
MEETING: Regular Town Council Meeting

DATE: June 16, 2025

TIME: 6:00 PM

PLACE: Town Council Chambers

Agenda

- 1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement**
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
 - 3.1 Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of May 20, 2025, and the Special Council meetings of June 3 and June 11, 2025.
- 4. Banner & Flag Requests**
 - 4.1 Antigonish Highland Society
 - 4.2 Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre
 - 4.3 Antigonish Parents in Action Education Committee – PAN African Flag Aug 5-31, 2025
- 5. Business from Committee of the Whole**
 - 5.1 AREA Committee Appointment
- 6. Business from the Minutes**
 - 6.1 PARC Group – Facility Assessment Update
 - 6.2 Community Grants 2025-2026 Allocation
- 7. New Business**
 - 7.1 Canada Day - Staff
 - 7.2 Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) Grant's Policy
 - 7.3 CHIF Funding for West St. Resolution
 - 7.4 Summer Council Meetings – Councillor McKenna
 - 7.5 Community Events, Tickets and Tables for Council (STFX President's Dinner June 21)
- 8. Correspondence**
 - 8.1 Festival Antigonish – Letter to Mayor and Council
 - 8.2 Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia – Letter to the Mayor
 - 8.3 Antigonish Women's Resource – AGM Invitation June 17th
 - 8.4 NS Physicians warn about uranium exploration and mining
 - 8.5 Terry Fox National Riders – Ride for Hope July 8th (Antigonish)
- 9. Staff Reports**
- 10. In-Camera**
 - 10.1 Legal advice eligible for solicitor-client privilege; (MGA Section 22(2)(g))
 - 10.2 Personnel Matters (MGA Section 22(2)(c))
- 11. Adjournment**

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**Regular Town Council
May 20, 2025
Town Council Chambers**

Present

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

Also in Attendance

R. Delorey, CAO
M. Fougere, Deputy Clerk
M. Barkhouse, Director of Corporate Services & Acting CAO
S. Long, Acting Director of Community Development
K. Meisner, P. Eng., Director of Engineering and Infrastructure
M. Williams, Marketing and Communications

Regrets

Councillor J. Pelly

Members of the Gallery

Media

1. Land Acknowledgement & Call to Order

Mayor S. Cameron called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people and recognized that we are all treaty people.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was Moved by Councillor McKenna, Seconded Councillor Murray "to approve the agenda as presented."

Motion Carried

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of April 22, 2025, were accepted as presented.

4. Business from Committee of the Whole

4.1 Live Streaming Policy

Council was provided with a memo from Staff on the Live Streaming policy at the May 7th Committee of the Whole Meeting and a recommended motion was brought forth to this regular council meeting.

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Motion

It was Moved by Councillor MacLellan, Seconded by Councillor McKenna “that Council for the Town of Antigonish hereby adopts the Town of Antigonish Livestreaming Policy, as presented at the Town’s Committee of the Whole meeting on May 7, 2025.”

Motion Carried

Mayor Cameron called to break for a quick recess to give staff time to switch the meeting over to live streaming capability.

4.2 Traffic Authority Policy

Council was provided with a memo regarding the amended Traffic Authority Policy at the May 7th Committee of the Whole Meeting and two recommended motions were brought forth to this Regular Council Meeting, the following motions were approved:

Motion

It was Moved by Deputy Mayor Roberts, Seconded by Councillor Murray “that Council approves the amended Town of Antigonish Traffic Authority Policy as presented.”

Motion Carried

Motion

It was Moved by Deputy Mayor Roberts, Seconded by Councillor Murray “that Council approves Kyle Meisner as the Town’s Traffic Authority, John Pellerin to a Deputy Traffic Authority, and Grace Gillis as another Deputy Traffic Authority.”

Motion Carried

Discussions from council was brought up on the responsibility of the By-Law Enforcement and CAO R. Delorey clarified that the Traffic Authority role had historically been managed by a By-Law Enforcement Officer. However, with the new organizational structure effective May 1, 2025, the role is now more appropriately housed within the Infrastructure and Public Works Department. One By-Law Officer remains appointed as a Deputy Traffic Authority to assist as needed.

4.3 Resolution of Council for PCAP funding

A memo was circulated in council’s package to seek Council’s approval to formally support the joint application for Provincial Capital Assistance Program (PCAP) funding for an Intermunicipal Sewage Flow Study between the Town of Antigonish and the Municipality of the County of Antigonish.

The study supports efforts to update the Intermunicipal Sewage Agreement.

Resolution

It was Moved by Councillor McKenna, Seconded by Councillor Murray “Be it resolved that the Municipality of the Town of Antigonish submit applications for available provincial funding (PCAP) jointly with the Municipality of the County of Antigonish for an intermunicipal sewage flow study. This flow study will be undertaken by a third-party consultant and will form the basis for a new Intermunicipal Sewage Agreement between the two parties.”

Motion Carried

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5. Presentations/Flag Requests

5.1 Antigonish Highland Society

Carol Anne MacKenzie, President of the Antigonish Highland Society, presented to Town Council, accompanied by Vice President Gerardine MacLean and Operations Manager Dan Cochrane.

Ms. MacKenzie highlighted the Society's long-standing role in preserving and promoting Gaelic and Highland Scottish culture, noting its continued efforts to serve past, present, and future generations. She emphasized the importance of community collaboration and thanked the Town for its ongoing support.

The 2025 Games will mark the 160th running of the Antigonish Highland Games, drawing international visitors to celebrate Gaelic culture through music, dance, athletics, and tradition. As a special initiative this year, the Society is offering free daytime passes as a gesture of thanks to the local community, made possible through strong donor and sponsor support.

Mr. Cochrane spoke to the historical significance of the Games and shared details on the evolving programming, highlighting youth participation in heavy events and piping and drumming competitions. A short video clip showcasing highlights from past Games was also presented.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Society gifted Council a framed photo of the Highland Games in recognition of the Town's continued support of the Games.

Mayor Cameron thanked the presenters for their time and contribution.

5.2 ACTS (Antigonish Community Transit Society)

Richie Connors, General Manager of ACTS, provided Council with an overview of the organization. ACTS is a non-profit, charitable transit service operating since 2014, with registered charitable status since 2021. Its mission is to provide safe, affordable, and accessible transportation to residents of the Town and County of Antigonish.

Mr. Connors outlined ACTS's two core services:

Book-A-Ride: A door-to-door, flexible, pre-booked service (Monday to Friday)

Fixed Route: A one-hour loop through Town running Monday–Friday (9 AM–5 PM) and Saturdays (8 AM–4 PM).

Services support access to healthcare, education, employment, and reduce rural isolation. Additional offerings include:

- Accessible transport for seniors and persons with disabilities
- Medical transportation (local and out-of-town)
- Recreational transit for local groups
- Essential trips (groceries, pharmacy, social services)

Mr. Connors thanked the Town and County for their support, highlighting the valuable contributions of Deputy Mayor Diane Roberts and County Councillor Gary Mattie as ACTS Board members.

Council Discussion

During the discussion, questions were raised regarding the visibility of stop signage, with ACTS acknowledging the concern and confirming that improvements will be included in the upcoming rebranding initiative. Inquiries were also made about the development of a transit app, to which it was noted that a Google-based app is forthcoming. Clarification was provided on fleet size: ACTS currently operates nine vehicles (seven—soon to be eight—for Book-A-Ride and two for the Fixed Route).

The Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Connors for his presentation. Council expressed appreciation for ACTS's continued contribution to the community. A complimentary transit pass was offered to Council members to experience the service firsthand.

5.3 Allan Armsworthy - Fence Repair Denial Appeal

Allan Armsworthy appeared before Council to appeal a denied request for fence repair at his primary residence. He referenced two complaints previously submitted to the Town and stated that, following the recent election, he approached the new CAO and was informed that his request had been denied. Mr. Armsworthy also obtained an independent report, which noted the fence was rusted.

Deputy Mayor Roberts confirmed that Mr. Armsworthy had previously reached out to her and advised Council that the fence had been repaired on two prior occasions in the past. Council engaged in discussion regarding past practices in similar cases and the history of Mr. Armsworthy's previous fence repairs.

Mayor Cameron thanked Mr. Armsworthy for his presentation and noted that, while there is currently no formal appeal process in place, Staff would follow up with Mr. Armsworthy.

5.4 Filipino Cultural Society of Nova Scotia Flag Raising Request

Council reviewed a request from the Filipino Cultural Society of Nova Scotia to fly the Filipino Cultural Flag on June 12, 2025, in recognition of Philippine Independence Day.

Motion

It was Moved by Councillor MacLellan, Seconded by Councillor Sullivan that the Town grant this group to fly the Filipino Culture Flag on June 12 for the one day."

Motion Carried

During discussion, Council noted the value of including an image or description of requested flags in future submissions to provide better context and understanding of flag-raising requests.

5.5 Antigonish Pride Flag Raising Request

Council received a request from Antigonish Pride to fly the Pride Flag from June 2 to June 30, with the exception of June 12, in recognition of the previously approved flag-raising for the Filipino Cultural Society.

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Motion

It was Moved by Councillor Murray, Seconded by Councillor Sullivan “that the Antigonish Pride Flag be flown for the month of June, with the exception of June 12th.”

Motion Carried

5.6 Access Awareness Week (May 25-31)

Council received a request to raise the Access Awareness Flag in recognition of Access Awareness Week, taking place May 25–31, 2025.

Motion

It was Moved by Councillor MacLellan, Seconded by Councillor McKenna “that the Town approve the request to raise the Access Awareness flag as requested May 25-31, 2025.”

Motion Carried

Council recessed at 7:26 PM.

Councillor Murray left the meeting at 7:28 PM.

The meeting reconvened at 7:32 PM.

6. Business from Minutes

6.1 Low-Income Property Tax Exemption Policy

M. Barkhouse presented proposed updates to the Low-Income Property Tax Exemption Policy, previously introduced at the April 22nd Regular Council Meeting. The recommended changes are as follows:

- Increase the maximum annual household income threshold from \$28,510 to \$35,000.
- Replace the flat exemption of \$450 with a tiered exemption ranging from \$250 to \$750.

These changes aim to align with anticipated tax rate increases and offer more targeted financial support to residents most impacted.

The CAO noted that the previous presentation included a detailed comparison of various low-income tax structures for Council’s consideration.

Motion

It was Moved by Councillor MacLellan, Seconded by Councillor McKenna, “that Council approve the updated Low-Income Property Tax Exemption Policy as presented.”

Motion Carried

Staff confirmed that the exemption application period will run from May 30 to June 30 and will be advertised accordingly.

Councillor Sullivan expressed appreciation for the update, noting the positive impact this will have for eligible residents.

7. New Business

7.1 EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) Policy

CAO, R. Delorey presented a new Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Policy for Council’s consideration. Although it was initially intended for discussion at a Committee of the Whole meeting, the item was brought forward due to the potential Canada Post strike scheduled for this Friday.

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The policy aims to modernize the Town's payment processes by allowing vendor payments to be made via EFT rather than by cheque. The policy is written as a permanent change to streamline operations and reduce reliance on postal services.

Motion

It was Moved by Councillor MacLellan, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Roberts, "that Council adopt the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Policy as presented."

Motion Carried

7.2 Volunteer of the Year Nominations 2025

Council received the Volunteer of the Year nominations in their Council package in advance of the meeting. M. Williams informed Council that the Town received four total submissions, two of which were eligible nominations. The eligible Youth nomination was Dondre Reddick, and the eligible Adult nomination was Bill Landry. As there was only one eligible nomination in each category, both nominees will be acclaimed as the 2025 Volunteer of the Year recipients.

Councillor MacLellan suggested that future nominations could be reviewed by the Nominations Committee prior to being brought forward to Council for final approval.

Council acknowledged both as excellent nomination choices. Staff will follow up and contact the selected nominees.

8. Correspondence

8.1 Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High School

Council received a letter from the Relay for St. Martha's Committee at Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High School regarding a student-led, community-focused fundraising event in support of the Pediatric Procedure Room at St. Martha's Hospital. The event is scheduled to take place on June 5th.

Motion

It was Moved by Deputy Mayor D. Roberts and Seconded by Councillor J. Sullivan "that Town Council make a \$200.00 donation to the Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High School Relay for St. Martha's Committee."

Motion Carried

8.2 Antigonish Garden Club

Mayor Cameron informed Council that he received a thank-you card and a batch of muffins from Mary Campbell on behalf of the Antigonish Garden Club. The gesture was in appreciation of the donation provided by Town Council at the March 17, 2025 Regular Council Meeting in support of their upcoming Annual Convention, scheduled for June 13–14, 2025 at St. Francis Xavier University.

Mayor Cameron extended his thanks to Mary and the Garden Club for their thoughtful gesture.

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9. Staff Reports

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts commended the Staff Reports, acknowledging the new section included under the Director of Infrastructure and Engineering report. She expressed appreciation for the inclusion of Public Works personnel, noting that it provides an introduction to staff members and the work they do.

Mayor Cameron advised Council that he received an email identifying a pothole located in front of St. James United Church, which was noticed during the recent Veterans Walk as part of the Legion Convention parade. Discussions took place and it was suggested that "pothole" be added as a separate category in the Town's Report a Concern tool to improve issue tracking. Staff confirmed this addition will be made.

Councillor McKenna echoed this suggestion and noted that having a specific section for pothole reporting in the online Report a Concern form would allow staff to more easily identify and address these types of concerns submitted by the public.

S. Long informed Council that the Town and County have jointly supported the installation of a new visitor information kiosk at the library. An unveiling event is scheduled for Thursday, May 22nd at 5:00 PM at the Antigonish Library. Staff will circulate a reminder to Council.

Motion

It was Moved by Councillor McKenna, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Roberts, that the Staff Reports be accepted as presented.

Motion Carried

Mayor Cameron called for a short recess at 7:56 PM.

10. In-Camera Session under the MGA – Sec 22 (2)(e)

10.1 Contract Negotiations

It was Moved by Councillor MacLellan, Seconded by Councillor McKenna, that Council proceed In Camera at 8:14 PM under Section 22(2)(e) of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) to discuss: Contract Negotiations.

Council returned to the regular meeting and reconvened at 9:10 PM.

11. Adjournment

The Mayor Called for an adjournment at 9:11 PM. It was Moved by Deputy Mayor Roberts.

**Special Council Meeting
June 3, 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
M. Barkhouse, Director of Corporate Services
S. Long, Director of Community Development
K. Meisner, Director of Public Works
M. Williams, Marketing and Communications Officer

1. Call to Order

Mayor S. Cameron called the meeting to order at 8:06 PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was Moved by Councillor MacLellan and Seconded by Councillor Murray “to approve the Agenda as presented.”

Motion Carried

Mayor Cameron excused himself from the Chair in order to read aloud the 2025–2026 Capital Budget Resolution, the 2025–2026 Waste Management Collection Resolution, and the 2025–2026 Sewer Rate Resolution. Deputy Mayor Roberts assumed the Chair for this portion of the meeting.

3. Business from the Minutes

3.1 2025–2026 Capital & Operating Budget – Final Approval

Resolution 2025-06-03A Re: 2025-26 Budget

It was Moved by Councillor Murray, Seconded by Councillor MacLellan “WHEREAS the Town of Antigonish estimates the amount of \$ 18,184,588.42 as necessary expenditures for the lawful purposes of general Town operations, and revenue, other than taxation revenues in the amount of \$ 10,291,233.42 for the year 2025-26; AND WHEREAS the net amount required to be raised by taxation is in the amount of \$7,893,355.00; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the tax rate to be set for 2025-26 at the rate of \$ 1.30 for Residential and Resource and \$ 2.90 for Commercial properties per \$100.00 of taxable assessment; and a Fire Levy of \$ 0.046 per \$100.00 of assessment. AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the due date for 2025-26 taxes to be paid to the Town of Antigonish be July 4, 2025; AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the interest charged on taxes be set at 9% per annum on the taxes outstanding after the aforesaid due date of July 4, 2025.”

Motion Carried

Council Discussion – Capital Budget

Following the approval of the 2025–2026 Capital Budget, Council engaged in a brief discussion on several related items:

- The CAO clarified that the Town’s policy allows for grants in lieu to eligible organizations, up to a maximum of 3%.
- Councillor McKenna inquired about the inclusion of lease-to-own equipment costs in the Public Works budget. M. Barkhouse and R. Delorey confirmed that the full cost is reflected within the Capital Expenditures, as previously discussed at the Audit Committee. While McKenna accepted the explanation, he expressed some dissatisfaction.
- Mayor Cameron reminded Council of the Low-Income Property Tax Rebate Program, noting that the income threshold has been increased to allow more residents to qualify.
- Councillor McKenna concluded by thanking staff for their efforts and expressed appreciation for the work done to move the Town forward.

Resolution 2025-06-03B Re: 2025-26 Waste Management Collection

It was Moved by Councillor MacLellan, Seconded by Councillor Sullivan “THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Antigonish that the Waste Management Collection charge for 2025-26 be established as \$ 336.26 per equivalent unit; AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the due date for 2025-26 charges to be paid to the Town of Antigonish be July 4, 2025; AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the interest charged on charges be set at 9% per annum on the amounts outstanding after the aforesaid due date of July 4, 2025.”

Motion Carried

Resolution 2025-06-03C Re: 2025-26 Sewer Rate

It was Moved by Councillor MacKenna, Seconded by Councillor Sullivan “THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Antigonish that the Sewer Rate charge for 2025-26 be established as 0.872 of Water Base Rate and Total Water Consumption charge; AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the due date for 2025-26 charges to be paid to the Town of Antigonish 30 days from the invoice date; AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the interest charged on charges be set at 9% per annum on the amounts outstanding after the aforesaid due date of 30 days from the invoice date.”

Motion Carried

At 8:23 PM, Deputy Mayor Roberts returned to her seat, and Mayor Cameron resumed the Chair.

Mayor’s Remarks – Capital Budget 2025-2026

Mayor Cameron thanked Council and staff for their hard work on the 2025–26 Capital Budget. He acknowledged that the approved budget includes a significant tax increase, noting it is the largest during his 10 years as a member of Council. He emphasized that the increase was not made lightly and followed careful deliberation.

Mayor Cameron explained that, in order to meet critical infrastructure needs, the Town was required to secure matching funds for several projects. To do so, the Town had to generate its share of funding—achievable only through a tax increase. He recognized the impact this has on taxpayers and reiterated that the decision was made with the long-term needs of the community in mind.

3.2 Approval of the Strategic Plan 2025-2029

Motion

It was Moved by Deputy Mayor Roberts, Seconded by Councillor Murray “that the Town approve the Strategic Plan 2025 -2029.”

Motion Carried

Mayor’s Remarks – Strategic Plan 2025–2029

Following the approval of the 2025–2029 Strategic Plan, Mayor Cameron spoke to the importance of the document and commended both Council and staff for their contributions. He noted that the new planning process represents an improvement over the previous capital planning model and credited the CAO and staff for their hard work in developing the plan.

Mayor Cameron emphasized that the Strategic Plan reflects the priorities brought forward by Council through community engagement and their collective experience, including input received while canvassing and speaking with residents. He acknowledged that the collaboration between Council and senior staff resulted in a well-rounded, thoughtful, and forward-looking document.

He stated that the Strategic Plan will serve as the blueprint and guiding document for both Council and staff throughout the remainder of the Council term. Mayor Cameron expressed pride in the work and dedication shown by Council in projecting the direction for the Town over the next four years and thanked all involved for their efforts.

Low-Income Property Tax Rebate

Before the meeting adjourned, M. Barkhouse provided Council with a brief overview of the Low-Income Property Tax Rebate application process. She reviewed the form and outlined the requirements for applicants, noting that the affidavit portion must be signed by a member of Council or the Deputy Clerk. Council was reminded of the application deadline: June 30, 2025, at 4:30 PM.

4. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM, moved by Councillor Murray and seconded by Councillor McKenna.

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**Special Council Meeting
June 11, 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

1. Call to Order

Mayor S. Cameron called the meeting to order at 4:52 PM.

1. Approval of Agenda

It was Moved by Councillor Murray, Seconded by Councillor McKenna “to approve the Agenda as presented.”

Motion Carried

2. New Business

2.1 Town of Antigonish Community Grants 2025-2026

Council was provided with a spreadsheet of all Community Grant applications for the 2025–2026 fiscal year in advance of the meeting, allowing members sufficient time to review each request. During the meeting, Council and CAO R. Delorey reviewed and discussed each application in detail and determined the final grant allocations for the year.

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts joined the meeting at 5:34 PM.

Council has approved the following Grant allocations. Staff will follow up with each organization listed.

Organization	Grant Approved Amount
ACALA	\$3,500.00
Antigonish Affordable Housing Society	\$4,500.00
Antigonish Arts Fair	\$18,000.00
Antigonish Challenger Baseball	\$2,000.00
Antigonish Culture Alive	\$6,500.00
Antigonish Emergency Fuel Fund	\$5,000.00
Antigonish Highland Society	\$15,000.00
Antigonish Imagination Library (ABC for Kids Society)	\$6,500.00

Organization	Grant Approved Amount
Antigonish Seniors' Care Van	\$1,000.00
Antigonish Skateboard Association	\$2,000.00
Antigonish Tourism Association	\$8,000.00
Antigonish Town & County Family Mental Health Support Society	\$3,000.00
Antigonish Marksmen Association	\$0.00
Antigonish VIC (Visitor Information Centre)	\$6,000.00
Antigonish Youth Group	\$0.00
Antigonish Farmers Market	\$2,000.00
Antigonish Amateur Radio Club	\$0.00
Antigonish Sno Dogs	\$15,000.00
All-of-Us Society	\$1,500.00
Arisaig Parish Community Centre	\$0.00
CACL Antigonish	\$8,000.00 *
DEANS	\$8,000.00
Eastern Nova Scotia Exhibition	\$0.00
Festival Antigonish	\$15,000.00
Keep Well Antigonish	\$3,000.00
Positive Action for the Keppoch Society	\$10,000.00
L'Arche Antigonish (Councillor J. Pelly recused)	\$3,500.00
Naomi Society (Councillor P. McKenna recused)	\$3,000.00
Nova Spiritus Society	\$0.00
The Williams Point Community Centre Association	\$0.00
Roof Over Your Head	\$2,000.00
Strait Area Ground Search and Rescue	\$2,500.00
Pickleball Antigonish Society	\$0.00
Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL)	\$2,900.00

Council held a discussion regarding the allocation of grant funding.

*CACL – Council requested that staff review the organization's property tax obligations and confirm final amount for council decision.

Some groups were not awarded funding due to insufficient information. Council suggested that these groups be invited to a future Council meeting to provide additional

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context about their organization and request. Staff will follow up with the respective groups.

Additionally, Council requested that staff explore the possibility of withdrawing from DEANS and review the differences between DEANS and the Antigonish Tourism Association to better understand the Town's support of both entities.

2.2 Chief Administrator Officer (CAO) Performance Review

This item has been deferred to Monday, June 16th Regular Council Meeting.

3. Adjournment

Mayor called for an adjournment at 6:58 PM. Moved by Councillor Pelly, Seconded by Councillor McKenna.



Flag/Banner Request

Applicant Information

1. Community Group/Organization Title:

Antigonish Highland society

2. Applicant Name:

Dan Cochrane

3. Email:

Admin@antigonishhighlandgames.ca

4. Address:

20 east main street

5. Postal Code:

B2g 2e9

6. Phone:

902-863-4275

Request Details

7. Please indicate your request:

- Flag
- Lamp Post Banner
- Other

8. If requesting a flag raising, please indicate what the flag is.

9. What type of event does your request coincide with?

- Parade
- Community Event
- Designated Month
- Memorial Recognition
- Festival/Celebration
- Other

10. Please indicate the date(s) your organization would like to have you flag/banner request fulfilled.

Flag/Banner Request Start Date:

11. Flag/Banner Request End Date:

12. Does your event require an official flag raising ceremony with Mayor and Council?

Yes

No

13. Additional information: (Please provide an overview of your request and how the addition of a flag to Chisholm Park or lamp post banners will benefit your event, celebration, or memorial).

We would like to hang lamppost banners in honor of the 160th ahg.

Permissions

Special Considerations

- Flags will be flown at Chisholm Park.

- Banners must be designed to be 18 inches by 44 inches and be made from vinyl material.

Banners must be designed and installed to the standard set by the Town.

- The Town reserves the right to inspect any flag or banner prior to placement on Town owned property. Flags or banners will not be placed by the Town if:

- i) The material is tattered, frayed, damaged or detracts from the beautification of the Town.

- ii) The flag or banner promotes discrimination or philosophy or seek values are deemed to be divisive or discriminatory.

- iii) The flag or banner contradicts the guidelines in place in the Town's Special Events Planning Guide.

- iv) No flag or banner can be suspended across the street.

Declaration

I, the undersigned, have read, understand, and agree to the conditions and policies in this contract hereby accept the same on behalf of the said members of the organization or group. I acknowledge and agree that the Town will make the final decision on this flag/banner request.

14. Signature:

A handwritten signature in orange ink is written inside a white rectangular input field. The signature is stylized and appears to consist of two main parts: a looped initial on the left and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

15. Date:

May 28th, 2025

Application Submission

Please submit your completed application and all associated supporting documentation to the following contact:

Mikaela Williams
Marketing and Communications Officer
Town of Antigonish
274 Main Street
Antigonish, Nova Scotia B2G 2C4

mikaela.williams@townofantigonish.ca

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Microsoft. The data you submit will be sent to the form owner.





Flag/Banner Request

Applicant Information

1. Community Group/Organization Title:

Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre

2. Applicant Name:

Caleb Marshall

3. Email:

caleb@festivalantigonish.ca

4. Address:

5015 Chapel Square, Antigonish,

5. Postal Code:

B2G2W5

6. Phone:

902-867-3954

Request Details

7. Please indicate your request:

- Flag
- Lamp Post Banner
- Other

8. If requesting a flag raising, please indicate what the flag is.

9. What type of event does your request coincide with?

- Parade
- Community Event
- Designated Month
- Memorial Recognition
- Festival/Celebration
- Other

10. Please indicate the date(s) your organization would like to have you flag/banner request fulfilled.

Flag/Banner Request Start Date:

July 2nd

11. Flag/Banner Request End Date:

Aug 23rd

12. Does your event require an official flag raising ceremony with Mayor and Council?

Yes

No

13. Additional information: (Please provide an overview of your request and how the addition of a flag to Chisholm Park or lamp post banners will benefit your event, celebration, or memorial).

Banner Request – Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre

13. Additional Information

We are actively seeking to re-energize Festival Antigonish's tourism draw post pandemic. STFX have misplaced the large sign that used to sit on campus. We believe we bring vibrancy to this community and that a bright and colourful downtown presence would reflect well on both FAST and the town. We also feel this will support our commitment to reconnect with local businesses. We are also requesting the allowance of one sandwich board near municipal hall that could display posters and have take away flyers. With the loss of the Casket, we are finding the community is often unaware of what is going on and main street presence is the best way to address this. Thank you for your consideration.

Permissions

Special Considerations

- Flags will be flown at Chisholm Park.
 - Banners must be designed to be 18 inches by 44 inches and be made from vinyl material.
- Banners must be designed and installed to the standard set by the Town.
- The Town reserves the right to inspect any flag or banner prior to placement on Town owned property. Flags or banners will not be placed by the Town if:
 - i) The material is tattered, frayed, damaged or detracts from the beautification of the Town.
 - ii) The flag or banner promotes discrimination or philosophy or seek values are deemed to be divisive or discriminatory.
 - iii) The flag or banner contradicts the guidelines in place in the Town's Special Events Planning Guide.
 - iv) No flag or banner can be suspended across the street.

Declaration

I, the undersigned, have read, understand, and agree to the conditions and policies in this contract hereby accept the same on behalf of the said members of the organization or group. I acknowledge and agree that the Town will make the final decision on this flag/banner request.

14. Signature:

15. Date:

Application Submission

Please submit your completed application and all associated supporting documentation to the following contact:

Mikaela Williams
Marketing and Communications Officer
Town of Antigonish
274 Main Street
Antigonish, Nova Scotia B2G 2C4

mikaela.williams@townofantigonish.ca

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Microsoft. The data you submit will be sent to the form owner.



MEMO: Community Grants Follow Up

Background:

At a Special Meeting, on June 11, 2025, Council reviewed and made decisions respecting applications received for the Town's Community Grant program. Allocations were made, by consensus, with three community grant items that resulting in a desire for additional information, which is presented below for Council's consideration.

Requested Outcome:

Following the review and decision on the three grants outlined below, a motion from Council to approve the Community Grant funding as determined at the June 11, 2025 Special Meeting, with amendments respecting any deviation from those allocations in light of the following information.

Community Grant Additional Information:

1. PARL – Highlighting a point mentioned at the very end of the Special Meeting meeting, PARL's Community Grant request was for \$1,200 for the Memory Cafe, which Council unanimously supported. I identified an additional operational amount that the Chief Librarian requested (\$1,668), to help offset the absence of a commitment from the Province to increase funding to Libraries. I added \$1,700 to their approved Community Grant allocation for a total \$2,900 for 2025-2026, with a note to be included in the letter to PARL indicating that the funds to PARL are for the Memory Cafe hosted at People's Place (\$1,200) and the remaining \$1,700 is to be allocated to People's Place in Antigonish for 2025-2026 operational needs.
2. DEANS - There was some discussion about obligations to maintain membership with DEANS. Further research is required, but at present it seems we may not have a legislative requirement to be a member; however membership has its privileges. For example, ACOA funding for tourism destination projects requires affiliation with a destination entity, for our region it is DEANS. If the Antigonish region wishes to tap into funding sources many of the larger envelopes are delivered through the membership with DEANS. For reference, the request was for \$9,893 with an allocation of \$8,000 at the Special Meeting.
3. CACL - The grant request (\$8000) to offset their municipal tax bill resulted in some discussion about offsetting the CACL's entire tax obligation. I ran some calculations to present options should Council wish to amend the grant contribution:
 - a. DECISION POINT: Community Grant to CACL for:
 - i. \$8,000 as per CACL submission and currently recorded on the decision sheet from the Special Council meeting of June 11.
 - ii. \$14,103.10 to offset 100% of residential and commercial tax obligations (excluding education and fire rates)
 - iii. \$10,061.59 to offset 100% of the commercial tax obligation (excluding education and fire rates) for the CACL workshop location
 - iv. \$6,203.20 to offset the difference between residential and commercial tax rate obligations (excluding education and fire rates) for the CACL workshop location.

2025-2026 Town of Antigonish Community Grant Allocations

Organization	2025-2026 Allocation
ACALA	\$ 3,500.00
Antigonish Affordable Housing Society	\$ 4,500.00
Antigonish Art Fair & Arts House	\$ 18,000.00
Antigonish Challenger Baseball	\$ 2,000.00
Antigonish Culture Alive	\$ 6,500.00
Antigonish Emergency Fuel Fund	\$ 5,000.00
Antigonish Highland Society	\$ 15,000.00
Antigonish Imagination Library (ABC for Kids Society)	\$ 6,500.00
Antigonish Seniors' Care Van	\$ 1,000.00
Antigonish Skateboard Association	\$ 2,000.00
Antigonish Tourism Association	\$ 8,000.00
Antigonish Town and County Family Mental Health Support Society	\$ 3,000.00
Antigonish VIC	\$ 6,000.00
Antigonish Farmers Market	\$ 2,000.00
Antigonish Sno-Dogs	\$ 15,000.00
All-of-Us Society	\$ 1,500.00
CACL Antigonish	\$ 8,000.00
DEANS	\$ 8,000.00
Festival Antigonish	\$ 15,000.00
Keep Well Antigonish	\$ 3,000.00
Postive Action for the Keppoch Society	\$ 10,000.00
L'Arche	\$ 3,500.00
Naomi Society	\$ 3,000.00
Roof Over Your Head	\$ 2,000.00
Strait Area Ground Search and Rescue	\$ 2,500.00
Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library	\$ 2,900.00
TOTAL	\$ 157,400.00

Council Consensus from Special Meeting June 11, 2025;
 For approval at Regular Meeting June 16, 2025

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to guide the provision of financial support to developers involved in the development of affordable housing. The policy establishes a framework for awarding grants to assist with seed funding, capacity building, and capital costs, with the objective of enabling increased affordable housing supply in the Town of Antigonish.

Policy Statement

The Town of Antigonish (“Town”) recognizes the vital role that housing developers play in addressing local housing needs. Through this grant program, the Town will provide targeted financial assistance to support the development and sustainability of affordable housing projects that benefit low- and moderate-income residents.

Legislative Authority

Section 57(4) of the Nova Scotia [Municipal Government Act](#) allows municipalities to provide direct financial assistance to businesses to incentivize affordable housing in the municipality.

Definitions

Affordable housing units: 80% of the [Area Average Median Rental](#) (AAMR) for Nova Scotia on the linked table¹ or 30% household income as per the [Nova Scotia Home Income Limits](#) (HILs).

Black-led organization: At least two thirds of the organization’s leadership (e.g., board of directors, executive, management team) self-identify as Black.

Black-focused organization: The focus of the organization is to support Black peoples and/or communities.

Black-serving organization: A significant portion of the organization’s program activities prioritize serving Black communities in Nova Scotia.

¹ Nova Scotia AMR for a 2 bedroom unit is \$1520; 80% = \$1216

Densification: adding more homes or people to an area without expanding its size. This can include building more houses or apartments on the same land, adding secondary suites, or renovating existing buildings. The goal of densification is to use land and municipal infrastructure more efficiently, support public transit, and create livelier, more walkable communities.

RN-1: a Residential Neighbourhood zone in the [Town of Antigonish's Land Use By-law](#) that allows up to 2 housing units as of right and triplexes or fourplexes with a Site Plan.

RN-2: a Residential Neighbourhood zone in the [Town of Antigonish's Land Use By-law](#) that allows up to 4 housing units as of right and multi-unit housing up to 6 units with a Site Plan and over 6 units with a Development Agreement.

Grant Categories

Grants may be awarded under the following categories:

1. Planning & Pre-Development for Non-Profit Organizations

- a) For early-stage project development activities such as feasibility studies, pre-development design, business planning, environmental assessments, and community engagement.
- b) Up to \$2000 per project is available until the fund is fully accessed.
- c) A part of this fund is set aside to support the growth and development of organizations that are Black-led, Black-focused, and serve Black communities. This action is in support of the following:
 1. "[Housing Needs Assessment: African Nova Scotian Housing Strategy](#)" (2024)
 2. "[African Nova Scotian Housing Strategy: Big Moves and Broad Actions for Change](#)" (2024)
 3. Guiding Principles in the Province of Nova Scotia's "[Our Homes, Action for Housing: A Five Year Housing Plan](#)" (2023),
 4. "[Charting a new course for affordable housing in Nova Scotia: The Nova Scotia Affordable Housing Commission Report](#)" (2021)

2. Capacity Building for Non-Profit Organizations

- a) To strengthen the internal capacity of non-profit organizations to plan, manage, and deliver affordable housing, including staff and board training, governance development, and organizational systems.
- b) Up to \$500 per project is available until the fund is fully accessed.
- c) A part of this fund is set aside to support the growth and development of organizations that are Black-led, Black-focused, and serve Black communities. This action is in support of the plans, strategies and reports listed in Grant Category 1. (c).

3. Town Services Connections

- a) Town services connections include water, sewer, and electricity.
- b) To support the construction or renovation of affordable housing units or the densification of housing units in the RN1, RN2, and any future higher order residential zones. [Zone Map for the Town of Antigonish](#).
- c) Up to 50% of the service connection charge to a maximum of \$5000 per project is available until the fund is fully accessed.
- d) May be provided as a conditional contribution tied to project milestones or outcomes.
- e) Preference will be given to developers creating at least 30% affordable housing units in their project.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

- a) Be a registered non-profit or charitable organization with the Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stock Companies to access grant categories 1 and 2.
- b) Be a non-profit or for-profit housing developer that is building 30% of their project as affordable units.
- c) Operate within the municipal boundaries or deliver a project that benefits residents of the Town.

- a) Provide evidence of alignment with the [Town of Antigonish's Housing Needs Assessment](#).
- b) Streams 1 and 2 require completion of activities within the fiscal year applied (April 1 – March 31).
- c) Stream 3 requires installation and connection of services to occur by December 31, 2027.
- d) Have acceptable financial and governance practices, where applicable.

Application Process

- a) Applications will be received on a rolling basis from April 1st until the closing date of December 1st or until the grant fund runs out, whichever comes first.
- b) A complete application must include project description, budget, timelines, supporting documentation, and confirmation of other funding sources.
- c) Town staff will review applications for completeness and eligibility and provide a recommendation to Council or its designated committee.

Assessment Criteria

Applications for all categories of the grant program will be assessed based on the following:

- a) Demonstrated need and evidence of alignment with Town housing needs assessment.
- b) Readiness and feasibility of the project.
- c) Capacity and track record of the applicant.
- d) Leveraging of other funding sources.
- e) Long-term affordability and community impact.

Reporting and Accountability

- a) Grant recipients must sign a funding agreement outlining conditions, deliverables, and reporting requirements.
- b) Annual and/or final reports will be required depending on the nature of the grant (Maximum 2 pages without appendices).

- c) Applicant may be requested to present an update to Council.
- d) Unused or misused funds may be subject to repayment.

Timeframes and Expectations

This grant will be funded by the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) for 2025, 2026, and 2027. According to the Canadian Mortgage Housing Corporation HAF Contribution Agreement with the Town, Council will fund the 2028 and 2029 program in the respective municipal budgets. In 2028, an evaluation will determine if the grant program continues as is or continues with modifications.

Housing Accelerator Funds will be spent on the action items in the Town's Initiatives early in the 2024-2027 program. As the initiatives move to completion, remaining funds may be reallocated to this grant program.

In 2025 there is \$50,000 available for grants. As the Town's HAF initiatives are completed, and we continue to receive the full allocation of the HAF, 2026, and 2027 should have a minimum of \$50,000 per year.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every two (2) years or as required by staff to ensure alignment with HAF objectives, Town's housing needs and priorities.



To: The Honorable Sean Cameron, Mayor of Antigonish, and Antigonish Town Council

From: Andrea Boyd, Artistic Director
Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre

June 6, 2025

Subject: The Vital Role of Arts and Culture in Antigonish's Strategic Future

Dear Mayor Cameron and Councillors,

As the Artistic Director of Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre, I would like to express my gratitude to the Town of Antigonish for its longstanding, visionary support of professional theatre in our community. Through this partnership, we have brought in thousands of patrons from across the province and beyond, many of whom dine in local restaurants, book accommodations, and shop in locally owned stores.

With this strong history, and looking ahead to our immense potential, I am deeply disappointed that there was no mention of arts and culture in the recently released strategic plan for the Town of Antigonish. This omission overlooks a sector that is not only central to our community's identity and cohesion but also a proven driver of economic vitality, tourism, public health, and civic engagement. Given the town's desire to grow tourism as outlined in the Antigonish Tourism Strategy, the absence of arts and culture in the strategic plan is surprising.

Festival Antigonish has been a pillar of cultural life in our town for over 35 years. As one of Atlantic Canada's longest-running professional theatres, we produce a summer season of bold and varied programming—ranging from new Canadian plays to adaptations of literary classics—that draws thousands of audience members annually from across Nova Scotia and beyond. Our operations support dozens of artists, technicians, and arts workers, and we employ a local administrative and production team year-round.

Our programming includes outreach to schools and underrepresented communities, and we are central to recruitment efforts for physicians and health care workers. We regularly partner with local businesses and organizations, including: Antigonish Tourism Association, Physician Recruitment and Community Navigator, Antigonish Chamber of Commerce, The People's Place: Antigonish Town and County Library, Arts Health Antigonish, L'Arche, ACALA, Paqtnkek First Nation and STFX.

Theatres like ours are economic engines. For every \$1 of public investment, the performing arts return \$15 in local economic impact through tourism, hospitality, and spending in surrounding businesses. We know from national research that 80% of Canadians believe theatres are essential for attracting visitors, and nearly 90% say live performance spaces contribute to quality of life. In Antigonish, the Bauer Theatre has long been one of the most beloved and visited cultural spaces in the region.

Antigonish is also home to an exceptionally high concentration of artists, musicians, writers, and creative professionals. From award-winning performers to visual artists and artisans, our town is a hub of creative energy. Many choose to live here because of the town's strong cultural identity, collaborative spirit, and the presence of long-standing institutions like STFX and Festival Antigonish. The creative sector is not peripheral—it is foundational to the character, economy, and reputation of Antigonish, and it should be treated as such in any long-term planning.

Beyond economics, the performing arts promote personal and collective well-being. Canadians who attend theatre or music events report significantly higher levels of mental and physical health, stronger community bonds, and greater civic participation. Participation in arts and culture predicts increased voting, volunteering, and connection—qualities we need now more than ever.

We also know that arts and culture play a central role in how communities express who they are. In a time of increasing diversity, population change, and social complexity, the arts offer ways for residents—both long-established and new—to connect, understand one another, and build a shared sense of belonging. These are strategic priorities that any forward-thinking community should celebrate.

The absence of arts and culture in the Town's strategic vision sends the wrong message about what kind of future we are building together. We urge the Town of Antigonish to acknowledge and include the creative sector as an essential pillar of civic life. We are deeply grateful for the Town's past support of Festival Antigonish, which has helped sustain and grow this vital community institution. We stand ready to continue that partnership in building a more vibrant, healthy, and inclusive Antigonish.

Sincerely,

Andrea Boyd
Artistic Director
Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre



Farmers' Markets of Nova
Scotia Cooperative Ltd.

9 Chestnut Lane

Dartmouth NS, B2Y 3X1

902-932-7282

fmns@farmersmarketsnovascotia.ca

www.farmersmarketsnovascotia.ca

May 7, 2025

Mayor Sean Cameron

Town of Antigonish

CC Marvin MacDonald, CAO

Request for Support: Nourishing Communities Food Coupon Program

Dear Mayor Cameron,

I hope this message finds you well.

I'm reaching out on behalf of Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia (FMNS) to share an important update and request your support for one of our province's most impactful community food programs—the Nourishing Communities Food Coupon Program.

As you may know, this program—now in its seventh year—offers dignified access to fresh, local food for food-insecure Nova Scotians while directly supporting local farmers and rural economies. It's a nationally recognized model of what's possible when community-based solutions are backed by public investment.

Yesterday, I sent a letter to Premier Tim Houston and four key Ministers requesting an increase in provincial funding for the program in 2025 (see attached). Despite demonstrated success and growing demand, we were informed that funding will revert to the baseline amount of \$422,400—37% less than what was provided in 2024. This reduction means over 200 households will lose access to this vital support.

Your municipality is home to the Antigonish Farmers' Market, which is an active partner in delivering this program. We would be deeply grateful if your office would consider writing a brief letter of support to the Premier and Ministers, urging them to reconsider this funding decision. A draft email template is enclosed for ease.

Together, we can help ensure more Nova Scotians can

access healthy, local food with dignity. If you have any questions or would like to discuss, I'd be more than happy to connect.

With respect and resolve,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Justin Cantafio', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Justin Cantafio
Executive Director
Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia

REQUEST TO THE GOVERNMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA TO INCREASE INVESTMENT IN THE NOURISHING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM



We're asking for a budget of \$1 million for our 2025 program and beyond.
Why? We're in a food insecurity crisis. The waitlist keeps growing, and the **only** limit to increasing the impact of our program is access to funding.

Thanks to \$672,400 in funding by the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage in 2024, FMNS provided over \$450,000 in market bucks to households facing food insecurity in 33 communities across Nova Scotia.

Here are some highlights:

- Nearly 600 households participated this year, representing over 1,800 individuals
- Approximately \$775 per household in assistance provided
- 33 participating farmers' markets and 54 partner organizations

Key impacts from the Nourishing Communities program, an ongoing partnership between FMNS and NS CCTH:

- 100% of market bucks go to Nova Scotia's economy, supporting local farmers and rural communities while contributing to the local economic multiplier effect
- 97% of all market bucks redeemed (the remainder is recycled into next year's program)
- 95% of program participants said they felt a greater sense of community belonging
- 94% reported that their mental health was improved as a result of participating in this program

Nova Scotia's challenges	How Nourishing Communities helps
28.9% of Nova Scotians experienced food insecurity in 2022; the highest in Canada	91% of participants reported eating healthier than usual during the program
Nova Scotia has the among the lowest poverty indicators index score of any province	90% of participants felt that they had more money to meet their other (non-food / grocery) needs
NS lost over 21% of its farms from 2016 to 2021—the largest decline in the number of farms of any province in the country over that period	Since 2019, over \$1.5 million has been spent at local farmers' market businesses, and ~80% has been on food products (nearly 1/3 on fresh produce alone)

REQUEST TO THE GOVERNMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA TO INCREASE INVESTMENT IN THE NOURISHING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM



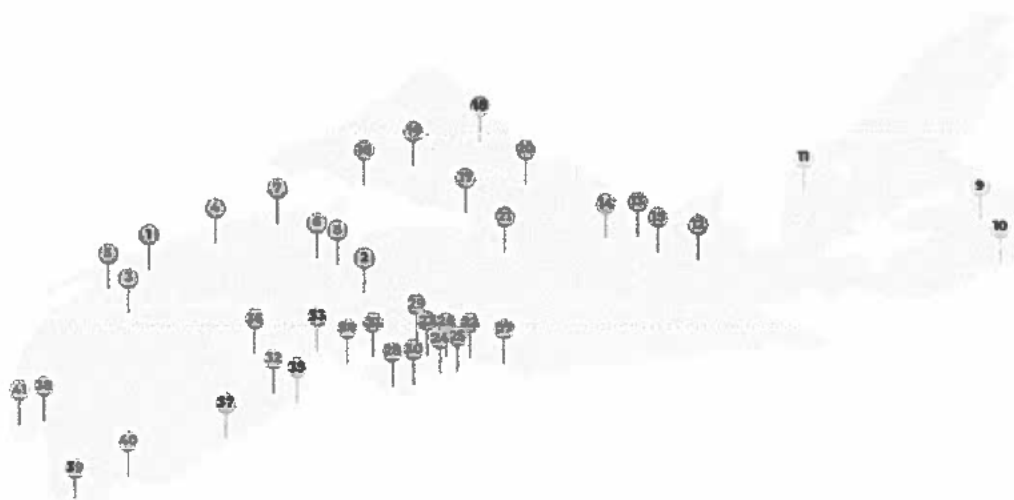
For every additional \$50,000 invested in this program, we can provide:

Roughly 1,167 more weekly allotments of market bucks OR
Add over 45 more households / 140 more people to our program

The now seven-year long partnership between the Province and Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia's Nourishing Communities Program has maintained three key objectives:

1. To provide financial support to those in need to access healthy food, recognizing that almost 1 in 3 people in Nova Scotia are food insecure;
2. To provide an experience that supports physical, mental, and community health; and
3. To support local producers and farmers in developing a robust and resilient food system in Nova Scotia

With over 40 member farmers' markets across Nova Scotia, the Nourishing Communities Program has full coverage, including numerous rural communities.





Farmers' Markets of Nova
Scotia Cooperative Ltd.

9 Chestnut Lane

Dartmouth NS, B2Y 3Y1

902-952-7282

fmns@farmersmarketsnovascotia.ca

www.farmersmarketsnovascotia.ca

May 6, 2025

The Honourable Tim Houston

Premier of Nova Scotia

Office of the Premier

Province of Nova Scotia

Request for Additional Funding for the Nourishing Communities Program

Dear Premier Houston,

First, I want to extend my sincere thanks to your government for its continued support of the **Nourishing Communities Food Coupon Program**, now in its seventh year. This innovative partnership between the Province of Nova Scotia and Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia (FMNS) has provided thousands of food-insecure Nova Scotians with dignified access to fresh, local food while strengthening rural economies and supporting our farmers. It is a shining example of what's possible when community-rooted solutions are backed by public investment.

In 2024, a generous one-time funding increase of \$250,000 (from \$422,400 to \$672,400) allowed FMNS to distribute over \$450,000 in market bucks to nearly 600 households across 33 communities. This helped over 1,800 individuals put fresh food on their tables and supported 54 partner organizations province-wide. With a 97% redemption rate and 95% of participants reporting a stronger sense of community, the program's impact speaks for itself.

We've learned that our funding for 2025 will stay at \$422,400—and **without a top-up, more than 200 households will lose access to this vital support**. This is the second time the Province has followed a one-time funding boost with a reversion to baseline levels the following year. While we remain deeply grateful for any and all government support, this abrupt reduction will mean reaching significantly fewer households at a time when **Nova Scotia continues to experience the highest rate of food insecurity in Canada**, and 5 more FMNS member markets

seek to join our program for 2025. This would further expand the program's reach, particularly into rural communities.

We understand the Province faces difficult budget decisions. However, this decision lands hardest on the most vulnerable people in our communities—people for whom this program isn't just helpful, but essential. The consequences are real: fewer meals on tables, less stability, and lost opportunity to invest in our local food economy.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you directly to discuss options for bridging this gap in 2025 and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Nourishing Communities program. Our ask remains the same as it has been for several years: **a provincial investment of \$1 million annually**. This amount would allow us to meet growing demand, reduce the length of our waitlist, and build on a proven, community-based model.

Premier Houston, Nova Scotians are struggling—but they haven't given up. Neither have we. At FMNS, we believe—as your Ministers affirmed at our AGM in April—that "food for all is feasible." Let's work together to make that more than a slogan. I'd be honoured to sit down with you and your Ministers to explore a shared path forward.

With respect and resolve,



Justin Cantafio
Executive Director
Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia

CC The Honourable Dave Ritcey, Minister of Communities
Culture, Tourism and Heritage
CC The Honourable Scott Armstrong, Minister of
Opportunities and Social Development
CC The Honourable Greg Morrow, Minister of Agriculture
CC The Honourable Colton LeBlanc, Minister of Growth and
Development

Email Letter of Support Template

Subject: Support for Nourishing Communities Program

Dear Premier Houston,

On behalf of **[Municipality Name]**, I am writing to express our strong support for the Nourishing Communities Food Coupon Program delivered through Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia (FMNS). This initiative plays a vital role in our community, providing food-insecure residents with access to fresh, local food while supporting our regional farmers and producers.

We understand that provincial funding for the 2025 program will revert to the baseline level of \$422,400—a significant decrease from the 2024 amount of \$672,400. This reduction will have a direct impact on our constituents and local food system, as it means more than 200 fewer households across the province will benefit from this critical support.

[Optional: In our municipality, the program is delivered through [insert local market(s) name(s)], which has seen firsthand the positive impact of this initiative on families, farmers, and the broader community.]

We respectfully urge your government to increase its funding commitment to FMNS, restoring and ideally expanding support for the Nourishing Communities program. A sustained annual investment of \$1 million would allow FMNS to meet growing demand, reduce its waitlist, and continue strengthening Nova Scotia's food security and rural economy.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your continued support of solutions that are rooted in community, dignity, and resilience.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]

[Municipality Name]

Please note the following email addresses:

The Honourable Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia	premier@novascotia.ca
CC The Honourable Dave Ritcey, Minister of Communities Culture, Tourism and Heritage	MIN_CCTH@novascotia.ca
CC The Honourable Scott Armstrong, Minister of Opportunities and Social Development	OSDMIN@novascotia.ca
CC The Honourable Greg Morrow, Minister of Agriculture	min_dag@novascotia.ca
CC The Honourable Colton LeBlanc, Minister of Growth and Development	edminister@novascotia.ca

From: [Town of Antigonish Mayor](#)
To: [Leon MacLellan](#); [Jack Sullivan](#); [Patrick McKenna](#); [Juanita Pelly](#); [Andrew Murray](#); [Diane Roberts](#); [Melanie Fougere](#); [Randy Delorey](#)
Subject: Antigonish Women's Resource-AGM
Date: June 10, 2025 6:31:09 PM

Council

See the invitation from AWRCSASA for their upcoming Annual General Meeting.
Tuesday, June 17th, 2025 starting at 6 pm



Sean Cameron
Mayor, Town of Antigonish



June 11, 2025

The Honorable Tim Houston
Premier of Nova Scotia
7th Floor, One Government Place
1700 Granville Street
Halifax, NS B3J 1X5
premier@novascotia.ca

RE: The many human health risks of uranium exposure, exploration, and mining

Dear Premier Houston,

As a follow-up to our February 19, 2025 letter, we are writing again on behalf of the Nova Scotia committee of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE) to implore you to urgently reinstate the Uranium Exploration and Mining Prohibition Act repealed by Bill 6 in March of this year.

CAPE is a non-partisan, physician-led organization concerned with the health of Nova Scotians. There is clear evidence that uranium exploration, mining, processing, and the resulting waste create significant and long-lasting damage to human health.

Since March, your government has issued requests for proposals to promote uranium exploration in three rural areas of Nova Scotia. This opens the province to serious health and environmental harms posed by uranium exploration and mining. These dangers were clearly documented four decades ago by the McCleave Commission of Inquiry on Uranium,¹ and reiterated in 2008 by expert witnesses who provided evidence for the 2009 legislation prohibiting uranium exploration and mining.²

The physics of uranium have not changed in the intervening years, nor have the health risks that are posed when it is disturbed.

The ban on uranium exploration and mining was not “lazy public policy.” Rather, it was wise, cost-saving, well-studied, and critically important public health policy. We are deeply concerned that it was overturned without proper consultation with healthcare experts. As physicians and healthcare providers, it is our duty to call your attention to the health dangers this decision has unleashed.

¹ <https://novascotia.ca/natr/meb/pdf/ofr612.asp>

² https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/legc/bills/61st_1st/3rd_read/b039.htm



Uranium is a heavy metal that poses health dangers because it is chemically toxic, and also because it is radioactive, its decay by-products even more so.

Uranium exploration, mining, and processing are associated with a wide range of adverse human health problems. These are most pronounced among workers in the industry who are directly exposed to uranium and its by-products, but they also affect the general population exposed through water- or airborne contaminants mobilized or released from these activities.

Peer-reviewed studies from around the world confirm that mining and contaminated groundwater, which mining can exacerbate, are the primary sources of uranium contamination exposure.³

Uranium exposure can cause kidney failure, diminished bone growth, organ and genetic damage, infertility, birth defects, and increased infant mortality. Because it is radioactive, it is also linked to lung cancer, along with several other kinds of cancer.⁴ Radiation disproportionately harms children and females, and uranium exposure is particularly dangerous during pregnancy.

Please refer to CAPE's accompanying fact sheet on health risks of uranium for more detailed information from peer-reviewed scientific and independent medical/expert sources.

Proponents of uranium mining claim – falsely – that we need to mine uranium for medical isotopes used in diagnostic tests. These days, medical isotopes are produced in research reactors that don't require uranium, and are most safely made in devices called cyclotrons.

The proponents fail to mention that the tailings and waste from uranium mines, estimated to remain radioactive for 100,000 years, need to be contained and cared for in perpetuity.

There are only two uranium mines in operation in Canada. Both are in Saskatchewan. Proponents of uranium mining in Nova Scotia claim that Saskatchewan shows us it can be done "safely and environmentally responsibly."⁵ These claims are not supported by Health Canada or Environment and Climate Change Canada.

The Saskatchewan context is not like Nova Scotia's. Saskatchewan is nearly 12 times the size of Nova Scotia, with a population density of just two people per square kilometre (km²).⁶ The Saskatchewan mines are located more than 600 km from any towns or cities.⁷ Nova Scotia, by

³ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412020320626>

⁴ <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10552-010-9669-4>

⁵ <https://tmans.ca/images/End%20the%20Uranium%20Ban%20Report%202025.pdf>

⁶ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=9810000101>

⁷ <https://www.cnsccsn.gc.ca/eng/uranium/mines-and-mills/#OperatingUraniumMinesandMills>



contrast, is the second most densely populated province in Canada, with 18.4 persons per km². Uranium mines in Nova Scotia would be situated much closer to towns and within rural communities.

Furthermore, Nova Scotia's average annual precipitation is more than three times that in northern Saskatchewan.⁸ This is especially important to know as uranium is highly soluble in water, making exploration and mining riskier in areas with high precipitation.

Nova Scotia's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has published detailed maps⁹ showing uranium deposits and an interactive map¹⁰ of uranium risks to well water in the province. In 2020, DNR published an extensive review of private well contaminants, including uranium.¹¹ They noted that about 42% of Nova Scotians depend on private wells, and that up to 6.5% of them (25,100 people) already have dangerous levels of uranium in their well water, the ingestion of which can cause kidney disease,¹² and other serious health issues.

In 2018, DNR scientists reported on 40 years of activities related to uranium in well water in the province.¹³ Crucially, DNR scientists observed that the way we use land can introduce changes to groundwater flow and chemistry, which can mobilize uranium stored in the aquifer. Drilling or mining increases exposure of water to potential contamination.¹⁴ Uranium exploration can also be very disruptive and contribute to these risks.

The U.S. state of Virginia, which like Nova Scotia has known deposits of uranium, banned its exploration and mining in 1982, because of the health and environmental risks associated with these activities. Virginia's uranium ban withstood a challenge in the U.S. Supreme Court in 2019. Uranium exploration and mining are not permitted in British Columbia and Quebec, and in many other countries.¹⁵

As physicians and healthcare professionals whose priority is human health, we ask you and your government to look to these examples, and to the medical and scientific research on uranium contamination.

⁸ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/38-20-0001/2021001/l03-eng.htm>

⁹ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/338867646_A_Uranium_in_Well_Water_Risk_Map_for_Nova_Scotia_Based_on_Observed_Uranium_Concentrations_in_Bedrock_Aquifers

¹⁰ https://fletcher.novascotia.ca/DNRViewer/index.html?viewer=Uranium_Risk

¹¹ https://novascotia.ca/natr/meb/data/pubs/20ofr04/ofr_me_2020-004.pdf

¹² <https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/abs/10.1289/ehp.02110337>

¹³ https://novascotia.ca/natr/meb/data/pubs/18ofr06/ofr_me_2018-006.pdf

¹⁴ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3653646/>

¹⁵ <https://www.wise-uranium.org/uregmor.html>



When you campaigned for re-election in the fall of 2024, you did so on a platform of making the province more “livable,” promising to improve healthcare. Mining uranium is not improving healthcare; it is imperiling it. Uranium exploration and mining will have immediate and long-term negative impacts on the health of Nova Scotians, disproportionately affecting those living in rural areas where the activities are being carried out. Women and young children, including the unborn, face the greatest health risk among the nearby populations.

Uranium mining will add yet more strain on the province’s overburdened healthcare system, particularly as it grapples with an influx of rare cancers and diseases associated with uranium contamination. We can reasonably foresee that this will significantly add to health care costs, and just as importantly, make it harder to attract and retain physicians and nurses to work in the province; healthcare providers will understandably be concerned about the effects of uranium contamination on their own health and the health of their families.

Along with our duty to act in the best interests of our patients, we recognize that as Nova Scotians, we are all treaty people, bound by the Treaties of Peace and Friendship. We are in solidarity with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi’kmaw Chiefs, who wrote to you on March 4, saying, “It is unacceptable that the government is fast-tracking the extraction of natural resources that will permanently devalue and damage our unceded lands and adversely impact the exercise of our section 35 rights.”¹⁶

CAPE is a non-partisan, physician-led organization with over 36,000 supporters across the country. It plays a unique role at the intersection of health and the environment, bringing an evidence-based perspective delivered by the trusted voices of doctors, other health professionals, and researchers to support community and planetary health and enhance equity. CAPE Nova Scotia represents more than 100 physicians and other healthcare providers across the province.

We are requesting an opportunity to meet with you as soon as possible to further discuss the dangerous health implications of uranium exploration and mining in Nova Scotia.

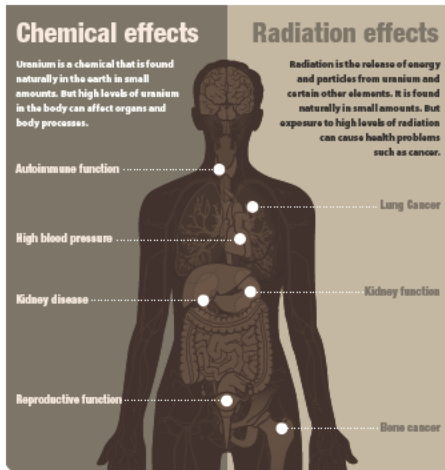
Sincerely,

Laurette Geldenhuys, MBBCH FFPATH MMED FRCPC MAEd
on behalf of CAPE Nova Scotia, ns@cape.ca

¹⁶ https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=960202099620709&id=100068927840682



c.c. Honourable Tory Rushton, Minister of Natural Resources
Honourable Tim Halman, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
Honourable Michelle Thompson, Minister of Health and Wellness
Honourable Trevor Boudreau, Minister of Energy
Karen Gatien, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources, Deputy Minister of Energy
Honourable Kent Smith, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Honourable Greg Morrow, Minister of Agriculture
Honourable Becky Druhan, Attorney General and Minister responsible for the Office of Equity and Anti-Racism
Honourable Twila Grosse, Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs
Honourable Dave Ritcey, Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
Honourable Nolan Young, Minister of Labour, Skills, and Immigration
Honourable Leah Martin, Minister responsible for L'nu Affairs
Claudia Chender, Leader of the Opposition
Derek Mombourquette, Leader of the Liberal Party
Janice Zinck, Executive Director of Geoscience and Mines
Kim Doane, Executive Director of Energy Resource Development



The Health Risks of Uranium Exploration and Mining in Nova Scotia

Your Health: Uranium and Radiation on the Navajo Nation, EPA

JUNE 10, 2025

URANIUM IS UNLIKE other minerals mined in Nova Scotia. It is a heavy metal that is both chemically toxic and radioactive, decaying over time to produce other materials that are even more toxic and radioactive. This includes the carcinogenic, but colourless, tasteless and odourless gas radon, emitted by uranium deposits. Radon gas can travel hundreds of kilometres in the air, emitting radioactive particles as it moves.

Radon can also collect in homes, and in Nova Scotia, it is responsible for more than 100 deaths a year.¹ According to Health Canada, radon is the number one cause of lung cancer in non-smokers.² For this reason, the Nova Scotia government has developed a [radon-risk map](#),³ and radon detectors can be borrowed from provincial libraries. Canada's standards for acceptable radon gas limits in homes is (200 Bq/m³),⁴ which is twice the limit recommended by the World Health Organization 100 Bq/m³,⁵ and even more lax than that of the United States (150 Bq/m³).⁶

The radon decay chain continues to produce new radioactive products that can enter water, crops, trees, soil, animals, and humans.⁷ People are exposed by drinking contaminated water, inhaling airborne uranium particles, and ingesting contaminated food, and increased levels of radiation in the environment.

Even exploration of uranium deposits can release harmful radon gas into the environment and mobilize uranium that is highly soluble, contaminating well water.

Suggesting, as industry proponents do,⁸ that mining the uranium that underlies so much of Nova Scotia would reduce these risks, is inconsistent with the evidence. In fact, mining would unearth not only uranium but also many of its extremely toxic, radioactive by-products.⁹

The best way to protect Nova Scotians from uranium and radon exposure is for the provincial government to focus on, and even expand and strengthen, its existing programs of public awareness, testing, and mitigation measures.^{10 11}

The safest place for uranium is underground in undisturbed, stable deposits.¹²

The Health Risks

Physicians increasingly oppose uranium mining because of its potential to cause a wide range of adverse health effects from uranium exposure.^{13 14} These health effects include:¹⁵

- Kidney failure¹⁶
- DNA damage
- Infertility
- Damage to the brain, lungs, liver, kidneys and bones
- Damage to the immune system
- Cancers, most commonly lung cancer, but also leukaemia and tumours of the lung, breast, thyroid, bone, digestive organs, and skin, which are linked with radiation exposure¹⁷
- Premature aging and decreased life expectancy¹⁸

Higher risks for children and females

The health effects of radiation from radioactive materials—particularly cancer—need to be studied over long periods. Studies of nuclear bomb survivors show that gender and age matter greatly when it comes to survival rates.¹⁹ Those exposed as small children were most likely to suffer cancer later in life, with girls twice as susceptible as boys. Adult women exposed to the radiation suffered 50% more cancer than adult males.

Uranium exploration and mining threaten to increase radiation exposure, which could disproportionately endanger the health of women and children.²⁰ Uranium and radiation exposure are particularly risky during pregnancy, linked to many health issues, including:

- Birth defects, including those of the brain and spine^{21 22 23}
- Low birth weight and premature births, with complications for mothers and babies²⁴
- Increased infant mortality²⁵

Health risks in surrounding communities

Uranium mining can devastate surrounding communities through widespread contamination of water sources and wildlife, with Indigenous Peoples and rural populations bearing the heaviest burden. Radioactive and toxic pollutants from mines seep into groundwater and surface water, with studies showing fish in mining-affected waters containing heavy metal concentrations up to 43 times higher than normal levels.²⁶ The “caribou connection” represents one of the most serious threats to community health,²⁷ as airborne radionuclides concentrate in lichens eaten by caribou, which are then consumed by people—potentially increasing cancer risk to six cases per 1,000 individuals, far exceeding acceptable risk standards.²⁸

Indigenous communities face dual threats as mining operations disrupt traditional hunting, fishing, and gathering activities while simultaneously contaminating the land and water they depend on for physical, cultural, and spiritual wellbeing.²⁹ Rural communities relying on local wells and water sources have little protection against the perpetual threat of contamination, as uranium tailings require monitoring “essentially forever” to prevent release of contaminants. These

environmental injustices are compounded by the historical exclusion of affected communities from mining development decisions, leaving them with generations of health consequences while receiving minimal economic benefits.

In situ recovery mining, also known as in situ leaching, involves injecting a chemical solution into underground uranium deposits to dissolve the mineral, which is then pumped to the surface. While this method leaves less waste rock and tailings than open pit or underground mining, it poses serious environmental risks. Chief among them is the potential for groundwater contamination and its associated health risks, particularly for nearby populations.^{30 31}

The long-term health costs

Before the government of Nova Scotia ended the legislated ban on uranium exploration and mining, it did not undertake any studies to examine the potential human health and environmental costs. The health costs—including increased healthcare burden and lost productivity—could far outweigh any economic gains.³²

Uranium mining leaves toxic legacies of radioactive tailings and waste rock³³ and contaminated groundwater, which have to be dealt with and monitored in perpetuity, long after the mine closes. Future generations will be saddled with the inestimably high health and environmental costs of today’s uranium exploration and mining. ♦



Scan for a digital edition of this document, which includes all citations

For more information contact:
ns@cape.ca or media@cape.ca



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ENDNOTES

- 1 [Make sense of radon - Government of Nova Scotia, Canada](#)
- 2 [Radon: Is it in your home? Information for Health Professionals - Canada.ca](#)
- 3 [Potential for Radon in Indoor Air](#)
- 4 [Guide for radon measurements in homes - Canada.ca](#)
- 5 [More countries act against exposure to radon and associated cancer risks. WHO](#)
- 6 [What is EPA's Action Level for Radon and What Does it Mean?](#)
- 7 [Uranium mining and health - PMC](#)
- 8 [Take the 'no' out of Nova Scotia: End the uranium ban](#), Mining Association of Nova Scotia (MANS), January 2021
- 9 Dr. Gordon Edwards, president and co-founder of Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility
- 10 [Uranium in Nova Scotia's Drinking Water](#), Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change
- 11 [Radon and Human Health](#), Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change
- 12 [Uranium Radiation Properties](#)
- 13 [Uranium mining and health - PMC](#)
- 14 [Exposure pathways and health effects associated with chemical and radiological toxicity of natural uranium: a review - PubMed](#)
- 15 [Emerging health risks and underlying toxicological mechanisms of uranium contamination: Lessons from the past two decades - ScienceDirect](#)
- 16 [Uranium mining and health - PMC](#)
- 17 [Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality: Guideline Technical Document – Radiological Parameters - Canada.ca](#)
- 18 [Chapter IV. Radiation Protection after the Chernobyl Catastrophe - Nesterenko - 2009 - Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences](#)
- 19 [OlsonChaperUNODApub.pdf](#)
- 20 [Gender and Ionizing Radiation: Towards a New Research Agenda Addressing Disproportionate Harm → UNIDIR](#)
- 21 [Chapter III. Consequences of the Chernobyl Catastrophe for the Environment - Yablokov - 2009](#)
- 22 [Prenatal uranium exposure and risk for fetal neural tube defects: A case-control study in women living in a rural area of northern China - ScienceDirect](#)
- 23 [Radioactive releases from the nuclear power sector and implications for child health | BMJ Paediatrics Open](#)
- 24 [Association of adverse birth outcomes with prenatal uranium exposure: A population-based cohort study - ScienceDirect](#)
- 25 [Radioactive releases from the nuclear power sector and implications for child health | BMJ Paediatrics Open](#)
- 26 [Uranium Mining: Fact Sheet by Pembina Institute](#)
- 27 [Wollaston Lake: The Uranium Mining Industry and the Perceptions of Health Risks](#)
- 28 [Uranium Mining: Fact Sheet by Pembina Institute](#)
- 29 [Wollaston Lake: The Uranium Mining Industry and the Perceptions of Health Risks](#)
- 30 [Contamination Risks Associated with In situ-Recovery Mining for Uranium – Debating Science](#)
- 31 [An evaluation of health risk to the public as a consequence of in situ uranium mining in Wyoming, USA - PubMed](#)
- 32 [Bill 6 submission-Dr. Laurette Geldenhuys. CAPE NS and Bill 6 submission-Dr. Nancy Covington, CAPE NS](#)
- 33 [Radioactive Waste from Uranium Mining and Milling, EPA](#)



“Safe Uranium Mining?”

Nova Scotia Physicians Respond to Industry Claims

JUNE 10, 2025

Does the uranium ban make us less safe?

Proponents of uranium mining, such as the Mining Association of Nova Scotia (MANS), would have us believe we need more uranium exploration to understand the location of uranium deposits in Nova Scotia,¹ precisely because uranium and the carcinogenic radioactive gas it emits, radon, are so dangerous—present as they are in some drinking water and in some homes in Nova Scotia.²

In fact, the government of Nova Scotia knows a great deal about the uranium deposits in the province, and has published numerous reports and maps in recent years detailing both uranium and radon risks. Large multinational companies did extensive exploration for uranium in Nova Scotia in the 1970s and 1980s.³ The recent requests for proposals issued by Nova Scotia’s Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for uranium exploration in East Dalhousie, Millet Brook, and Louisville,⁴ and numerous DNR reports, show there is already a great deal known about uranium deposits in the province.

The ban on uranium exploration and mining was not a ban on research and data collection, as MANS would have us believe. Rather, it was a crucially important ban on activities that would disturb uranium deposits, which could very well increase the already dangerous levels of uranium in drilled wells in Nova Scotia.

Can uranium exploration and mining be done safely?

Mineral exploration and mining activities that disturb the land can change groundwater flow and cause fissures that mobilize uranium and release large amounts of radon.⁵ Radon gas can travel hundreds of kilometres in the air, emitting radioactive particles as it moves. When ingested or inhaled, these can damage DNA and human cells, potentially leading to cancer.⁶ The decay chain continues to produce new radioactive products that can enter water, crops, trees, soil, animals, and humans.⁷

It is not possible to take uranium out of the ground without bringing to the surface other radioactive materials, including radium, a “notorious killer.”⁸ Uranium mines have tended to be in remote, sparsely populated areas, often on Indigenous lands. As with other extractive industries, this has led to “sacrifice zones,” with a lack of proper health monitoring of nearby populations. As a result, often the remote populations impacted by uranium mining have not been properly studied.^{9,10}

Will there be strict regulations to protect our health?

In Nova Scotia, underground mineral deposits belong to the province, not landowners. Anyone with an exploration licence can access private land to explore for minerals, including uranium. If a landowner

refuses access, the Mineral Resources Act gives the Minister of Natural Resources the authority to overrule the property owner, and grant the exploration licence-holder access.¹¹ If exploration leads to a mine proposal, and the landowner refuses to sell to the mining company, the Minister can order the land expropriated, as happened in 2013.¹²

Anyone who has taken out a mineral exploration licence in Nova Scotia can simply register with DNR to undertake extremely disruptive exploration activities using powerful machines. This includes drilling, test pits, trenching, and even the excavation of up to 100 tonnes of ore-bearing materials. When the exploration is for uranium, this means unearthing massive amounts of chemically toxic and radioactive material, without any environmental or health impact assessment.

DNR is solely responsible for mineral exploration. There are few regulations for this, and DNR is conflicted as a regulator because of its role working with industry to promote uranium exploration.

The federal government's impact assessment and regulatory framework for uranium mining is required only if a mine is planned. So far, no uranium mines have been proposed in Nova Scotia, but mining is the obvious goal of uranium exploration.

The Nova Scotia Registry of Claims ("NovaROC") map shows that there has been a flurry of new exploration licences granted since the province said it was lifting the ban on uranium exploration and mining. The door has been opened for widespread uranium exploration in Nova Scotia.

It's important to remember that while some of the risks to human health and the environment can be reduced through strict regulation and technologies, they cannot be eliminated.¹³

It's going okay in Saskatchewan, isn't it?

There are only two uranium mines in operation in Canada.¹⁴ Both are in Saskatchewan. The Mining Association of Nova Scotia claims that Saskatchewan shows us uranium mining can be done "safely and environmentally responsibly."¹⁵ Its claim is not supported by medical or scientific evidence.

There are many reasons why it's unwise to compare Nova Scotia to Saskatchewan when it comes to mining uranium. Saskatchewan is nearly 12 times the size of Nova Scotia, with a population density of

just two people per square kilometre (km²).¹⁶ The Saskatchewan mines are located more than 600 km from any towns or cities.¹⁷ Nova Scotia, by contrast, is the second most densely populated province in Canada, with 18.4 persons per km². Uranium mines in Nova Scotia would be situated much closer to towns and rural communities.

Furthermore, Nova Scotia's average annual precipitation is more than three times that of northern Saskatchewan.¹⁸ This is especially important to know as uranium is highly soluble in water, making exploration and mining riskier in areas with high precipitation.

Physicians have anecdotal evidence of health problems in Indigenous communities that appear to relate to uranium exposure in northern Saskatchewan. Yet there has never been an independent health study undertaken in the region to monitor for health problems associated with uranium, including cancer and kidney disease.¹⁹

What is Canada's Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)?

Canada's Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) reports to Natural Resources Canada, which promotes uranium mining. It does not report to Health Canada or Environment and Climate Change Canada, both of which are far better placed to study and protect human and environmental health.²⁰ The Canadian Environmental Law Association has criticized the CNSC for its implicit conflict of interest and the lack of transparency and consultation in its regulatory oversight.^{21 22} Medical professionals have noted that CNSC health standards are set by physicists and those involved in the industry, "based on financial and technological convenience," and not by healthcare professionals and researchers committed to public health and safety.²³

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission claims that there are no "significant impacts to the health" of people who live around uranium mines and mills.²⁴ CNSC provides no sources for this claim. In contrast, a detailed report from the U.S. National Research Council finds that "Uranium mining and processing are associated with a wide range of potential adverse human health risks," which can also extend to the "general population."²⁵

Is Nova Scotia's uranium a valuable untapped resource?

Uranium concentration in northern Saskatchewan deposits is very high, while the concentration in Nova Scotia is very low, according to the 1995 McCleave Report.²⁶ This means very large amounts of uranium-bearing ore would have to be unearthed in Nova Scotia to recover minuscule amounts of uranium, producing a great deal of radioactive waste or mine tailings that require care and maintenance in perpetuity. When uranium is extracted from the ore body, 85% of the radioactivity remains in the waste or tailings.²⁷ These waste sites have to be monitored and maintained “virtually forever,”²⁸ as uranium tailings remain radioactive for 100,000 years.²⁹ This is the case regardless of the method of mining involved – open pit, underground, or in situ leaching.

Is in situ leaching better for the environment?

In situ leaching is a process of injecting solvents into the earth to dissolve the uranium.³⁰ The solution is then pumped to the surface, where the uranium is extracted. In situ leaching leaves less waste rock and tailings than open pit or underground mining, but is very dangerous because there is a high risk that the chemical solvents will spread underground and contaminate groundwater.

Doesn't uranium save lives?

Proponents of uranium mining and nuclear energy make many claims that are either misleading or just false. One is that uranium has to be mined because it “saves lives,” given that it is used in smoke detectors. The tiny amount needed for smoke detectors is retrieved from existing nuclear waste,³¹ which is, unfortunately, very abundant.

Do we need uranium mining for medical isotopes?

When the Nova Scotia government announced that it had added uranium to its list of “critical minerals” and was lifting the decades-long ban on uranium exploration and mining, it claimed the heavy metal was needed for medical applications.³² The government was repeating an industry argument that we need to

mine uranium for medical isotopes used in diagnostic tests. This claim is misleading; medical isotopes are produced in research reactors that don't require uranium, and are most safely made in devices called cyclotrons.³³

Won't it help us address climate change?

Contrary to industry claims, nuclear power is not going to be a significant contributor to addressing climate change.³⁴ Wind, solar, and batteries are much less expensive and faster to develop than nuclear power facilities, which take many years and immense amounts of money to build.³⁵ Commercial small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs) are still in the early stages of development,³⁶ and their technology is as of yet unproven.³⁷

The push for nuclear power comes from the nuclear industry—which also involves military applications—trying to renew and revive itself, as detailed in the 2024 academic book, *Dirty Secrets of Nuclear Power in an Era of Climate Change*.³⁸ The International Energy Agency forecasts minimal future growth in nuclear energy, compared with massive growth in far safer renewable solar and wind energy.³⁹


Is there a shortage of uranium?

No, there is no shortage of uranium in Canada, and no need for a new source in a province as small and densely populated as Nova Scotia.⁴⁰ ♦



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From: [Town of Antigonish Mayor](#)
To: [Leon MacLellan](#); [Jack Sullivan](#); [Patrick McKenna](#); [Andrew Murray](#); [Juanita Pelly](#); [Diane Roberts](#); [Bandy Delorcy](#); [Melanie Fougere](#)
Subject: Terry Fox Riders - Dinner in Antigonish
Date: June 4, 2025 8:29:49 PM

Dear Council

I have been asked by the Terry Fox Foundation for help with feeding supper to the 15 riders that will pass through our town on Tuesday, July 8th

This will be a terrific event where we can showcase the Terry Fox team as part of the Highland Games week.

If we decide to host them, I am thinking of feeding them at the John Paul and have the public drop by to show support and "pass the hat" to help them achieve their cross country tour, something that Terry was unable to do.

I am looking for a vote of support. If we decide, then we can decide how to feed them.

Sean



Sean Cameron
Mayor, Town of Antigonish

From: Lacey Johns [redacted] >
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2025 1:13 PM
To: Cameron, Sean <Sean.Cameron@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Dinner in Antigonish

Hi Sean:

Hope you're well!

I'm wondering if you would be willing to host 15 riders for supper OR have some contacts with any restaurants in town that would be willing to comp some meals for our National Rider's?

More info below.

LMK

Best,
Lacey

From: Nikki Rekman [redacted]
Sent: June 4, 2025 12:51 PM
To: Lacey Johns [redacted]
Subject: Dinner in Antigonish

Hey Lacey,

Here is our itinerary for Tuesday, July 8th. I am looking for a group or organization that would be interested in feeding our crew of 15 dinner in Antigonish. We arrive at 6:30pm and would love to eat between 7-7:30pm.

The only caveat is we have 1 rider with a severe seafood allergy and 1 that is gluten free.

Thanks so much.

Nik

Tue 08-Jul-2025	https://ridewithgps.com/routes/45659044				
		Break-fast	6:00am	7:00am	Comfort Inn - Amherst - 143 S. Albion St.
		Borden-Carleton	8:00am	8:15am	Borden-Carleton Visitor Information Centre - 100 Abegweit Blvd.
		Charlottetown	10:15am	10:35am	Government House - 1 Terry Fox Drive
		Lunch/Wood Island	12:35pm	1:30pm	Northumberland Ferries, 23 Service Rd
		Caribou	2:45pm	3:15pm	
		Antigonish	6:30pm		

Nikki Rekman
Coordinator
Terry Fox Ride of Hope



[redacted]
Bumaby, BC V6A 4Y8

Terry started a marathon against cancer. Together, we can finish it. Learn more at terryfox.org

Grateful to be working on Traditional Coast Salish Lands, including the Tsleil-Waututh (tsilwətsʰ), Kwikwetlem (kʷikwələm), Squamish (šɬəwəʔmesh ɔxwumšw) and Musqueam (mʷənkʷəyəm) Nations.

Subject: CAO Report
To: Antigonish Town Council
Date Prepared: 25-06-10
Prepared by: Randy Delorey, Chief Administrative Officer

Administration

This report compiles monthly updates and progress reports from the Town of Antigonish's Administration, AREA Community Development, and Public Works departments.

Highlights

- Obtained Council approval for 2025-2029 Strategic Plan
- Obtained Council approval for 2025-2026 Budget
- Property Tax bills were distributed after budget approval
- Significant work by Communications to make budget information available to the public
- A furnace oil spill (over filled by provider) required us to vacate Town Hall on June 6 after noon
- RK Steering Committee Meetings for RK New Build (Sod Turning also took place)
- Regular AREA Meetings on Solar Garden Project
- Negotiations Meetings (Labour Contract) – Ongoing
- Completed and submitted Solar Garden Capital Project to the NS Energy Board (formerly UARB)
- Meetings to prepare for future phases of Grid Modernization Project (scope/planning)
- Physician / Healthcare Navigator Meeting
- AREA Board Meeting (virtual)
- Meeting with ADM and other staff from Municipal Affairs to discuss Antigonish Priorities
- Meeting with a StFX Public Policy and Governance Intern conducting research on municipal CAOs
- Conference FCM in Ottawa with Mayor and Councilor Murray; several sessions and meetings, including with MP for Cape Breton-Canso-Antigonish, Jaime Battiste and Senators Coyle and Prosper.
- Working with staff on Violence in the Workplace Policy draft
- Monthly Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee (JOHSC) Meeting
- Strait-IT Meetings to review options for security roles and email distribution lists
- Various meetings and discussions with Councillors
- Virtual Meeting with Circular Materials for update on their transition to EPR (blue bag) pickup
- Meetings with County CAO on various topics including water and sewer
- Meetings with HAF coordinator to finalize housing grant policy (draft)
- EDPC Board Meeting – Board reviewed and approved 2024-2025 financials

Marketing & Communications Update:

Projects
Title: Net Zero Engagement Strategies – Collaboration with Sean Kelly Consulting and next RFP
Status Update: Continuation of engagement strategy work. Reviewing background material provided and discussing message building around current initiatives. Meeting to establish next scope of work and RFP process.
Next Step: On-going
Title: Website Updates
Status Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Live streamed Council meetings uploaded - Council, COTW, and Committee meetings updated on the Events Calendar - 2025-2026 Municipal Budget Landing Page and Subpages - Uploaded approved policies
Next Step: on-going
Title: Pride Month Flag Raising
Status Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flag raising was completed, and a post was published to the Town’s social media accounts. - Town Hall lights are alternating colours of the rainbow for June
Next Step: n/a
Title: Public Notices
Status Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Power outages - Street closures - Town Hall closure
Next Step: On-going
Title: Advertising and Sponsorship requests
Status Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Antigonish Chamber of Commerce Street fair event sponsorship - Ads split with County in newspaper
Next Step: n/a
Title: Speaking Remarks and Letters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pride Flag Raising • Philippines Flag Raising • Boys Slo Pitch Provincials • Mini-Pitch Grand Opening remarks for Mayor
Next Step: on-going
Title: Canada Day
Status Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing meetings with Mike MacEachern

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating logistics
Next Step: on-going
Title: Social Media Updates
Status Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public notices • Community postings • Power updates • Miscellaneous
Title: Housing Accelerator Fund Communications Strategy
Status Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website launch on the way
Next Step: on-going
Title: Council Meeting Live Streaming Policy
Status Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating Poster for Council Chambers
Next Step: n/a
Title: ICS Training
Status Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing all units withing the ICS Training
Next Step: On-going
Title: Budget Communications
Status Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press Release • One-pager for tax bills • Coordinating media interviews • Media Notes • Staff briefing document • Website • Social Media Campaign
Next Step: On-going

Subject: Staff Report
To: Antigonish Town Council
Date Prepared: June 11th, 2025
Prepared by: Kyle Meisner, P. Eng., Director of Infrastructure and Engineering

Department of Infrastructure and Engineering

Projects/Tender Update:

Projects
Title: Capital Budgeting Process
Status Update: Budget approved June 3 rd 2025
Next Step: Proceed with hiring, purchasing and tendering
Title: West / James St Capital Project
Status Update: Draft Provincial CHIF Application submitted June 8 th , 2025 for \$2.486M in funding
Next Step: Awaiting feedback from Province, prepare Resolution of Council for June 16 th meeting
Title: Intermunicipal Agreement
Status Update: Submitted PCAP application for joint funding of study with County
Next Step: Complete Terms of Reference, release RFP
Title: STP Screening / Headworks
Status Update: Design process underway, next meeting June 10 th 2025 with CBCL
Next Steps: Continue design process, tender for construction
Title: Bay St Municipal Servicing Upgrades Capital Project
Status Update: Budget Approval Received
Next Steps: Meeting with consultants June 11 th , 2025 Submit final applications to CBNR Railway for crossings Post RFPs and Tenders
Title: Hwy4 AT/Roundabout Project
Status Update: Project Tendered, bids over-budget
Next Step: Assess bids / budget and discuss with County / DPW / consultants
Title: Safety Management System
Status Update: Drafting of Programs underway
Next Step: Continue work with CCS (consultant) and proceed with completion of SMS
Title: In-house Sidewalk Capital Works
Status Update: RFQ for Greening Dr. Survey / Design issued June 9 th Job postings issued June 9 th – Temp Crew and Project Manager
Next Steps: Hire staff, undertake design, complete project

Electric Utility (EU):

Projects
Title: Grid Modernization
Status Update: Substation Transformer Assembly Tender under review for award. Substation Civil Works Tender closed and under review
Next Steps: Job postings completed for seasonal hires for PLTs, interviews being planned
Title: Solar Garden and BRBB Pole line for Solar Garden
Status Update: Project on hold
Next Step: Project on hold
Title: EU Code of Practice
Status Update: Rubber Gloving Code of Practice under review by JOHS working group
Next Step: Review and present findings for acceptance by JOHS committee, send to province
Title: Power Outages
Status Update: Power Outages: Local outage to connect Church St roundabout – May 28th For maintenance work - short service outages will be required till Code of Practice in place.
Next Step: Continue coordination with Communications on outages
Title: Operations Items
Status Update: Items as noted below
Next Step: Installation of new poles for Church St roundabout Installation of new services for affordable housing project Service work on 77 Highland Dr – removal of enclosures and transformers Street Light replacements RK MacDonald Nursing Home new service
Title: Pad Mount Transformers
Status Update: Finalized quotes for Capital Purchases (growth and stock)
Next Step: Pad Mount Transformers ordered Feb 28 th 2025

Treatment Facilities:

Projects
Title: Treatment Facilities Manager
Status Update: Position awarded to J. Jackman, promoted to Foreman until new staff trained
Next Step: Complete promotion to Manager once staff trained
Title: Treatment Operator New Hires (2)
Status Update: T. Kasza and E. Mattie joined staff in March
Next Step: Continue training. TK started on-call on June 5 th . EM scheduled to start on-call duties July 5 th .
Title: Annual Report
Status Update: Annual Report submitted on April 15 th . Vetting data for follow up questions complete and submitted.
Next Step: None required at present.
Title: Water Plant Pond Desludging
Status Update: Started sludge removal from Pond 2.
Next Steps: Continue sludge removal from Pond 2 until drying bed capacity is filled.
Title: Operational Support (Contract)
Status Update: Contracted support underway, accepted March 6 th , 2025
Next Step: Continue work on STP Aeration maintenance. Two days with 2 operators remain in contract.
Title: Source Water Review
Status Update: Prepping RFP for negotiation services to secure test well locations
Next Steps: Release RFP for bidding
Title: Water Utility Items
Status Update: James River Dam - Fall inspection completed. Report received Jan 30th
Next Step: Follow-ups to report to be undertaken.

Title: Sewage Plant Aeration Work
Status Update: Cell 1A aeration upgrades are complete.
Next Steps: Change out or repair any equipment that has air leaks in Cell 1A and remove rag buildup from aerators in cell 1A before continuing to cell 1B.
Title: Sewer Plant Chemical Desludging
Status Update: Chemical desludging agent to clean up any leftover material completed.
Next Step: Start maintenance dosing of bio additives to slow new sludge build up.
Title: Sewage Plant Annual Report
Status Update: Submitted May 1, 2025
Next Step: Updates for formatting of future reports.
Title: Sewage Plant UV Light Changeover
Status Update: Spring replacement of UV bulbs and sleeves 85% complete.
Next Step: Continue working on changeover.
Title: Sewage Plant Filter Cleaning
Status Update: Cleaning scheduled to start after UV light changeover complete.
Next Step: Equipment in place to start cleaning as soon as UV changeover complete.

Public Works (PW):

Personnel	
Title:	Maritime Public Works Association of Nova Scotia Conference in Truro.
Status Update:	PW Manager attended the MPWANS Conference in Truro, which featured a diverse range of presentations relevant to municipal public works. Topics included asset management strategies, climate change adaptation, improving accessibility in infrastructure, forest fire preparedness, procurement best practices, erosion and sediment control measures, and available government funding programs. The conference provided valuable insights and practical information applicable to ongoing and future municipal operations.
Next Step:	N/A
Title:	Public Works Students
Status Update:	We are currently seeking to hire three Public Works student positions to support operations over the summer. Despite active promotion and outreach, interest has been limited, and only one interview has taken place to date. Efforts are ongoing to attract more applicants and fill these important seasonal roles.
Next Step:	Interviews will be scheduled as appropriate candidates are identified.
Title:	Training
Status Update:	Public Works crew members attended training sessions for WHMIS and TDG and participated in a virtual conference in May. Two PW Crew members submitted applications for renewal of Water Distribution Class 1 Operator Certification. Three other PW Crew members, and the PW Manager have been accepted to write the Operator-in-Training exam which will be completed in early June.
Next Step:	No training sessions are schedule for June.
Title:	Training Matrix and Records

Status Update:	Work has been underway to organize and update the training matrix. Efforts have focused on ensuring all training records are accurately captured, recorded, and summarized. A formal matrix has also been developed to help track staff training requirements and completion status more effectively moving forward.
Next Step:	Awaiting information from other departments. A score will be assigned to each department to assess progress on required training. This will support organization-wide tracking of training compliance and help identify areas needing improvement.
Streets	
Title:	Street Sweeping
Status Update:	Street sweeping operations were completed on all streets during the month of May to complete the spring cleaning program. Moving forward, streets will be evaluated for additional sweeping as needed, in particular pre and post street festival celebrations throughout the summer season.
Next Step:	Sweeping on streets and sidewalks will continue throughout the summer season as needed.
Title:	Pothole Repairs
Status Update:	Pothole complaints were less frequent in May and crews continued to respond effectively to issues. Cold patch was used to temporarily repair potholes. Hot asphalt is now available again and was used to patch sections of College Street where new services had been installed.
Next Step:	Mill and fill assessments to take place in early June.
Title:	Sidewalk/Curb Repairs
Status Update:	Concrete curb repairs and reinstatement is planned for the first week of June at College, James/West and Hawthorne.
Next Step:	Additional areas will be assessed as work is completed and areas are reinstated.
Title:	Line Painting
Status Update:	Paint has been procured, and the existing line painting machine has been serviced and is ready for use. A new line painting machine has been identified to improve efficiency and reliability, and a request to order has been submitted. Student staffing remains a need, as additional support is required to carry out the work effectively throughout the season.
Next Step:	With preparations in place, the focus now shifts to implementation. Priority areas include finalizing student hires, scheduling line painting activities, and tracking the procurement process for the new equipment.
Title:	Commerative Crosswalk at the Legion
Status Update:	A commerative crosswalk on St Ninians Street near the legion was painted in advance of a celebration to honour veterans. Two stylized maple leaves were painted in red over the mid block crosswalk. The response from the community was positive, many people acknowledging how nice it looked.
Next Step:	N/A

Wastewater Collection	
Title:	Sewage back up reports
Status Update:	Public Works responded to reports of sewage back up at Dooly's on College Street/Creighton Lane. The main was found to be flowing and the problem was determined to be related to plumbing in the building.
Next Step:	N/A
Water Distribution	
Title:	Water Breaks
Status Update:	A water leak at the service connection was discovered at 4 West Street and repaired on May 22.
Next Step:	Sidewalk/curb reinstatement to be scheduled.
Title:	Hydrant Flushing Program - Spring 2025
Status Update:	Flushing was completed at 148 hydrants as part of routine seasonal maintenance. During the process, each hydrant was also inspected for general condition and proper operation. Several hydrants were identified as needing attention, including painting, replacement number identifiers, and new gaskets. These follow-up maintenance activities are scheduled to take place over the summer.
Next Step:	Plan and schedule maintenance work identified during inspections, including painting, installing new number markers, and replacing gaskets.
Title:	Bethany Valve replacement
Status Update:	A leaking valve at the Bethany tank was successfully replaced. This maintenance work ensures improved system reliability and helps prevent potential water loss or service disruptions.
Next Step:	Grading needed around tank.
Title:	Water Line Repair - Vincents Way
Status Update:	A temporary repair was completed following a water line break on Vincent's Way on February 12. Testing to isolate the affected area was conducted but yielded inconclusive results.
Next Step:	An investigation into the inline valves is currently underway to properly isolate the area and complete permanent repairs. No update for May.
Title:	College St. Service
Status Update:	New water and sewer services were installed at two new residential developments on College Street.
Next Step:	Paving has been completed. A storm line connection is scheduled for early June as well as full curb and sidewalk reinstatements.
Title:	West Street - 4" line decommissioning

Status Update:	The investigation into the water line configuration at the Highland/West intersection was completed on May 12. Crews returned on May 20 to cap the 4-inch line beneath West Street at this location. In addition, a valve was removed at the West/James intersection. Further investigation was carried out along West Street near Memorial Field to identify and eliminate an unknown water source feeding the hydrant on West Street. Line tracing was conducted in the area, and the third phase of the capping work is scheduled for mid-June.
Next Step:	Work for West/Highland intersection is planned for May 12 and 20th.
Title:	23 Main Street Service
Status Update:	New water and sewer services were installed at new residential development on Main Street.
Next Step:	Paving and sidewalk/curb reinstatement is outstanding.
Other	
Title:	Mowing
Status Update:	Mowing has commenced for the season at the treatment plants and the Public Works yard. Regular grounds maintenance is underway to ensure the areas remain safe, tidy, and accessible throughout the spring and summer months.
Next Step:	Mowing will continue on an as needed basis for the summer season.

Waste Management:

Projects	
Title:	Circular Update
Status Update:	Offer made by Circular, not sufficient to cover TOA budget
Next Step:	Turn over recycling pickup to Circular in December 2025
Title:	Solid Waste Items
Status Update:	Waste Management Bylaw - awaiting Municipal Affairs approval for SOTs
Next steps:	
Title:	Waste disposal weights – End of March, 2025
Status Update:	RWC (May) 190.43 T

Kyle Meisner, P.Eng.
 Director of Infrastructure and Engineering

Subject: Community Development Council Report
CAO Report
To: Antigonish Town Council
Date Prepared: June 10, 2025
Prepared by: Shannon Long, Acting Director of Community Development

Community Development

Division Updates:

<p>By-Law</p>
<p>Staff Update: An offer has been made to a candidate to fill the By-Law/Animal Control Officer position. The Letter of Offer was sent to the individual on Tuesday, June 10. They have until Friday to send a signed copy back to the Director, formally accepting the position.</p> <p>Case Management System and Parking Tickets: As mentioned in an email from the CAO, the online case management system By-Law uses daily to log case files and issue parking tickets has been facing technical difficulties meaning they have been unable to issue parking tickets and accept online payments for parking ticket already issued. A Request for Proposals will be issued next week looking for a new system. In the meantime, paper parking tickets will be ordered so parking enforcement can be done before the new system is in place. By-Law and Corporate Services are working on new processes to track payments of parking tickets in the interim.</p> <p>By-Law Enforcement Statistics with Reporting Period: Unavailable</p>
<p>Parks & Recreation</p>
<p>Staff Updating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of interviews have been done to fill the Manager of Parks and Recreation position. The number of candidates has been narrowed down, and reference checks are being done. • Parks & Maintenance – At time of reporting, the Parks and Maintenance Crew is still short one member. Several interviews have been done; the position has been offered to two different individuals who have declined. Staff continue to go through resumes and conduct interviews and complete reference checks <p>Summer Camps: The Summer Camp Intern has identified several families who have not paid their registration fee(s) for summer camp this year. The payment deadline has been extended twice with three email reminders. The last deadline is Friday, June 13. If individuals have not reached out to recreation staff looking for financial assistance or to arrange a payment plan by this deadline, their child’s camp registration will be revoked. Social media posts will be done if there are camps with openings and registration will be available.</p> <p>Parks & Maintenance: The Parks and Maintenance Crew has been extremely busy while being short staffed with mowing and getting the fields ready for the user groups. Early next week, they will be working on getting the planter boxes and bridge baskets out.</p> <p>Mini-Pitch: The Grand Opening of the Scotiabank Mini-Pitch was held on Saturday, June 7 with the mural being a wonderful addition to the facility.</p>

Department Updates:

Tourism
The agreement between the Town and the Antigonish Tourism Association has been signed. A cheque request to transfer \$64,351.77 of Marking Levy money has been submitted. The County has committed \$75,000 to tourism for this fiscal year. The committee's next step will be to meet and finalize a job description to hire a Tourism Officer.
Good Neighbour Committee
The sub-committee of the Good Neighbour Committee continues to meet on a regular basis to discuss St. Patrick's Day. Several options or scenarios has been compiled, and the committee will begin working through each option to determine pro/cons and potential outcomes. All of which will be included in a report.
The Good Neighbour Committee also met to review plans for the Fall and the start of the new academic year. Plans for Homecoming are being finalized with a golf tournament being added to the schedule with a partnership with Putts for Purpose.
EV Chargers
Staff continue to work with a local electrician and FLO to repair chargers and restore connectivity.

Housing Accelerator Fund Update:

Initiative 1: High Density Review	
Status:	Date change request pending
Next Step:	Review findings from consultant prior to PAC Planning Advisory Committee presentation in June 25, 2025 @ 6pm (all Councillors welcome)
Initiative 2: Modernization of the Permitting Process	
Status update:	Date change request pending
Next Step:	Project kick-off with consultant for process workflow assessment and modernization. Expected launch fall 2025.
Initiative 3: Protection of Source Water	
Status update:	Delay - less than 3 months
Next Step:	Negotiations with property owners to test/ proof of viable new source
Initiative 4: Town Services Grant Program	
Status update:	Delay - less than 3 months
Next Step:	Council feedback/ approval of draft grant program.
Initiative 5: Community Transit	
Status update:	On-track. No concerns.
Next Step:	RFP for Operational and Human Resources Review for ACTS Antigonish Community Transit Society issued, proposals received with a decision pending. Fixed route- Redesign & Rebranding Project kicked off in April 2025.

2025/2026 Project Updates:

<p>Town Hall Lighting</p>
<p>A Request for Quotes (RFQ) for the next phase of the Town Hall Light Project has been drafted and will be released either late this week or early next week. The RFQ is for five lights to be added to the second storey of the clock tower to compliment the lights that were added in the Fall.</p>
<p>Accessible Pathways – Phase One (2024) and Phase Two (2025)</p>
<p>The Accessible Pathway at the Sandlot is nearly complete. The path was added in the Fall and the landscaping was done last week with hydroseed being put down. Staff will be working with Dexter on final touches to wrap up this project.</p>
<p>Phase Two of the pathway project is to pick up where the pathway ends at the Sandlot. This pathway will travel the length of the Central Turf Field to the bleachers and will also include a paved viewing area. A Request for Proposals for the design of the pathway has been drafted and will be released either this week or next week.</p>
<p>Fence at Columbus Field</p>
<p>The Town has committed to replacing a fence at Columbus Field that had to be removed for infrastructure work. The fence will separate the field from the businesses on St. Andrew’s Street. New quotes will have to be secured. Community Development is hoping to partner with Infrastructure in purchasing fencing to help with costs.</p>
<p>Active Transportation Trail</p>
<p>The Director of Infrastructure and Acting Director of Community Development have a meeting with WSP on June 11 to review the current plans for the AT Trail, including finalizing plans for Section C so that information can be shared with the Knight of Columbus and local residents who may be concerned of flooding.</p>
<p>Parking Kiosks, Creighton Lane Parking Lot, and Crosswalk Beacons</p>
<p>Staff have met with the vendor to replace the parking kiosk at Sydney Street and to add a kiosk to the Creighton Lane Parking Lot. The kiosks will take seven to eight weeks to be installed. Staff will work with Infrastructure on the placement of the kiosk at Creighton Lane and a meeting will be scheduled with the Jewkes to inform them of the plans.</p>
<p>The remaining parking meters at the Creighton Lane Parking Lot will be removed and quotes have been secured to remove the planter boxes.</p>
<p>Two sets of crosswalk beacons have been ordered.</p>

Subject: CAO Report
To: Antigonish Town Council
Date Prepared: June 12, 2025
Prepared by: Meaghan Barkhouse, Director of Corporate Services

Corporate Services

Highlights

On June 3rd, during a Special Meeting of Council, the 2025–26 municipal budget was formally approved. The following day, 1,979 property tax bills were issued. This process involved direct mailouts to residents and the preparation of documentation for numerous financial and mortgage institutions. All bills were printed, processed, and mailed on the same day—an effort that required full collaboration across the Corporate Services department, with additional support from the Deputy Clerk and the By-Law Enforcement Officer.

Utilities Clerks have been assisting residents with inquiries related to the new "Mandatory Provincial Education Area Rate" line item included on this year’s property tax bills. This addition was made to enhance transparency around how property tax dollars are allocated. Specifically, \$0.3048 per \$100 of taxable assessment is remitted directly to the Province and is not retained for municipal services.

The Town continues negotiations with I.B.E.W. Local 1928, working toward a new collective bargaining agreement for employees in the Public Works and Treatment Facilities departments.

Applications for the Low Income Property Tax Exemption are being received, with 15 applications submitted to date. These applications represent an expected total tax relief of \$5,725—an average of \$381.50 per applicant. Notably, four applicants had tax bills that fell below the exemption amount. The majority of applicants fall within the \$20,000 to \$28,999 income range.

Department Update:

Projects
Title: 2024-25 Year End Audit
Status Update: Manager of Accounting has taken the lead and is working with our Auditors, MNP to prepare for our upcoming audit.
Next Step: On-going
Title: 2025-26 Budget
Status Update: The 2025-26 Budget has passed, Corporate Services is in the process of uploading the budget into our financial system and looking at if the budget could be broken in to smaller time periods instead of an annual number (monthly or quarter).
Next Step: Inputting budget into financial system
Title: Low Income Property Tax Exemption Policy
Applications for the Low Income Property Tax Exemption continue to be received. Staff have been trained to review submissions carefully and identify any missing or incomplete information to ensure efficient processing.
If requested by a resident, members of Council may sign the affidavit portion of the application in lieu of a Commissioner of Oaths.

A summary table of the exemptions received to date is provided below

Household Income	Tax Exemption
\$29,000 to \$35,000	Up to \$250
\$20,000 to \$28,999	Up to \$500
\$0 to \$19,999	Up to \$750

Next Step: Continue to accept applications until the deadline of Monday, June 30th, 4:30 p.m.

Title: Human Resources

Employee Hiring and Attrition

- The following positions are open with applications being accepted:
 - Equipment Operator/Labourer (Permanent, Full-time, Internal only)
 - Project Manager (Permanent, Full-time)
 - Foreperson (Public Works – Concrete Crew, Contract (6 months), Full-time)
 - Equipment Operator/Labourer (Concrete Crew, Contract (6 months), Full-time)
- The following positions have been closed with interviews being scheduled, in-progress or waiting on acceptance of letter of offer:
 - Manager of Parks & Recreation
 - By-law Enforcement Officer – Animal Control
 - Parks & Recreation – Crew (Summer Student)
 - Public Works Summer Student (x3)
- The following positions have been filled
 - Powerline Technicians (Term, Grid Modernization Project) x3
 - Recreation Summer Camp Leaders x10
 - Parks & Recreation – Crew (Summer Student)

Next Step: On-going

Title: Safety Update

Corporate Services will be working with all Town Hall employees who are on the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (JOHSC) to make recommendations on how to address the deficiencies that were identified by CC Safety and Compliance. Updates that have occurred:

- Requests for the electric room key and proper signage is in process
- Three step ladders and a large 8-foot ladder has replaced the substandard grade 3 ladders that were at Town Hall. Workplaces are required to have either Grade 1 or Grade 2 step- or full-ladders. They will be a part of an annual inspection process
- Third and second floor fire escape considerations are still on going.

Next Step: On-going

Title: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the Workplace

Status Update:

This project was on temporary pause, the Director of Corporate Service is in progress of re-connecting to our consultants to have the report presented to Council.

Developing and implanting an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) policy in the workplace is one of the accords Council signed with when the Town began applying for funding related to the grid modernization funding. The Directors of Corporate Services and Community Development, and the Strategic Projects Coordinator have received a working draft of the consultant’s report on EDI for Town of Antigonish, which has come with recommendations and steps to make improvements within the workplace. This is being reviewed for comment and will be presented to Council over the coming month.

Next Step: Consultants Report to be presented

Title: Work from Home Policy
Status Update: Corporate Services has finalized a draft Work from Home (WFH) policy that is ready for internal review. It has included potential strategies that other similar Town municipalities have implemented, including the Town of Bridgewater.
Next Step: Finalize and present to Council regarding a Work from Home Policy.
Title: In Development: Charitable Donation Policy
Status Update: Corporate Services has prepared a charitable donation policy for the Town of Antigonish. This would formalize the charitable donation receipt program and outline the standards for evaluating donations in accordance with Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) guidelines. This is in the review stage.
Next Step: Finalize and prepare a memo to Council regarding a Charitable Donation Policy.

March 2025 Financial Statements will be available after the year-end audit is completed.

Grants to Organizations (as of May 12th):

Committed: \$ 2,500
 Budget: \$200,000

Committed:

Dr. J.H. Gillis - Model United Nation	\$ 300
Antigonish Jr. B- Don Johnson Cup	\$2,000
Dr. J.H. Gillis - St. Martha's Relay	\$ 200

**Council Report
General Fund**

For the Two Months Ending 5/31/2025

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	Remaining Budget
Revenue					
Taxes	9,267,538	48,492	7,931,983	\$38,161	9,219,046
Grants in Lieu of Taxes	1,338,567	7,380	1,206,255	7,719	1,331,187
Sale of Services	1,380,491	66,125	1,058,889	30,462	1,314,366
Services provided to other governments	1,138,847	0	397,903	-9,260	1,138,847
Other revenue from own sources	269,491	37,030	137,095	76,698	232,461
Unconditional Transfers from other governments	691,194	349	204,039	342	690,845
Other Transfers	4,098,460	0	2,125,770		4,098,460
	18,184,588	159,376	13,061,933	144,122	18,025,212
Expenditure					
Mayor and Council	463,427	42,475	460,844	5,787	420,952
Corporate Services and Office of the CAO	1,106,197	483,391	933,010	194,309	622,806
	6,243,832	0	2,513,576	0	6,243,832
Engineering and Public Works	1,666,945	218,859	1,462,376	255,278	1,448,086
Environmental Health Services	1,509,984	202,271	1,353,886	214,481	1,307,713
Community Development Administration	235,493	60,646	479,479	78,129	174,847
Partnerships & Initiatives	899,713	27,491	499,701	-114,720	872,222
Protective Services	3,269,511	538,812	2,960,477	97,290	2,730,699
Recreation and Cultural Services	682,594	116,946	706,221	157,273	565,648
Provincial Responsibilities	1,806,818	285,290	1,692,329	160,490	1,521,528
	299,636	0	0	0	299,636
	18,184,150	1,976,181	13,061,899	1,048,317	16,207,969
Excess(deficiency) of revenue over expenditure	439	-1,816,805	34	-904,196	1,817,244