%) indicated they might be interested, depending on the program's specifics. This suggests that the design and relevance of the programs will be essential in encouraging participation. Additionally, 12.2% of respondents stated they were not interested in participating.

Stories

Do you have a story you would like to share about your experience around climate change impacts?

Each bubble represents a theme that captures stories shared by survey respondents regarding their experiences with climate change impacts. The size of each bubble reflects how frequently similar experiences were mentioned; the larger the bubble, the more common the experience.

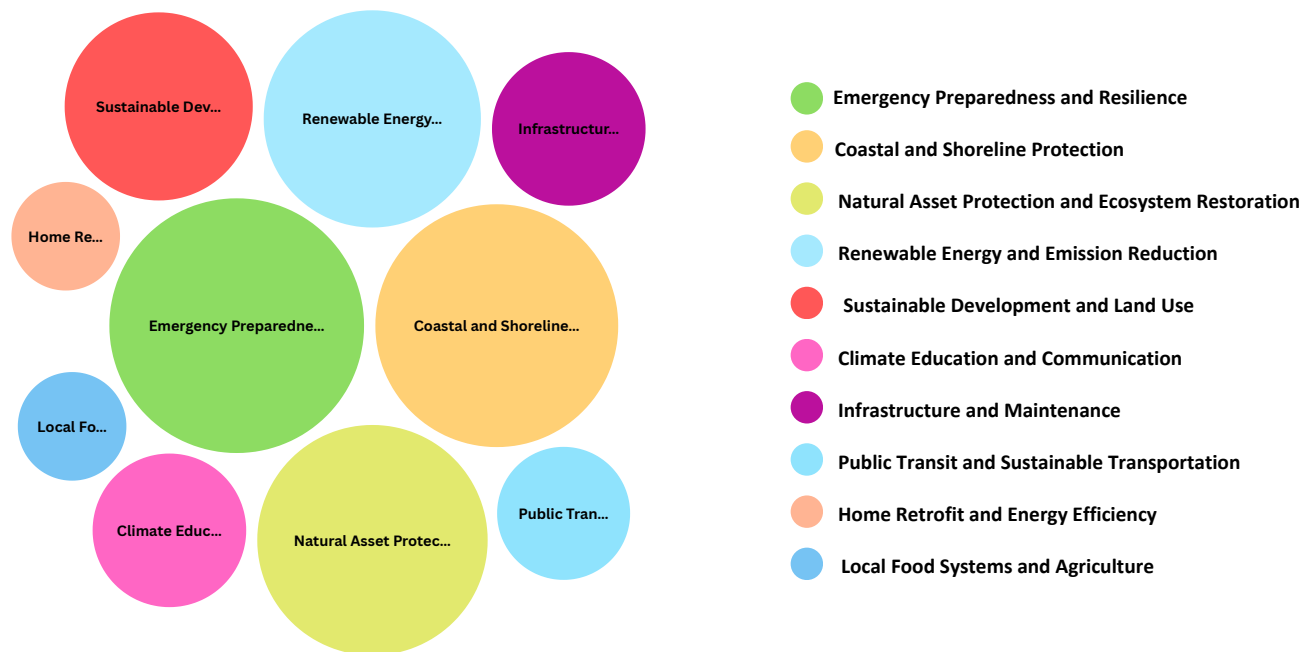


Respondents shared stories about how climate change has affected them, revealing several key themes. The most common issue reported was property damage, with many individuals describing destruction caused by storms, flooding, and extreme weather events.

Another frequent theme was the impact on agriculture, including reduced crop yields, drought, and challenges faced by farmers. Additionally, many mentioned increased winds, falling trees, and power outages. These factors contributed to noticeable declines in quality of life, leading to heightened stress and disruptions to daily routines. This was not a mandatory question; residents had the option to skip it, resulting in **34** responses and **51** skipped.

What do you believe are the most important actions the municipality could take to address climate change impacts?

Each bubble represents a theme that captures the actions shared by survey respondents regarding what they believe are the most important actions the municipality could take to address climate change impacts. The size of each bubble reflects how frequently similar experiences were mentioned; the more significant the bubble, the more familiar the experience.



The responses emphasize various actions that the municipality could take to address the impacts of climate change. The feedback has been organized into categories, with the frequency of responses in each category indicating the level of public concern and interest. The most frequently mentioned categories were *emergency preparedness and resilience*, followed by *coastal and shoreline protection*, *natural asset protection*, and *ecosystem restoration*.

This was not a mandatory question, residents had the option to skip resulting in 77 responses and 13 skipped

1. Emergency Preparedness and Infrastructure Resilience

Respondents highlighted the need to prepare for extreme weather events like hurricanes and flooding. Suggested actions included developing evacuation plans, enhancing emergency response, and strengthening infrastructure like power systems and drainage networks.

2. Coastal and Shoreline Protection

Protecting coastal areas was a significant concern. Respondents emphasized the need to reinforce shorelines, address coastal erosion, and implement stricter regulations to prevent development in vulnerable areas.

3. Natural Asset Protection and Ecosystem Restoration

Many responses focused on preserving wetlands, forests, and watersheds for their roles in mitigating flooding and supporting biodiversity.

4. Renewable Energy and Emissions Reduction

Common themes were the transition to renewable energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Respondents advocated expanding solar and wind projects and enhancing public transportation to lower carbon emissions.

5. Public Transportation and Sustainable Mobility

Improving public transit options was frequently mentioned to decrease car dependency and promote eco-friendly travel.

6. Climate Education and Public Awareness

Education was vital for supporting community-level actions, with suggestions for more information on emergency preparedness and sustainable practices through workshops and outreach.

7. Sustainable Development and Land Use Planning

Respondents stressed the importance of balancing development with environmental protection, advocating for regulations to prevent overdevelopment.

8. Local Food Systems and Agriculture

Strengthening local food systems was seen as a way to enhance community resilience, with calls to support local growers and integrate food security planning.

9. Infrastructure Maintenance and Adaptation

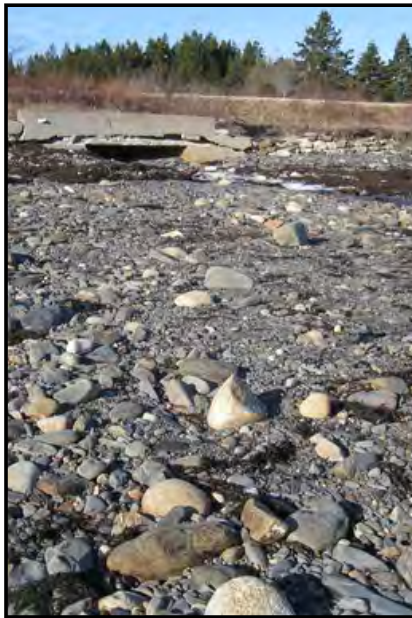
The need for ongoing infrastructure maintenance and adaptation to climate impacts was emphasized, with a focus on drainage systems and road access.

10. Home Retrofits and Energy Efficiency

Improving home energy efficiency was a priority, with suggestions for promoting retrofits and providing financial support for clean energy initiatives.

Photo Submissions

Below are the photo submissions that were received from the survey.



A photo of infrastructure damage



Washout of a road near crescent beach



Inundation of an area not typically prone to flooding

Conclusion

The Annual Climate Change Impact Survey Report provides valuable insights into how residents are experiencing and responding to climate change. The responses reveal a range of impacts, including property damage, agricultural challenges, and concerns about water scarcity and preparedness. While many respondents have taken steps to adapt, others face barriers such as financial constraints and limited access to information or resources.

These findings highlight the importance of ongoing community engagement, resource development, and support to help residents build resilience. The survey serves as a foundation for understanding local perspectives and identifying areas where future efforts can be focused to enhance climate adaptation and preparedness throughout the community.

To ensure the survey remains a useful tool, it will continue to evolve with regular updates and refinements. Adjustments to survey design and questions will help improve the clarity and accuracy of data collection. This ongoing process will allow for a deeper understanding of changing community needs and priorities, ensuring that future surveys capture more comprehensive and reliable information to support community adaptation planning.



Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Request for Decision

Report to: Policy & Strategy Committee

Submitted by: Ruth Wawin, Tourism & Event Development Officer

Date: March 18, 2025

Re: Major Events Grant Application Canadian National Para Hockey Championship

Recommendation

That Municipal Council provides pre-budget approval for the South Shore ICE Storm Association's application for funding through the Major Event Grant in the amount of \$5,000.

Executive summary

The application satisfies the Major Events Grant's purpose of encouraging new large-scale events that create a positive economic impact for the Municipality.

As per the Approval Process and Procedures of the Community Grant Program/Sponsorship Request Policy MODL043, applications requesting more than \$2,500 require Council's approval. It is the recommendation of staff to provide pre-budget approval for the South Shore ICE Storm's grant application in the amount of \$5,000 for the Canadian National Para Hockey Championship.

Discussion

Para hockey creates opportunities for individuals with lower extremity disabilities to participate and excel in the game of hockey. The South Shore ICE Storm welcomes athletes of all ages, genders, and abilities, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for para hockey.

The Canadian National Para Hockey Championship is an annual event that brings together para-athletes from across the country to compete at a national level. It also provides Hockey Canada with a valuable opportunity to scout players who may represent Canada in future international competitions. The event is expected to attract approximately 200 attendees, including athletes, coaches, trainers, and families from across the country. Teams will represent British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and a combined team will represent the four Atlantic provinces. To enhance the event's reach and impact, the South Shore ICE Storm is seeking support from Halifax CTV to help promote the event.

This 5-day event, taking place from May 14th to 18th, 2025, will draw an influx of visitors, supporting local businesses including hotels, restaurants, and retail shops while contributing to the area's economic vitality and showcasing the community on a national stage.

The application includes a funding request for \$18,000. Based on factors such as the event's national significance, its overall budget, and the number of overnight stays it will generate, the recommended funding amount for approval is \$5,000, ensuring sufficient funds remain in the budget for future events.

Budget implications

We are seeking pre-budget approval for the recommended amount of \$5,000. In the 2024-2025 fiscal year the budget for the Major Events Grant was \$20,000. For the 2025-2026 fiscal year the proposed budget for the Major Event Grant is \$35,000.

Strategic plan

The Canadian National Para Hockey Championship aligns closely with the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg's Mission. It supports sustainable community building by boosting local businesses, promoting sports tourism, and inspiring future athletes. The event fosters collaboration by uniting athletes, volunteers, and local organizations, strengthening community bonds.

The Championship also reflects the Municipality's Values. It encourages meaningful connections, supporting the value of Thriving Communities. Most importantly, it embodies equity and inclusion, showcasing accessibility in sports and reinforcing the municipality's commitment to creating an inclusive community.

Work plan

Alternatives

- 1) Provide pre-budget approval for the recommended amount of \$5,000.
- 2) Provide pre-budget approval for an alternative amount of funding.
- 3) Do not approve funding request.

Conclusion

The application submitted by the South Shore ICE Storm Association meets the eligibility requirements for the Major Events Grant as laid out in Community Grant Program/Sponsorship Request Policy MODL043. It is the recommendation of staff to provide pre-budget approval for the South Shore ICE Storm's grant application in the amount of \$5,000 for the Canadian National Para Hockey Championship.

Report Preparation	
Department	Recreation, Parks & Tourism
Report Prepared by	Ruth Wawin, Tourism & Event Development Officer
Report Approved by	
Date Reviewed by C.A.O.	



Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Request for Decision

Report to: Policy & Strategy Committee
Submitted by: Ruth Wawin, Tourism & Event Development Officer
Date: March 18, 2025
Re: Major Events Grant Application Hiking Summit

Recommendation

That Municipal Council provides pre-budget approval for Hike Nova Scotia's application for funding through the Major Event Grant in the amount of \$3,000 for the Hiking Summit.

Executive summary

The application satisfies the Major Events Grant's purpose of attracting large-scale events that create a positive economic impact for the Municipality.

As per the Approval Process and Procedures of the Community Grant Program/Sponsorship Request Policy MODL043, applications requesting more than \$2,500 require Council's approval. It is the recommendation of staff to provide pre-budget approval for Hike Nova Scotia's grant application in the amount of \$3,000 for the Hiking Summit.

Discussion

The Hiking Summit is hosted annually by Hike Nova Scotia, a not-for-profit society that encourages and promotes a growing hiking culture throughout the province.

The 2025 Summit, co-hosted by the Lunenburg County Hikers, takes place May 30th to June 1st, 2025. The schedule includes hikes of varying difficulties taking place all around Lunenburg County. Approximately 200 participants, including trail groups and hiking leaders, are expected to attend the Summit to enjoy hikes, share best practices and stories, and network throughout the event.

As part of the upcoming Hiking Summit, hikes will be offered throughout the Municipality highlighting our area's trails and natural landscapes. The schedule includes a variety of hikes for

different skill levels, such as Miller Point Peace Park, River Ridge Common, Indian Path Common, Indian Falls, Gaff Point, the M.A.R.C trails, Arthur Young Trail, Blue Rocks Common Trail, and the Dynamite Trail. The summit also includes hikes on the properties of local businesses including the Lunenburg County Winery and Indian Garden Farms.

With a variety of trails and stunning landscapes, the event will boost local businesses such as accommodations, restaurants, and shops while highlighting the region as a prime outdoor tourism destination. The Summit not only fosters community engagement but also strengthens the area's reputation for eco-tourism and adventure travel.

Hike Nova Scotia submitted a Major Event Grant application requesting \$5,000. Based on factors such as the event's size, overnight stays generated, expected attendance, and overall economic impact, the recommended funding amount for approval is \$3,000. This recommendation also considers the anticipation of multiple Major Events Grant applications throughout the year, aiming to ensure funds remain available in the budget for other events.

Budget implications

We are seeking pre-budget approval for the recommended amount of \$3,000. In the 2024-2025 fiscal year the budget for the Major Events Grant was \$20,000. For the 2025-2026 fiscal year the proposed budget for the Major Event Grant is \$35,000.

Strategic plan

The Hiking Summit aligns closely with the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg's Mission. It supports sustainable community building by promoting eco-tourism, attracting visitors, and boosting local businesses. The event also fosters collaboration by bringing together hikers, community members, and organizations, strengthening community connections and partnerships.

The Summit reflects the Municipality's Values by encouraging meaningful connections, reinforcing the value of Thriving Communities. It celebrates diversity and promotes respect and kindness by welcoming participants from all backgrounds. Additionally, the Summit embodies equity and inclusion by offering accessible outdoor experiences, reflecting the municipality's commitment to building a truly inclusive community.

Alternatives

- 1) Provide pre-budget approval for the recommended amount of \$3,000.
- 2) Provide pre-budget approval for an alternative amount of funding.
- 3) Do not approve funding request.

Conclusion

The application submitted by Hike Nova Scotia meets the eligibility requirements for the Major Events Grant as laid out in Community Grant Program/Sponsorship Request Policy MODL043. It is the recommendation of staff to provide pre-budget approval for Hike Nova Scotia’s grant application in the amount of \$3,000 for the Hike Summit.

Report Preparation	
Department	Recreation, Parks & Tourism
Report Prepared by	Ruth Wawin, Tourism & Event Development Officer
Report Approved by	
Date Reviewed by C.A.O.	



The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Request for Decision

Report to: Policy & Strategy Committee

Submitted by: Elana Wentzell, CPA, CMA, Director of Finance & Municipal Treasurer

Date: March 18, 2025

Re: Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations Policy 012 Renewals

Recommendation

That the Policy & Strategy Committee recommend that Municipal Council approve the tax exemption for non-profit organizations as per Policy 012 for a 3-year renewal term and as presented on the attached list.

Executive summary

Policy 012 provides a partial or full tax exemption to certain qualifying non-profit organizations demonstrating service to the community at Council's discretion as per Section 71 of the Municipal Government Act.

A major consideration for qualification of tax exemption is the service the organization provides to the community. The policy sets the qualification parameters; tax exemptions are required to be renewed every three years. The upcoming fiscal 2025/26 marks the 3-year renewal date.

Discussion

Please see the attached list of qualifying organizations, as well as the amount and type of the tax exemption. For many qualifying organizations, a full tax exemption is provided. The list of organizations on the partial tax exemption list have a commercial tax assessment, and a rebate is provided to reduce the tax that would otherwise be payable if the property were residential property.

Alternatives & Budget implications

Council may choose to remove any organization on the list or approve the list as presented. The annual amount of the tax exemption be \$104,223 based on the 2025 assessment roll.

Conclusion

Staff recommend that Municipal Council approve the tax exemptions as presented.

Report Preparation	
Department	Finance
Report Prepared by	Hailey Authier
Report Approved by	Elana Wentzell
Date Reviewed by C.A.O.	

**PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION RENEWAL APPLICATIONS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 to 2027/2028 (3 year renewal)**

APPLICANT	LOCATION	ASSESSMENT NUMBER	2025 ESTIMATE	NOTATIONS
(FULL EXEMPTION)				
Baptist Camp Grounds	Farmington	#00208922	\$ 286.74	
Trustees Barss Corner Community Hall	Barss Corner	#00231827	\$ 1,172.24	
Barss Corner Recreational Society	Barss Corner	#00231851	\$ 127.98	
Camperdown Community Hall	Camperdown	#00635847	\$ 1,097.88	
Community Hall Upper Cornwall Society	Upper New Cornwall	#00889407	\$ 2,786.77	
Simpson's Corner Hall Society	Simpsons Corner	#00889415	\$ 573.40	
Pinehurst Community Hall	Pinehurst	#00889423	\$ 2,045.07	
Branch LaHave Community Hall	Branch LaHave	#00889431	\$ 1,565.60	
Community Hall	Upper Northfield	#00889458	\$ 1,015.68	
Broad Cove Community Association	Broad Cove	#00889474	\$ 4,559.81	
Community Hall Association	Vogler's Cove	#00889636	\$ 1,955.04	
Trustees of the Lake Centre & New Cumberland Community Hall	Lake Centre	#02410249	\$ 385.53	
Parkdale Maplewood Community Centre Association	Maplewood	#03016722	\$ 2,371.88	
Hillcrest Lodge No. 93	New Germany	#03075788	\$ 1,780.87	
Vogler's Cove Community Hall	Vogler's Cove	#03185036	\$ 147.42	
New Germany Amateur Athletic Association	New Germany	#03490807	\$ 146.78	
Riverport Community Centre	Riverport	#03971252	\$ 4,344.54	
Tancook Island Recreation Centre Association	Big Tancook Island	#04524764	\$ 2,726.10	
Trustees Conquerall Mills Community Society	Conquerall Mills	#04682092	\$ 2,602.81	
Trustees West Northfield Community Centre	West Northfield	#04684842	\$ 1,767.17	
Union Square Community Hall Association	Union Square	#04710126	\$ 497.08	
West Dublin Hall Company	West Dublin	#04873513	\$ 4,064.69	
Home Heirlooms Cooperative Ltd.	Walden	#05059356	\$ 81.00	
Parkdale Maplewood Community Museum	Maplewood	#05404584	\$ 3,732.00	
Municipality of Lunenburg S.H.A.I.D	Whynotts Settlement	#08171777	\$ 2,767.20	
New Germany and Area Medical Centre Association	New Germany	#08193592	\$ 2,802.42	
Lunenburg Co. Ground Search & Rescue Team	Pine Grove	#08218293	\$ 4,362.15	
Vogler's Cove Community Hall	Vogler's Cove	#09741933	\$ 10.53	
New Germany Amateur Athletic Association	New Germany	#10033438	\$ 146.78	
Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy Association	LaHave Island	#10350026	\$ 277.83	
LaHave River Trail Association	Pinehurst	#10698634	\$ 68.04	
Tancook Island Recreation Centre Association	Big Tancook Island	#10896142	\$ 97.85	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	Bell Island	#00173274	\$ 270.54	
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#00942618	\$ 2.50	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#00994189	\$ 35.64	
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#00994197	\$ 27.54	
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#00994219	\$ 142.56	
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#00994227	\$ 32.40	
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#01811576	\$ 44.55	
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#02306603	\$ 40.50	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	Dublin Shore	#03835448	\$ 10.00	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	Dublin Shore	#03835464	\$ 8.75	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	Dublin Shore	#03835472	\$ 89.10	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#09677356	\$ 37.26	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#09941541	\$ 10.53	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	Dublin Shore	#10007704	\$ 9.72	
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#10044995	\$ 44.55	
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	Bush Island	#10071445	\$ 1,406.16	
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#10093775	\$ 35.64	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#10310903	\$ 291.60	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#10314593	\$ 25.92	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	Dublin Shore	#10314607	\$ 17.82	new

**PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION RENEWAL APPLICATIONS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 to 2027/2028 (3 year renewal)**

APPLICANT	LOCATION	ASSESSMENT NUMBER	2025 ESTIMATE	NOTATIONS
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	Dublin Shore	#10314615	\$ 17.82	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	Dublin Shore	#10323592	\$ 106.92	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	Dublin Shore	#10327164	\$ 62.37	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	Dublin Shore	#10327172	\$ 44.55	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	Dublin Shore	#10357871	\$ 11.00	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	Dublin Shore	#10357888	\$ 4.00	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	Dublin Shore	#10357901	\$ 4.00	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#10803950	\$ 53.46	
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#11007880	\$ 2.43	
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#11031994	\$ 70.47	
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#11036562	\$ 26.73	
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#11038212	\$ 22.68	
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#11041541	\$ 26.73	
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	Bell Island	#11042937	\$ 251.91	
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#11048676	\$ 32.40	
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#11048684	\$ 22.68	
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#11048692	\$ 10.53	
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#11048706	\$ 32.40	
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#11048714	\$ 17.82	
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#11048722	\$ 22.68	
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	Dublin Shore	#11071902	\$ 9.72	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#11077064	\$ 182.25	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	Dublin Shore	#11083684	\$ 8.91	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	Dublin Shore	#11085563	\$ 23.49	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	Dublin Shore	#11085571	\$ 15.39	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	Dublin Shore	#11085581	\$ 16.20	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	Dublin Shore	#11085598	\$ 15.39	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	Dublin Shore	#11097014	\$ 8.00	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#11107060	\$ 26.73	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#11107702	\$ 26.73	new
LaHave Coastal Conservation Association	West Dublin	#11107729	\$ 24.30	new
Other - Special Council Motion 2006: Veteran's Memorial Park as long as it is maintained as a public open space area by the LaHave River Watershed Foundation				
Irving Oil	5741 Hwy 10 New Germany	2155605	\$ 72.90	
Full Tax Exemption 2025			\$ 56,223.75	
(PARTIAL EXEMPTION)				
The Atlantic Jewish Council	Scarsdale	#00645648	\$ 20,394.81	
Lahave River Yacht Club	West LaHave	#02407523	\$ 5,972.43	
Lunenburg Co. Christmas Tree Producers Association	New Germany	#02588455	\$ 360.16	
Lunenburg Yacht Club	Herman's Island	#02620588	\$ 8,218.26	
Kathleen Noblet Trust	Blockhouse	#02770229	\$ 2,909.94	
Mic-Mac Rod Gun club	Wentzell's Lake	#03223272	\$ 761.61	
The Lunenburg Rod and Gun Club	Indian Path	#04746775	\$ 1,617.27	
Lunenburg Yacht Club	Herman's Island	#08154147	\$ 4,889.66	
South Shore Bluegrass Association	New Canada	#08211213	\$ 2,875.53	
Partial Tax Exemption 2025			\$ 47,999.67	
Total Tax Exemption 2025			\$ 104,223.42	



Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Request for Decision

Report to: Council

Submitted by: Tyler Richardson P.Eng., Municipal Engineer
Larry Feener P.Eng., Senior Municipal Engineer

Date: March 18, 2025

Re: Direction Regarding Bylaw 013 – Capital Cost Recovery Charges
for Water Systems – Proposed MacCulloch Road Development

Recommendation

Staff recommend that Council direct staff to amend Bylaw 013 Capital Cost Recovery Charges for Water Systems to remove Schedule A relating to MacCulloch Road from the document and retain the remainder of the Bylaw.

Executive summary

The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (MODL) approved Bylaw 013 Capital Costs Recovery Charges for Water Systems on December 20, 2004 (amended on Jan. 25, 2011) as a means to recoup capital installation costs associated with the installation of the watermain along MacCulloch Road. This Bylaw was intended to address the installation of water service infrastructure in specific areas identified within the bylaw. Only the area of MacCulloch Road area has been identified in Schedule A of the Bylaw for cost recovery, but these particular charges described in the Bylaw are not applicable to other areas of water connection in MODL, such as Hebbville or Cookville.

The proposed development on MacCulloch Road is investigating water service with the Public Service Commission of Bridgewater and will be subject to this Bylaw. Staff are requesting direction on how to proceed in administering this charge due to the requested connection being larger than the Bylaw currently allows. Options available to Council could include an amendment to include the requested size lateral, repealing the current Bylaw in its entirety, or removing Schedule A from the Bylaw.

Discussion

Bylaw 013 only refers to a specific charge area (MacCulloch Road) shown in Schedule A and no other areas within MODL have been added to this Bylaw. The developer will be attempting to proceed with a 4" diameter water service in the proposed development which is not currently permitted in the Bylaw. Table 1, taken from Bylaw 013 Schedule A, outlines the current charges per connection size outlined in the Bylaw.

Lateral Connection Diameter (in inches)	Capital Charge
1 inch lateral	\$7,589.00
2 inch lateral	\$15,178.00
3 inch lateral	\$22,767.00

Table 1: Capital Charge and Lateral Connection Diameter

The development provides for a proposed seventeen (17) lots for additional housing in the area. Placing this additional cost on developers could have the unintended impact of limiting further development and add extra cost to those seeking housing, thereby increasing housing shortage concerns.

Budget implications

This Bylaw was created as a means of cost recovery for the installation of potable water infrastructure for future development along MacCulloch Road during the request for a water connection. This infrastructure is no longer a source of debt to MODL and the developer will fund the cost of the water lateral installation, so there is no financial impact on MODL.

Strategic plan

Supporting the Osprey Village Growth Centre is a strategic priority of Council. Despite MacCulloch Road being outside the stated boundaries of Osprey Village, its close proximity could allow future residents of any development to access the services in Osprey Village.

Work plan

N/A

Options

Staff have identified three (3) potential options to accommodate the Developer's Request.

The first option is to amend the bylaw to allow for the requested size of lateral line to be accommodated for the development. The bylaw only allows up to a 3" diameter water lateral, compared to the requested 4" diameter water lateral, to be installed under the Bylaw. Staff

recommend that the amendment be structured in a way to encompass a broad range of lateral diameters to accommodate possible future requests for water service.

The second option would be to completely repeal Bylaw 013 and end the charge levied by MODL for the installation of water connections on MacCulloch Road. This option could help promote or reduce costs of housing and further development in the MacCulloch Road area.

The third option would be to only repeal Schedule A from Bylaw 013, removing the charges outlined for MacCulloch Road. This would allow Council the ability to remove the charge for MacCulloch Road while maintaining the bylaw for future areas where a cost recovery charge for water infrastructure may be advantageous.

Conclusion

Staff are seeking direction on proceeding with a development request that cannot be currently met through Bylaw 013. This bylaw does not allow for the requested 4" diameter water lateral to be installed and charged within the existing Schedule A language. Council could amend the Bylaw to include more lateral size options or repeal the Bylaw/parts of the Bylaw, removing the charge from developments.

Report Preparation	
Department	Engineering and Public Works
Report Prepared by	Larry Feener P.Eng., Tyler Richardson P.Eng.
Report Approved by	Stephen Pace MBA, P.Eng.
Date Reviewed by C.A.O.	