



Town Council Meeting
Council Chambers – 105 Lower Main
Street Wednesday, June 24, 2026
6:00 pm

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Agenda

Pages 1 - 2

3. Approval of Minutes – Regular Council Meeting – April 22, 2026 Special Council Meeting – May 13, 2026 Special Council Meeting – June 10, 2026

Pages 3 - 6 – April 22, 2026, Minutes

Pages 7 - 8 – May 13, 2026, Minutes

Pages 9 - 12 – June 10, 2026, Minutes

4. Business

4.1 Library Board Additions

Pages 13 - 14 – Letter from Cumberland Regional Library Board

4.2 Road Trails Designation By-law – first reading

Pages 15 – 16

4.3 Changes to membership of the Accessibility Advisory Board

Page 17

4.4 Accessibility Advisory Board – Achievement Report Card

Pages 18 - 21

5. Correspondence

5.1 – 12 Month Notice Letter to Municipalities

Pages 22 - 24

6. In-Camera

6.1 pursuant to MGA 22 (2) (a) and (e)

7. Adjournment

3. Approval of Minutes – Regular Council Meeting – March 25, 2026, *Pages 2 - 4*
Special Council Meeting – April 8, 2026, *Pages 5 - 6*

Approved by

Mayor Greg Henley, on April 22, 2026

4. Business

4.1 RFD – REMO Strategic Plan – to be approved and adopted
Recommendation from the Regional Emergency Management Advisory
Committee, *Pages 7 – 33*

The Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee met on March 24, 2026 and passed a motion to submit the draft REMO strategic plan to the three municipal councils with a recommendation that the plan be approved and adopted by each municipal council (Oxford, the County of Cumberland, and the Town of Amherst).

The purpose of the plan is to provide continuity of the functions of the municipality. This plan has no financial implications over and above the required emergency management act. It was reviewed that training for Council will be forthcoming regarding the plan.

Moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor Canning-Sweet that Council approve and adopt the Cumberland Regional Emergency Management Organization's Emergency Management Plan as presented.

Motion Carried

4.2 RFD – Draft 2026 / 2027 Water Budget, *Pages 34 - 36*

Move by Deputy Mayor McNutt and seconded by Councillor Jones that Council accepts the Water Operating Budget as presented for April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027, for the sum of \$941,414.

Water Rates, as described in Schedule "B" schedule of rates for water and water services are as follows:

Effective for water supplied on or after April 1, 2026, Water Base Charges (Quarterly) Unmetered (based on 15,000 imp. gal. per quarter): \$149.08

Size of Meter	Base Charge
5/8"	\$107.00
3/4"	\$157.30
1"	\$257.91
1.5"	\$509.43
2"	\$811.25
3"	\$1,616.11
4"	\$2,521.58
6"	\$5,036.78

Consumption Rate (per 1000 Imp. Gallons \$2.81 per 1000 Imperial Gallons
Minimum Bill - The minimum bill shall be the Base Charge.

Motion Carried

4.3 RFD – Draft 2026 / 2027 Operating Budget, Pages 37 – 44

Moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Deputy Mayor McNutt that the Council accepts the General Operating Budget as presented for April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027, for the sum of \$4,030,911. The estimates of the sums were prepared in accordance with Section 72 of the Municipal Government Act.

Further resolved that the Deed Transfer Tax will remain the same at 1.5% and;

Further resolved that the Town Council hereby authorizes the levying and collection of a rate for the current year of \$4.515822 per \$100 on the value of the property assessed in the assessment roll as Commercial property and \$1.885707 per \$100 on the value of the property assessed in the assessment roll as Residential and Resource property, and \$0.25 on the value of the property assessed in the assessment roll as Forest Acreage under 50,000 and;

Further resolved that the Sewer rates will remain the same and they are as follows:

SEWR Sewer Flat Rate	\$ 325.00
SW2 Sewer Flat Rate Sen #1	\$ 4,875.00
SW01 Oxford Frozen Foods Rate	\$15,725.00
SW10 Sewer Flat Rate	\$ 325.00
SW12 Sewer Flat Rate	\$ 487.00
SW13 Sewer Flat Rate	\$ 569.00
SW14 Sewer Flat Rate	\$ 650.00
SW15 Sewer Flat Rate	\$ 731.00
SW16 Sewer Flat Rate	\$ 812.00
SW17 Sewer Flat Rate	\$ 975.00
SW18 Sewer Flat Rate	\$ 1,381.00
SW19 Sewer Flat Rate	\$ 1,137.00
SW20 Sewer Flat Rate	\$ 1,300.00
SW21 Sewer Flat Rate	\$ 1,462.00
SW22 Sewer Flat Rate Sen #2	\$ 3,635.00
SW23 Apt Complex OES	\$ 6,337.00
SW25 OREC Sewer Rate	\$ 7,812.00
SW28 Oxford Frozen Foods Office Building 05979188	\$ 974.00

And;

Further resolved that an interest rate of 1.5% per month, or 18% per annum, compounded, be charged on the 2026/2027 tax bills that interest charges are applied on the first day of each month for outstanding amounts.

Motion Carried

4.4 RFD – Draft 2026 / 2027 Capital Budget, Page 45

Moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Deputy Mayor McNutt that the Council accepts the Capital Budget as presented for April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027, for the sum of \$2,188,905.00

Motion Carried

Prior to adjournment, Mayor Henley thanked Ruthann Brookins for the budget and recognized Councillor Black as part of the Cumberland County Volunteer representative for the Oxford Food Pantry

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 PM

Mayor Greg Henley

Stan McDougall, Admin Assistant and Recording Secretary

Date Approved



Minutes of the Special Council Meeting

Place: Council Chambers, Zoom, streamed live to Facebook
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026
Presiding Officer: Mayor Greg Henley
Councillors Present: Deputy Mayor Chrystal McNutt, Councillors Carla Black, Brenton Colborne, Olivia Canning-Sweet, and Paul Jones
Councillor Regrets: Councillor Padraic Moore

A quorum was present throughout the meeting.

Staff in attendance: Linda Cloney (CAO), Larry Reicker (Public Works Supervisor), and Stan McDougall (admin assistant and recording secretary)

Staff Regrets: Paul Macdonald (Bylaw Enforcement Officer)

Presenters in attendance: Nil

Media in attendance: Nil

Gallery in attendance: Nil

- 1. Call to Order**
At 6:52 PM, Mayor Henley called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
Moved and seconded that the agenda of the Special Council Meeting for Wednesday, May 13, 2026, be approved as presented.
Motion Carried
- 3. RFD – Development Agreement – 4812 Main Street (PID 25388208)**
Pages 2 – 11

The draft development agreement and staff report was reviewed with the Council for 4812 Main Street (PID 25388208)

Moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Deputy Mayor McNutt to give first reading to the development agreement – 4812 Main Street (PID 25388208) as presented.

Motion Carried

4. **In-Camera**

4.1 pursuant to MGA 22 (2) (a)

At 6:57 PM it was moved by Councillor Colborne and seconded by Deputy Mayor McNutt to go in-camera.

Motion Carried

At 7:12 PM it was moved by Councillor Colborne and seconded by Councillor Jones to come out of in-camera and resume the Special Council Meeting.

Motion Carried

5. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM.

Mayor Greg Henley

Stan McDougall, Admin Assistant

Date Approved



Minutes of the Special Council Meeting

Place: Council Chambers, Zoom, streamed live to Facebook
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2026
Presiding Officer: Mayor Greg Henley
Councillors Present: Deputy Mayor Chrystal McNutt, Councillors Padraic Moore, Olivia Canning-Sweet, and Paul Jones
Councillor Regrets: Councillor Carla Black and Brenton Colborne

A quorum was present throughout the meeting.

Staff in attendance: Linda Cloney (CAO), Larry Reicker (Public Works Supervisor), Paul Macdonald (Bylaw Enforcement Officer), and Stan McDougall (admin assistant and recording secretary)

Staff Regrets: Nil

Presenters in attendance: Nil

Media in attendance: Mark Rushton, Hello Oxford

Gallery in attendance: Robin Blake

1. Call to Order – Welcome

At 6:03 PM, Mayor Henley called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Deputy Mayor McNutt, that the agenda of the Special Council Meeting for Wednesday, June 10, 2026, be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

3. Business

3.1 Public Hearing – Development Agreement for three four-unit townhouses at 4812 Main Street., Pages 2 – 8

Staff reviewed the development agreement for three, four-unit townhouses at 4812 Main Street and called the public hearing to order. During the initial public hearing, there were no concerns raised

It was also reviewed that the Planning Advisory Committee had met and made a motion to recommend entering into the development agreement for 4812 Main Street as drafted.

Mayor Henley asked for public questions or concerns. Hearing none, Mayor Henley closed the public hearing at 6:06PM

3.2 RFD: 20260610 -1 – Development Agreement – 4812 Main Street (PID 25388208), Pages 9 – 11 – RFD: 20260610-1 and Synopsis, Pages 12 – 19 – attachment #1 for RFD – Staff report to Planning Advisory Committee, Pages 20 – 27 – attachment #2 for RFD - revised development agreement

Moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Deputy Mayor McNutt that Council enter into the development agreement, as drafted, for 4812 Main Street (PID: 25388208).

Motion Carried

Mr. Blake inquired about the process going forward. Staff reviewed that after today's meeting, there's a two-week appeal process. Once completed, then the development can proceed.

3.3 RFD: 20260610 – 2 – Change of Structure request from Police Advisory Board, Pages 28 – 29

The Police Advisory Board has a vacancy for a council appointed volunteer. This vacancy was advertised and staff received four applications that expressed their interest in becoming board members.

The Police Advisory Board was impressed with the turn out of interest that they inquired if we could increase our membership from 5 members to 7 members.

This would allow the Police Advisory Board to bring on two new council appointed members, but that would also require that we would need to add one more member of Council.

The Police Advisory Board made the motion saying that they recommend to Council to consider increasing the membership of the board from five to seven members, if permissible.

Staff reached out to the staff from the Department of Justice. The reply was that it was nice to see the public interest in police governance. If Council would like to see the change of structure that the only requirement would be to send a letter to the minister. We would need to confirm that the board and its new structure will adhere to the Police Act and Regulations; background/criminal record checks and oath of office. The Department of Justice will offer orientation training to the Board once the new members are in place.

With this larger membership, this would allow for more input to assist with the advisory role for Council. There were two options put forward for consideration by the Council:

Moved by Deputy Mayor McNutt and seconded by Councillor Canning-Sweet that Town Council agrees with the recommendation to change the board structure of the Police Advisory Board from five members to seven members and directs staff to send the required letter to the Minister of Justice for approval.

Motion Carried

Linda discussed that given the passing of the motion previous, there are two members that the Police Advisory Board would like to appoint to the board. Wesley Pringle and Jacquie Hannigan.

Moved by Deputy Mayor McNutt and seconded by Councillor Jones that Council appoints Wesley Pringle and Jacquie Hannigan as Board Members with the Police Advisory Board.

Motion Carried

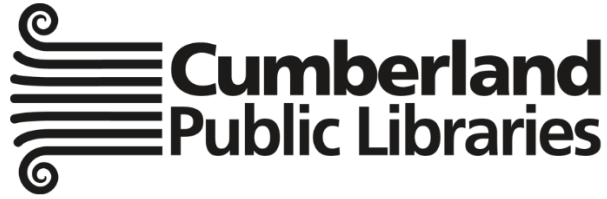
4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:11 PM.

Mayor Greg Henley

Stan McDougall, Admin Assistant

Date Approved



PO Box 220
21 Acadia St., 2nd floor
Amherst, Nova Scotia
B4H 3Z2
information@cumberlandpubliclibraries.ca

Mayor Henley and Municipal Council
Town of Oxford,
P.O. Box 338
Oxford, Nova Scotia
B0M 1P0

June 2, 2026

Dear Mayor Henley and Council:

I am writing to request a Council decision to change to the Cumberland Regional Library Board. The Library Board has been struggling due to its small size. Currently, the board is made up of 5 appointed members, Councillors from each of the municipalities of Cumberland, Amherst, and Oxford, and 2 citizen members appointed by the province of Nova Scotia.

We wish to add three community representatives to be selected by the respective Councils in an effort to strengthen the library board's connection to the community and aid us in making decisions that will benefit a larger sector of the population. The Library Board would request to have input on the selection process in order to have board members that represent different parts of the community or who have specific needed skills.

In total, that would mean a board comprised of;

- 1 Town of Amherst councillor;
- 1 Town of Oxford councillor;
- 1 Municipality of Cumberland councillors;
- 1 Equity, Diversity, Inclusion or Accessibility community member;
- 3 community members at large;
- and 2 provincially appointed representatives,

leading to a board of 9 individuals. A board of that size would allow for much more responsible governance, give the Library Board the ability to create subcommittees, and to allow for more perspectives.

Section 10 (2c) of the Libraries Act specifies that the appointment of additional members requires agreement from all parties:

- (2) A regional library board shall consist of*
- (a) one member appointed by each city, town and municipality that is a party to the agreement;*
 - (b) two members appointed by the Governor in Council; and*
 - (c) additional members appointed in such manner and number as the parties to the agreement agree.*

Therefore I am reaching out to you to ensure that the Council is in agreement with the proposed change to the makeup of the board. The library board will be discussing this at the September 3rd, 2026 meeting and so would appreciate an answer by that time.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Angel McCormick
Interim Chair,
Cumberland Regional Library Board

cc. Carla Black, Town of Oxford Councillor and Library Board Member

Town of Oxford By-law No. _____
Road Trails Designation By-law

WHEREAS the *Road Trails Act*, SNS 2023, c.4, s. 5(2), permits a municipality to designate a highway or part of a highway that is not owned by the Crown in right of the province as a road trail.

1. SHORT TITLE

This By-law is entitled Road Trails Designation By-law.

2. DEFINITIONS

In this By-law:

2.1 “Act” means the Road Trails Act, SNS 2023, c.4 and any amendments thereto;

2.2 “Highway” means:

- (a) a public highway, street, lane, road, alley, park, beach or place including the bridges therein; and
- (b) private property that is designated to be and is accessible to the general public for the operation of the motor vehicle;

2.3 “Municipality” means the Municipality of the Town of Oxford; and

2.4 “Road Trail” means the shoulder and travelled portion of a highway designated by the municipality pursuant to section 5 (2) of the Act, but does not include a ditch.

3. OPERATION ON ROAD TRAIL

Notwithstanding section 11 of the *Motor Vehicle Act*, a driver may operate an all-terrain vehicle, a dirt bike, or another off-highway vehicle of a class prescribed by the regulations made pursuant to the Act, on a highway or part of a highway that is designated as a Road Trail under this By-law if the driver meets all requirements of the Act and the *Off-Highway Vehicles Act*.

4. DESIGNATION

The Municipality hereby designated each and every road and street within the municipal boundaries of the Town of Oxford as a Road Trail, all pursuant to section 5(2) of the Act.

2026 / 2027 Boards and Committees

APPROVED - October 22, 2025

Revised: June 24, 2026

Boards		Black	Canning	Colborne	Henley	Jones	McNutt	Moore
All Saints Community Health Care Foundation	VACANT - filled in by staff							
Cumberland Regional Library Board	Councillor Black	1						
Municipal Alcohol Program Board (MAP)	vacant - filled in by staff							
Police Advisory Board	Councillor Colborne, Councillor Moore, Myra Thiemann (public appointee), Vacant (public appointee), Thomas Shears - DOJ Representative			1				1
Police Services Review	Councillor Colborne, Mayor Henley, Councillor Jones, Thomas Shears, public appointee (vacant)			1	1	1		
Committees - Internal								
Accessibility Advisory Committee	Councillor Canning (Chair), Councillor Moore, Danielle Laurie, Mandy Blake, Meagan Marchant, Ashlyn Brownell (Vice Chair), Theresa Ryan, Amanda Purdy, Carly Oickle , and Stephen Thompson		1					1
Arena Association Committee	Jordan Burkhardt (President), Graham Wood (Vice President), Paula Rogers (Treasurer), Patrick Rushton, Shannon Hanna, Murray Thompson, Mitchell Hannigan, Darlene Ellis, Ty Ingraham, Keith Baker and Councillor Paul Jones.					1		
Asset Management Committee (was formerly Town Buildings Committee)	Mayor Henley, Councilor Colborne, Councilor Jones (Chair)			1	1	1		
Audit Committee	Mayor Henley, Councillor Jones, Councillor McNutt, Milton Wood - Public Appointee				1	1	1	
Communities in Bloom Committee	Councillor Black, Ashlyn Brownell, Chelsea Brownell, Amanda Purdy, Maxine Clarke, and Al Clarke	1						
Oxford Beautification Advisory Committee (was formally known as Downtown Revitalization/Beautification Committee)	Councillor Jones, Councillor Canning, Jordan Burkhardt, and Giancarlo Piccine		1			1		
Fire Department Committee	Councillor Colborne, Councillor Jones, Arnold MacDonald - public appointee			1		1		
Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Committee	Councillor Canning, Anas Alawar, Deputy Mayor Black, Councillor Moore, Millisa Ellis, Jagot Singh, Emma Brown, Crhis King Tower, Virginia King Tower, and Marion Abbott	1	1					1
Personnel Committee	Mayor Henley, Councillor Black, and Councillor Jones (Chair)	1			1	1		
Planning Advisory Committee	Councillor Canning, Mayor Henley, Councillor Moore, and Jordan Reid - Public Appointee		1		1			1
Public Works Committee	Councillor Colborne, Councillor Black, Councillor Jones (Chair)	1		1		1		
Recreation Commission	Councillor McNutt (Chair), Councillor Canning, Councillor Moore, MPAL staff member - Marion Abbott, Kelsey Clark, Millisa Ellis, Elaine Mazur, Kristen Thompson, Sarah Henley, Hayden Clark, Amanda Purdy, Brittany Tomlinson, Becky Weir, Lyndsey Hurley, and Lacey Palmer		1				1	1
Road Trails Act Review Committee	Councillor McNutt, Councillor Jones, Councillor Colborne, and Councillor Canning		1	1		1	1	
Source Water Protection Advisory Committee	Councillor Colborne, Mayor Henley (Chair), Councillor Moore			1	1			1
Welcoming Committee	Vacant							
Committees - External								
Cumberland Central Landfill Community Liaison Committee	Councillor McNutt - Vacant positions for residents / business operators						1	
Cumberland Health Stakeholders	Mayor Henley				1			
Northern Region Solid Waste Management Committee	Councillor McNutt						1	
Physician Recruitment Committee	Mayor Henley				1			
Regional Emergency Measures Organization Advisory Committee - (REMO)	Mayor Henley and Councillor Colborne			1	1			
		5	6	8	9	9	5	6

Town of Oxford - Accessibility Plan

Achievement Report Card – March 31, 2026

Services & Built Environment

- Council meetings are live streamed and recorded with closed captioning, making them more accessible when posted on Facebook.
- Proclamations to be more inclusive and welcoming.
- Council meeting videos shared to YouTube
- **Town Hall**
 - New Town Hall Customer service secure entrance has been installed with an automatic accessible door customer service window for the safety of staff and residents.
 - Additional security cameras are now in place at the entrance, parking lot, and walking bridge.
 - Replacement railing at front entrance to improve stability.
 - Staff office area has been opened to provide better access and flow.
 - Bylaw Enforcement Officer has been hired to provide bylaw enforcement, zero-tolerance for harassment and workplace violence complaint intervention and monitoring.
 - Continued Winter maintenance service to ensure snowbanks are removed where crosswalks are designated and updating of the Snow Removal Policy to reflect priorities of safe snow removal for public safety and accessibility.
 - Partnering between public work and the Oxford Arena Association for safe parking winter maintenance.
 - AEDs have been purchased for locations throughout the Town.
 - Town Hall accessibility development investigation in progress including upgraded accessible ramps, elevator to second floor, doorway upgrades and lighting.

- Oxford Depot has been re-arranged for better accessibility and flow.
- **Capitol Theatre**
 - Bariatric bench has been installed (April 2025) for accessible seating.
 - Upgraded sound, lighting and projection systems for better access and inclusivity.
 - Partnership with Sunset Communities for monthly movie screening and karaoke events.
 - Planning further upgrade to sound system for hearing-impaired.
 - Partnerships created to enhance inclusion with Y-REACH, School's Plus, Nova Scotia Health, Sunset Enterprises, VON, the Oxford Senior's Club, Oxford Lions Club, Nazarene Church, Baptist Church, Cumberland Pride, Home School Association, and Oxford Minor Baseball.

Recreation

- Oxford Physical Activity Strategic plan renewal. Applying the accessibility and EDI lenses to the plan.
- Equipment loan program is now in place.
- Partnerships created to enhance inclusion with Y-REACH, School's Plus, Nova Scotia Health, Sunset Enterprises, VON, the Oxford Senior's Club, Oxford Lions Club, Nazarene Church, Baptist Church, Cumberland Pride, Home School Association, and Oxford Minor Baseball.
- Accessible washroom facilities being rented summer of 2026 for placement at the ball and soccer fields.

Information and Communication

- Voyent Alert! Has been implemented to convey alerts and information bulletins by cell phone (SMS), voice phone, email, and

other alert methods.

- People can listen to or watch live-streamed Town Council meetings, with closed captioning, live on social media via the Town of Oxford Profile on Facebook. Videos of Council are also uploaded to YouTube the next day and linked on social media for those that are not following the Town of Oxford Profile on Facebook.
- Town Council meetings are open to the public to attend in person.
- Agendas and minutes of all Town Council meetings are posted on the Town website.
- Cumberland Region Emergency Management Office has initiated training and development for all departments and plans to work with the Council to be prepared for emergencies.
- Oxford Fire department has completed upgrades to the kitchen, seating and installation of upgraded heating and air conditioning to act as a comfort centre in times of emergency as an accessible building (2025).
- Multiple options for more accessible information sharing are now possible including posts to our website, VoyentAlert!, social media pages, printed media, community, town calendars and newsletters, tax and water bills, and radio.
- Ongoing training and development in areas of Accessibility, Plain Language, and accessible communication.
- Improvements in receiving and responding to concerns, complaints requests via customer service forms, including suggestions about accessibility, Accessibility Plan and inclusivity.

Transportation

- Continued utilization of the Oxford Walk and Wheel-Ability Report completed in 2024 highlighted some of the concerns for the walk and wheel-ability of the Town of Oxford and highlights active transportation opportunities.
- Planning and development plan creation has been started for Main Street and Pugwash Road (2025)

- Ongoing repainting of crosswalks.
- Crossing guard position has been continued at the main intersection to assist students and pedestrians of all ages safely cross the street during school times (morning, lunch and afternoon).
- Installation of accessible parking spaces at Oxford Sunset Community Thrift Store and Black River Park and on Water and Main Street with identifiable paint markings offering wider and longer parking spaces including security camera monitoring for enhanced safety.
- Installation of dimple plates at upgraded sidewalk crossings at ballpark.
- Further exploration of dimple plate placement, size and installation ongoing.
- Digital speed sign implementation planned for 2026 for increased speed safety, and awareness.

Employment

- Members of the Council receive tablets for reading agendas and Town documents. This makes reading more accessible because users can zoom in on text and change the font size.
- Staff have access to dual monitor setups and use of laptops for easier visibility, portability, and flexible working options.
- Office furniture with ergonomic desk design have been upgraded for the Public Works Supervisor and administrative assistant.
- Discussion, conversation and thought processes have evolved to include inclusive, equity and accessibility lenses.
- Health and Wellness policies have been enhanced to include zero-tolerance enforcement for toxic individuals at locations such as the Oxford Depot.
- NSFAM wellness opportunities are extended to staff.
- Telus Health and Medavie Blue Cross programs are extended to staff.
- Fall arrest, Confined Space, Excavation, sidewalk plow (trackless), First Aid, Chainsaw and Emergency Management training for public works staff (2025-26).



**Municipal Affairs
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 216, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2M4 • Telephone 902 424-5550 Fax 902 424-0581 • novascotia.ca

June 9, 2026

Mayors and Wardens
Via Email

Dear Mayors and Wardens:

Under Section 519 (1) of the *Municipal Government Act* (Requirement to notify Union)
The Minister shall notify the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (NSFM) at least one year prior to the effective date of any legislation, regulation or administrative action undertaken by or on behalf of the Government of the Province that would have the effect of decreasing the revenue received by municipalities in Nova Scotia or increasing the required expenditures of municipalities in Nova Scotia.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply with respect to any legislation, regulation or administrative action applying to the Province generally and not mainly to municipalities.

This letter is intended to provide notice of such changes for fiscal year 2027-2028 and beyond.

The Department of Municipal Affairs (DMA) canvassed all provincial departments to seek information on plans for legislative, regulatory, and policy changes in the coming fiscal year. Below you will find a summary of the results of that process.

Department of Emergency Management

- 1) The Department acknowledges that elements of ongoing work to strengthen fire services in Nova Scotia may have a financial impact on some municipal units.

With the introduction of the *Act to Provide Support for Fire Protection Services*, the Department is providing one-year notice that all municipalities – whether they oversee fire services or not – will be required to:

- conduct a fire protection service review in order to ensure municipalities and fire service providers make evidence-based decisions about the services they provide to their community,
- ensure that local firefighter competencies, training, and personal protective equipment meet the service standard required by the fire protection service review, and
- participate in a common records management system.

The possible impacts of these new requirements, which will be further detailed through regulations and standards, may vary significantly based on local context, including existing governance and collaboration models, levels of municipal readiness, and voluntary fire service provider capacity.

This legislation is part of an ongoing commitment to strengthening the fire service sector through:

- access to specialized firefighter training and the certification process,
- education/training for municipal elected officials,
- procurement support,
- mutual aid and service agreement templates,
- the new Fire Records Management System, and
- a risk-based assessment tool to facilitate council decision-making around fire protection service levels.

Department of Justice

- 1) The Nova Scotia Comprehensive Policing Review was released in June 2025. Since that time, the Department of Justice has met with all municipalities to discuss implementation of the six foundational changes and the expanded role of the provincial police service. These foundational changes are designed to strengthen public safety across the province and support more effective, consistent, and sustainable outcomes. As part of implementation:
 - Municipalities are required to meet established provincial policing standards. Municipalities that are unable to meet these standards independently will be required to contract with the provincial police service for the delivery of those services and, effective April 1, 2027, will be required to purchase those services on a fee basis. While these changes are intended to enhance public safety and ensure greater consistency across jurisdictions, they may result in increased costs for some municipalities. At this time, the specific nature and extent of any financial impacts cannot be determined for any individual municipality.
 - The Province will continue to enhance and modernize its policing standards over time. The creation or expansion of standards may result in additional costs for municipalities.
 - The Province will procure a province-wide records management system (RMS) in fiscal year 2026–27. The Province will fund the acquisition and associated start-up costs. It is anticipated that beginning in 2027–28, as part of implementation, municipalities with their own police agencies will be required to contribute annual licensing fees associated with the RMS. For municipalities policed by the RCMP under the provincial policing model, RMS-related costs will be incorporated into the provincial billing model.
 - The Province will continue to work toward the development of a new municipal billing model for provincial police services during fiscal year 2026–27. Municipalities will continue to be engaged throughout this process. The specific structure of the model and the extent of any financial impacts cannot be determined at this time for any individual municipality; however, changes to the billing model could result in increased costs for some municipalities beginning in 2027–28.

- 2) The National Police Federation is the certified union representing regular members and reservists of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) below the rank of Inspector. The current Collective Agreement expired on March 31, 2025, and labour negotiations between the National Police Federation and Treasury Board Secretariate Canada are ongoing. The cost implications cannot be determined at this time.
- 3) The 'H' Division (Nova Scotia) Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) have provided the Department of Justice with the annual Multi-Year Financial Plan (MYFP), that reflects the organization's budget requests for the next fiscal year, and strategic planning for subsequent years. The cost implications cannot be determined at this time.

Department of Public Works

- 1) The recoverable cost to municipalities for adjustments to catch basins, manholes, and water valves during construction work will increase June 1, 2027. Manhole and catch basin adjustments will increase from \$600 to \$1200, and water valve adjustments will increase from \$300 to \$600.

Department of Service Nova Scotia

- 1) Nova Scotia's new FOIPOP Act will come into effect on April 1, 2027, and regulations are currently under development to support the new Act. The legislation requires municipalities to adopt new privacy policies and practices, requires mandatory reporting of significant privacy breaches to affected individuals and the Information and Privacy Commissioner, and gives the Information and Privacy Commissioner oversight over municipal privacy programs for the first time. It is anticipated that these changes will require municipal resources in the form of personnel to undertake privacy assessments for any new projects or programs where personal information is being collected, for mandatory privacy breach notifications when there are significant privacy breaches, and for responding to privacy complaints filed with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC). The Province will support municipalities through creation of templates, training materials, and education campaigns to help mitigate some of these impacts.

Yours truly,



Honourable John A. MacDonald
Minister of Municipal Affairs

c: CAOs
David Mitchell, President, NSFM
Juanita Spencer, Chief Executive Officer, NSFM