

**Special Town Council Minutes
March 26, 2025
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Mayor S. Cameron
Deputy Mayor D. Roberts
Councillor L. MacLellan
Councillor P. McKenna
Councillor A. Murray
Councillor J. Pelly
Councillor J. Sullivan

Also, in Attendance

R. Delorey, CAO
M. Fougere, Deputy Clerk
S. Long, Acting Director of Community Development

1. Call to Order

Mayor S. Cameron called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was Moved and Seconded “to approve the agenda as presented.”

Motion carried.

Moved by A. Murray & Deputy Mayor

3. New Business

3.1 Accessibility Plan: 2025 Update

Kayla Hunt from LTRT (Left Turn Right Turn) provided an introduction and update on the Accessibility Plan.

The first Accessibility Plan was implemented in 2023.

Community engagement efforts included:

- Two pop-up style consultations at the People’s Place Library and the Farmers Market.
- An online drop-in consultation facilitated by LTRT (Left Turn Right Turn) staff.

Councillor L. MacLellan asked if an assessment of town resources and gaps had been conducted.

It was noted that a key action is to update the timeline for action items and conduct a resource scan.

CAO, R. Delorey inquired whether the Municipality is ahead, behind, or on par with other municipalities across the province. It was confirmed that the Municipality is on par with others.

Councillor L. MacLellan noted that new built-environment standards were released approximately two weeks ago.

The province has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreeing to adopt these standards with necessary amendments.

Councillor P. MacKenna inquired if LTRT maintains a list of best practices for municipal-level accessibility improvements. It was clarified that developing best practices is outside LTRT's scope and falls under staff responsibilities.

CAO, R. Delorey referenced the 2023 adoption of the Accessibility Plan and findings from the What You Heard report, noting that some deficiencies remain. The current approach is to incorporate improvements as part of ongoing maintenance work.

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts asked about the timeline for implementing the plan, questioning whether it would follow a structured approach or be addressed on an as-needed basis.

CAO, R. Delorey responded that the plan remains current and is still under development.

The Town will present an annual progress report to the Accessibility Advisory Committee to enhance transparency and accountability.

Mayor and Council thanked K. Hunt for her presentation.

3.2 Antigonish Equity, Anti-Hate, & Anti-Racism Plan

The Mayor asked Council members if they had reviewed the plan.

Indicating that the plan must be approved and submitted to the Province by April 1st, as per provincial regulations requiring all municipalities to have their own Equity and Anti-Racism Plan.

S. Long took the podium to present the update to council. The Municipality of Antigonish developed this plan jointly with the County, with recommendations and support from the Province.

The Nova Scotia Office of Equity and Anti-Racism provided various tools, including a self-assessment tool and municipal guidelines.

A training session was held in November, facilitated by the municipal administrative association, where town and county officials worked through the self-assessment tool. This process helped identify areas for improvement in how the municipality approaches projects, initiatives, and day-to-day operations.

The plan is similar to the Accessibility Plan, and is built around four key commitments:

1. Engagement with underserved communities
2. Dismantling systems of discrimination
3. Building an anti-racist and anti-hate community

4. Ongoing improvement and accountability

Municipalities play a crucial role in shaping the daily lives and experiences of residents. It is the Municipality's responsibility to ensure that services are delivered fairly, respectfully, and equitably while promoting public safety and inclusion.

The plan acknowledges existing barriers, such as discrimination, exclusion, and lack of representation.

The plan is a starting point, not a final solution.

Long-term commitment is required to sustain engagement and create real change. Effective communication & outreach are essential to ensure meaningful community participation.

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts left the meeting at 6:56 pm

Motion

It was Moved and Seconded "That Town Council endorse the Nalikitquniejk Antigonish Equity Anti Hate & Anti Racism Plan as presented."

Motion carried.

4. Adjournment

It was Moved and Seconded "to adjourn at 7:02 pm."

Motion carried.