



MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2023 @ 7 p.m.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS/MICROSOFT TEAMS

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Emergency Resolutions
4. Errors and Omissions/Corrections to Minutes – October 3, 2023
5. Correspondence (Uncirculated)
 - a. Thank You from Pictou County Forest School for the Council Grant
 - b. Thank You from Walter Duggan Consolidated School, McCulloch Education Centre and FH MacDonald Academy for Council grants to the Breakfast and Backpack Programs.
6. Correspondence (Circulated)
 - a. Letter from Minister of Public Safety Dominic LeBlanc regarding releasing high-risk offenders to local communities.
 - b. Letter from Minister of Municipal Affairs John Lohr regarding Bill 340 – Municipal Service Agreement.
 - c. Letter from Minister of Public Works Kim Masland regarding Route 289 in Union Centre.
 - d. Letter from NSFM regarding the Urgent need for improved cell phone coverage for emergency preparedness.
 - e. Letter from Premier Tim Houston regarding the province's Clean Energy Plan.
 - f. Thank You from 55 Plus Games for sponsorship and support.
7. 7:05 p.m. Dangerous and Unsightly Hearing – 2403 East River West Side Road
 - Information provided by MOPC Bylaw Enforcement Officer Anne MacCarthy and Fire Inspector Jason LeGreca.
8. Resolutions
 - a. Charitable Receipts issued for SARA (Salem Park) – Clr. Elliott
 - b. PACE By-Law Amendment First Reading – Clr. D. Parker
 - c. Tourism Marketing By-Law Second Reading -Clr.Thompson

- d. Appointment to Climate Change Advisory Committee – Clr. Boyles
 - e. Sale of Municipal Vehicles – Clr. Palmer
 - g. Inter-Municipal Agreement for Pictou County Partnership – CAO Cullen
9. 7:30 p.m. Digital Ubiquity Internet Business Plan Presentation – Mike Richard and Marc Andrea.
- a. Adoption of Temporary Borrowing Resolution for long-term debt – DW Murray
10. Dialysis Units in Pictou County – Clr Boyles
11. Concerns about Bank Closures – Clr. Dewar
12. Community Announcements
13. Adjournment



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P8

OCT 23 2023

Mr. Brian Cullen
Chief Administrative Officer
Municipality of Pictou County
46 Municipal Drive
Pictou, Nova Scotia B0K 1H0

Dear Mr. Cullen:

Thank you for your correspondence of July 20, 2023, addressed to the former Minister of Public Safety, concerning the process around the release of high-risk offenders to local communities.

Public safety is the paramount consideration in every decision made by the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), and every decision is guided by law and policy.

CSC uses actuarial tools, also known as prediction scales, and structured professional judgement in the assessment of an offender's risk. When an offender is admitted to Federal custody at the beginning of their sentence, a correctional plan is developed based on the offender's risk and needs, allowing for efficient individualized case planning, interventions, and timely conditional release preparation. This plan is continuously updated to capture offender's progress towards addressing their risk factors and rehabilitation goals.

Prior to an offender's release, a detailed plan is prepared to best support the offender's return to society and properly manage their risk once released. The Parole Board of Canada may also impose conditions on the offender's period of supervision. In addition, CSC notifies the local police agency prior to the release.

If an offender requests a relocation to another supervision location, the Parole Officer will consult with their counterpart at the requested destination office regarding supervision requirements. They ensure that a new community strategy is developed prior to approving the request. Factors considered include the offender's support network, employment prospects, residential stability, victim concerns, and other case specific factors to ensure the transfer process is consistent with the goals of the offender's correctional plan and the management of their risk.

I appreciate you raising your concern with me, and I hope the above provides some reassurances on the management and supervision of Federal offenders in the community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. LeBlanc', with a stylized, cursive script.

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., K.C., M.P.



**Municipal Affairs and Housing
Office of the Minister**

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

Dear CAO,

It has been more than 25 years since any government has even offered a substantive review and renegotiation of the MOU between the Province and the municipalities. As you know, the Province worked with the NSFM negotiating team for more than a year to get it right.

As a result of these discussions and 29.5 hours of consultation with municipalities, we introduced Bill 340.

I don't know if you've been following what's been happening in the Legislature with this Bill. But, it would be a shame for this opportunity for municipalities to receive more to be missed at this stage in the process.

I am hopeful we can get this Bill across the line and deliver on the more than \$50 million this Bill will provide to municipalities across the Province.

The voices opposing the Bill coming out of both Opposition parties and the CBRM have been loud and persistent. The Opposition are filibustering the Bill and have held it up, grounding the Legislature to a halt for the past three days. They tell us this will continue. As a result, no business is moving forward.

Since CBRM has consistently asked for its own Charter, we believed that was something they wanted. We wrote to them on September 15 advising them of the option to (a) be a part of the same agreement that 47 other municipalities support; or (b) exempt themselves from this arrangement, in which case the Province would work collaboratively with them to start the process of finally negotiating a CBRM Charter.

Our only ask of them was that whatever decision they make - option (a) or (b) - be supported by a vote of Council. We felt this was a reasonable ask - to ensure the decision represented the will of the majority of the Council - particularly given CBRM's recent history of division.

We didn't actually receive a response. Their silence is hard to reconcile in the face of being offered exactly what they had asked for.

With a looming deadline of the Legislature fast approaching, we wrote to them again on September 21. Still, they did not communicate any decision, nor did they put the options to Council for a vote.

As a government, we can't in good conscience allow the residents of CBRM to be disadvantaged simply because their own council wouldn't make a decision. As such, CBRM will be a part of the MOU. An arrangement that will see more than \$4 million dollars flowing to and staying in CBRM.

The current Bill representing additional money that CBRM will have for their residents is a good thing. Not only does it give them the control over how they spend this extra money, it gives them more funding to fix roads, provide important services like transit, water and garbage and recycling and, most importantly, support their residents.

This negotiation process was tough but fair. It means more money for municipalities. It's something that municipalities have been calling for and we are proud to have had the courage to work with you to get it done.

However, given the amount of opposition to this Bill and the assertions of the Liberal Party that it is more than CBRM that is discontent with this agreement, we are listening carefully. If it appears that this Bill is in fact not the will of the municipalities, then letting the current MOU continue, un-amended, is an option. This week will guide us. We only want to do what is right for the residents of our municipalities. If we got it wrong and this Bill is not the wish of the municipalities, then we will admit we got it wrong and let the status quo stand.

However, if you feel it is important that this Bill pass, perhaps you could contact your colleagues in the CBRM and help them understand what value you see in the Bill and encourage them to make the decision noted above that has been on offer for over a month.

Bill 340 will go before the Law Amendments Committee later this week. Law Amendments Committee is the opportunity for any Nova Scotia to appear before a group of MLAs and share their thoughts (good or bad) on any Bill.

Finally, if you support this Bill, it may help tone down the negative rhetoric if you contact Opposition MLAs and explain the value of the Bill to your municipality.

Yours truly,

Minister John Lohr



**Public Works
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 186, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2N2

OCT 17 2023

Brian Cullen, CAO
Municipality of Pictou County
46 Municipal Drive
Pictou, NS B0K 1H0

Dear CAO Cullen:

Thank you for your letter of August 28, 2023, on behalf of Municipal Council, regarding residents concerns along Route 289 (Gairloch Road) in Union Centre, Pictou County.

I was extremely saddened to hear of the motor vehicle collision and more so for the injuries sustained by the young occupants involved. These types of incidents have a significant impact on the individuals, their families as well as residents in the community.

I am advised there is existing curve warning signage with a posted speed advisory in place for the section of Route 289 near the intersection with Hamilton Road. Our District Traffic Supervisor is currently conducting a review of the current signage and the roadway geometry. The report from the Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) on August 17th, 2023, will be taken into consideration during the review, once available, along with any data from previous MVAs. Warrants for guardrail barrier will also be assessed to determine any highway upgrades that may improve traffic safety through this area.

Thank you again for writing and for bringing these concerns to our attention. If you have any further questions, please contact Keith MacDonald, P.Eng., Acting Area Manager by email at keith.macdonald@novascotia.ca or by phone at 902-755-7060.

Yours sincerely,

Kim D. Masland
Minister

c: Honourable Tim Houston, Premier, MLA Pictou East
Honourable Karla MacFarlane, MLA Pictou West
Troy Webb, District Director, Northern
Keith MacDonald, A/Area Manager, Pictou County



October 11, 2023

Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
Suite 1304, 1809 Barrington Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3K8

Attention: Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton, President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM)
Email: bchisholmbeaton@townofph.ca

Subject: Urgent Need for Advocacy to Improve Rural Cell Phone Coverage for Emergency Preparedness

Dear Mayor Chisholm-Beaton,

I am writing to you with an urgent and critical concern that necessitates immediate action; the lack of reliable cell phone coverage in rural parts of Nova Scotia. Recent events, such as wildfires, floods, and hurricanes, have emphasized the imperative need for robust communication networks in these areas.

While natural disasters have always posed a risk, the increasing frequency and severity of these events make it even more essential for our rural communities to have dependable cell phone coverage. In times of emergencies, many residents do not receive timely alerts or information due to the inadequate or non-existent cell phone signal, endangering lives, and properties. Communication is a vital lifeline that can make all the difference in these perilous situations.

The recent initiative in Toronto, where all subway riders will have cellphone service from October 3rd, underscores the vital importance of connectivity for public safety and economic prosperity. Spearheaded by the Federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, François-Philippe Champagne, this move responds to concerns over restricted connectivity, ensuring that riders can promptly access emergency services and maintain consistent communication for both personal and business needs. If such measures can be executed in urban centers like Toronto, it becomes imperative for the government to address similar concerns in rural communities, such as the Municipality of Shelburne. In emergencies like the recent fires, several residents couldn't receive crucial evacuation alerts due to absent cell coverage. Just as Toronto's subway riders are safe guarded with mandated service provisions, residents of rural communities deserve the same commitment to their safety and well-being.

Warren MacLeod, CAO

Warren.MacLeod@municipalityofshelburne.ca

www.municipalityofshelburne.ca

Penny Smith, Warden

warden@municipalityofshelburne.ca

As you are aware, reliable cell phone coverage is not merely a matter of convenience but a critical infrastructure need that impacts the well-being and safety of our residents. Not only does this affect individual households, but it also hampers the efforts of emergency responders who rely on clear lines of communication to coordinate rescue and relief activities.

I urge you, in your capacity as the President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, to prioritize and intensify your advocacy towards both the Provincial and Federal Governments through your Public Safety Advisory Committee or possibly creating a dedicated committee on the issue. While it is understood that there are multiple challenges and budget constraints to be managed, the well-being and safety of the citizens should always be paramount.

Moreover, improved cellular infrastructure would not only enhance safety but also contribute to the economic and social development of these rural areas. This long-term investment would benefit our communities in multiple ways, making it a "win-win" situation for all stakeholders involved.

Thank you for your attention to this vital issue. Together, we can forge a stronger and safer Nova Scotia for everyone.

Sincerely,

Warden Penny Smith
Municipality of Shelburne



Warden Eddie Nickerson
Municipality of Barrington



Mayor Rex Stoddard
Town of Clark's Harbour



Mayor Cory Nickerson
Town of Lockeport



Mayor Harald Locke
Town of Shelburne



Tim Houston, Premier
Rick Perkins, MP – South Shore – St. Margarets
Nolan Young, MLA – Shelburne
Juanita Spencer, NSFM - Chief Executive Officer
Ellen Desmond, CRTC – Commissioner Atlantic Region & Nunavut
Paul Mason, NSEMO – Executive Director
All Nova Scotia Municipalities



NOVA SCOTIA

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

PO BOX 726
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
B3J 2T3

October 25, 2023

Dear Councillor,

I wanted to reach out following very productive meetings in Ottawa last week with Minister Wilkinson, Minister Fraser and Minister LeBlanc around the future of energy security in Nova Scotia.

I am excited about the potential for our Province in renewable energy. This starts with ensuring reliable, affordable and clean energy for our future.

Wind, both on- and off-shore, is an important part of our future. We need wind to help us ensure reliable energy sources at affordable rates for Nova Scotians. We also need wind to reach our 2030 targets. I know these are goals you share.

This morning, I participated in a roundtable discussion with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to reiterate the opportunities in renewable energy.

Nova Scotia has the potential to become a worldwide energy powerhouse.

Not only is this good for the environment, but it is a positive step for more reliable and affordable energy.

Earlier this month, our Government released our Clean Energy Plan. This plan demonstrates our path for energy security for our future. This plan relies heavily on one of our best assets - our wind.

I am pleased to attach that plan for your review.

I am hopeful municipalities across the Province will join me in my excitement and optimism for our wind sector. If you have any questions about our plan, please reach out to our team and we would be happy to walk you through the plan.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Houston".

Honourable Tim Houston,
Premier of Nova Scotia

Enclosure: NS Clean Power Plan

Nova Scotia's 2030 Clean Power Plan

Nova Scotia Department of Natural
Resources and Renewables

2030 Clean Power Plan

- ▶ **Flexible.** Implementation of this Plan ensures that NS avoids decades of financial and technological lock-in. This creates flexibility for NS both on the path to coal closure by 2030; while also opening room for future investments in growth sectors like Offshore Wind, Hydrogen, Batteries etc.
- ▶ **Doable. On Time.** All the major electricity legislation or investments required to trigger the core actions of the Plan, and to close coal on time, have already been made by the NS Government, or will be set in motion in the coming months. And all can be delivered in time for 2030.
- ▶ **Affordable.** This Plan centres around Affordability – and ensures that the path to 2030 protects NS ratepayers (who already face high power bills) from being burdened with additional excessive risks or uncontrolled costs.

Nova Scotia's Electricity Context

Nova Scotia has commitments to:

- ▶ Phase out coal & reach 80% renewables by 2030.
- ▶ Reduce GHGs from electricity by more than 90% (from 10.7 MT in 2005).

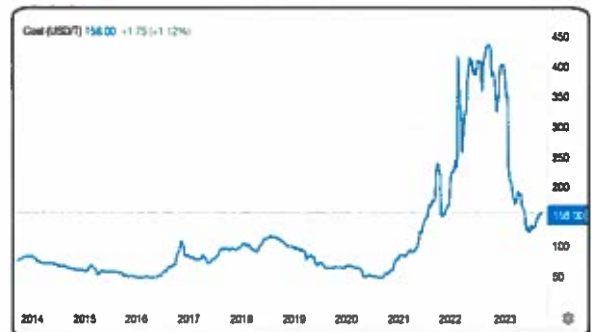
These commitments:

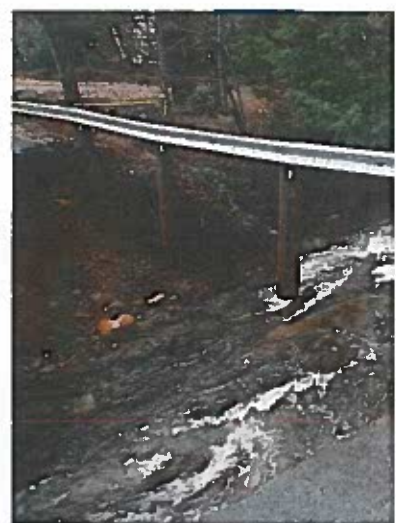
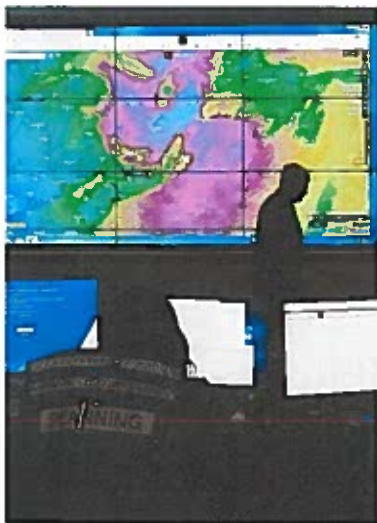
- ▶ Are driven by the Federal requirements for coal closure and new Clean Electricity Regulations.
- ▶ These create significant costs for NS ratepayers.

Unplanned, additional burdens must be managed:

- ▶ Significant fuel cost pressures have arisen from the delayed and under-delivering Maritime Link, which forces increased purchases of expensive coal.
- ▶ More and stronger storms are impacting reliability.

Historic Coal Prices (USD)





- ▶ Nova Scotia's electricity system is highly vulnerable to climate change linked events.
- ▶ The past 12 months alone have seen:
 - ▶ Historic Hurricane Fiona, September 2022
 - ▶ Historic Polar Vortex, February 2023
 - ▶ Historic Forest Fires, May 2023
 - ▶ Historic Rain & Flooding, July 2023
- ▶ These types of events will continue to increase in frequency and intensity.

Maritime Link Update

- ▶ The Maritime Link, Labrador Island Link, and Muskrat Falls facilities have been commissioned, but there remain significant ongoing challenges in receiving the full value of Nova Scotians' investments.
- ▶ Nova Scotian ratepayers have been carrying the double cost burden of not only paying the annual costs of the Link itself, but then also being required to pay – and at soaring global prices – for replacement coal and gas. This fuel was required for some years because of delays in commissioning, now compounded by ongoing under-delivery issues.
- ▶ The future is more promising, but in the meantime, this has created severe fuel cost pressures on NS ratepayers, and an ongoing bill.

Atlantic Loop: Update

1. Capital costs have increased by 300%, from \$2.95 Billion in 2020 to more than \$9 Billion today. Burdening everyday Nova Scotian ratepayers with this level of new cost, plus the risk of even more cost escalation, is unacceptable.
2. Quebec has confirmed it does not have the product Nova Scotia required to close coal – firm energy available for sale to meet our winter peak needs.
3. Global supply chain challenges (HVDC equipment, cables); plus the need for all three provinces to complete approvals and negotiations; plus a tight construction industry mean the Atlantic Loop cannot be ready for 2030.
4. Investing in our own energy resources avoids Nova Scotian's having to spend billions on infrastructure in Quebec and New Brunswick.



2027

The year in which we will need new energy supplies

2026–2027

The winter in which we will need new capacity supplies

Calls for tenders have already been launched to meet these needs, and others will follow.

- Hydro Quebec Strategic Plan 2022-26

This option is no longer viable for 2030.

Comparative Energy Sources: Costs (\$/MWh)

Atlantic Loop Energy	\$200-\$250	
NS Wind		\$45-\$65
Battery + NS Wind		\$70-\$100
Offshore NS Wind		\$70-\$140
Solar		\$80-\$130
Natural Gas*		\$100-\$170
Imports (from NL, NB, NE)		\$150-\$200
Smart Grid/Efficiency		\$0-\$50

*Natural Gas may incur carbon costs. However, revenues would be in recycled back to mitigate ratepayer impacts through investments in further GHG investments.

Nova Scotia's Historic Opportunity

- ▶ NS has some of the most exceptional winds in the world, with capacity factors that can exceed 50% in the onshore.
- ▶ Our offshore has even more wind potential, providing Nova Scotia a significant advantage in offshore wind and hydrogen.
- ▶ Nova Scotia is also home to world-class expertise in batteries, and rapidly growing new firms.
- ▶ Harnessing these local resources reduces Nova Scotia's dependency on imported coal or natural gas, and enormously strengthens our energy security.
- ▶ Wider electrification will enable NS to replace \$5 Billion spent on bills for imported fuel, by tapping into much cheaper local, renewable power.

Nova Scotia's 2030 Clean Power Plan



New Energy Resources

1. Wind
2. Solar



Smart Grid Management Tools

3. Batteries and Renewables Integration
4. Electrification and Load Management

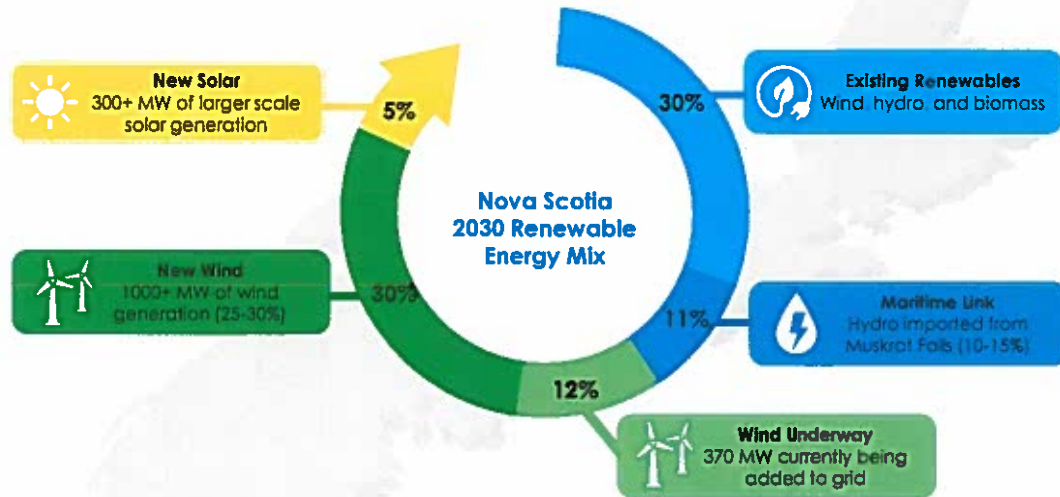


Resilience and Reliability

5. Transmission
6. Fast-Acting Generation
7. Emergency and Reliability

Nova Scotia's 2030 Clean Power Plan

Achieve 80% renewables • Close coal • Cut electricity GHGs by 90% • Improve grid resiliency



Supporting Resiliency and Reliability of the Grid

Batteries: 300 MW
Innovative battery deployment underway

Fast Acting Generators: 300 MW
New, dispatchable generators

NS-NB Tie: 500+ MW
New 345kV reliability line to NB to help manage renewables

Reliability/Emergency Plants: 450 MW
Retain 4 oil/gas units for emergency use

Load Management: 150 MW
Peak management, demand response, and efficiency

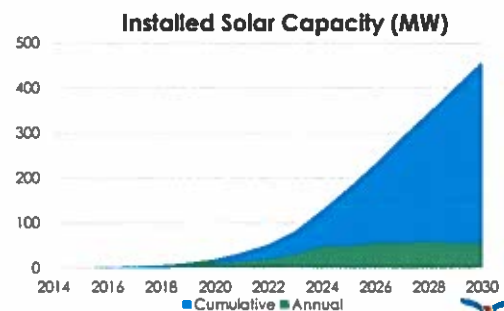
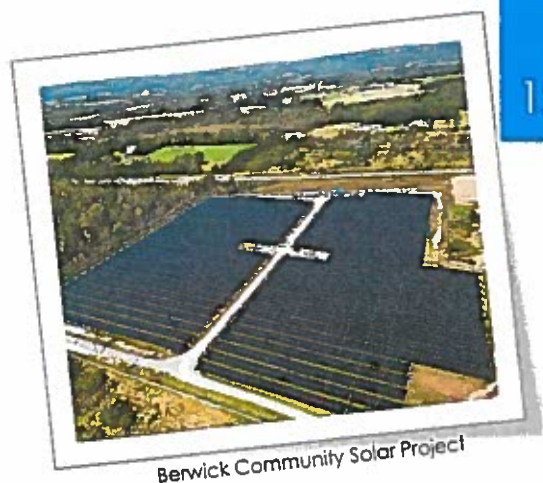
1. Wind

- ▶ Increase onshore wind generation from 20% to 50%+ of electricity.
 - ▶ Add ~1,000 MW of new wind by 2030 to reduce GHGs and stabilize costs through fixed price contracts.
 - ▶ Plus 370 MW is already underway from the recent RFP.
 - ▶ Confirmed in all scenarios from NSP's Integrated Resource Plan.
- ▶ Wind is widely-agreed to be the lowest cost electricity resource available to Nova Scotia, with the latest RFP costing just 5.3 cents/kwh for 370 MW.
- ▶ **Fall 2023:** Nova Scotia launches the Green Choice Program procurement for the next 350 MW of wind.
- ▶ Additional procurements will follow (est. 2025 and 2027) alongside work to encourage responsible development and mitigate supply chain issues.



2. Solar

- ▶ Significantly expand the use of solar across NS.
 - ▶ Net metering was strengthened in legislation, and 7,000 Nova Scotians have now installed solar.
 - ▶ Demand is growing on farms, businesses, municipalities and First Nations – driven by economics, and a desire for more control over their energy.
 - ▶ The solar industry now employs 500 people today in NS and is on trend to hit 1,000 next year.
- ▶ **Fall 2023:** NS's Community Solar Program and Commercial Net Metering launch this Fall- with more than \$150M in solar investments expected across Nova Scotia's communities in 2024.
- ▶ By 2030, the Nova Scotia Plan expects at least 300MW+ of larger scale solar installed through existing programs.



Achieving 80% Target & #1 in GHG Reductions

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- ▶ More than 80% renewable power can be achieved by building out Nova Scotia's own local renewables.
- ▶ The 2030 Clean Power Plan will also reduce electricity GHGs by more than 90% (from 10.7MT in 2005 to <1MT in 2030 to 0.5 MT by 2035).
- ▶ Nova Scotia is already leading Canada in GHG reductions and by 2030 will be #1 in all of North America.
- ▶ Planning for the future also requires a greener, more flexible, and more reliable grid.

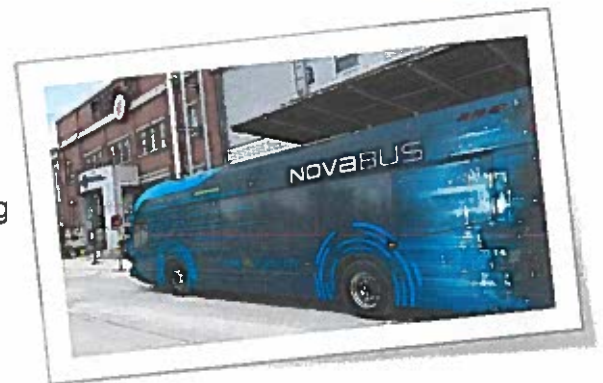


3. Batteries and Renewables Integration

- ▶ Battery technology is improving at world-changing rate:
 - ▶ Researchers like Nova Scotian Jeff Dahn and his team (at Dalhousie and with Tesla) have developed batteries that will last 1,000,000 miles in an EV.
 - ▶ These kinds of batteries are now also helping electricity systems, both to manage renewables but also to provide important grid services.
- ▶ Battery prices have fallen by 95% in recent decades. However, the speed of deployment in Nova Scotia will depend on significant Federal funding.
 - ▶ Other investments to strengthen the grid are also required to ensure safety and reliability.
- ▶ **Work underway:** NRR is presently reviewing applications for 300MW of innovative early battery deployment projects, across multiple Nova Scotian sites and communities.

4. Electrification and Load Management

- ▶ Nova Scotians spend \$5 Billion every year for imported fossil fuels like coal, heating oil, gasoline and diesel.
- ▶ A key driver for building a clean electricity system in Nova Scotia is to produce energy savings by electrifying heating and transportation for households.
- ▶ Electrification will reduce energy bills and replace spending on imported fuels with clean local electricity.
- ▶ More Heat Pumps & EVs will also increase electricity needs and peak load on the Grid, especially after 2030.
- ▶ **Next Step:** Manage 150MW of load through Demand Response and low-cost actions like smart EV charging, building code updates, and standards on heat pumps.



Electrification

- ▶ The CAA estimates an average vehicle's gas bill is \$2,000-\$4,000. Instead, driving an EV saves you \$1,500 to \$3,000 in fuel costs each year.
- ▶ As the vehicle fleet converts over time, Nova Scotians will save \$1.5 to \$2 Billion/year on gasoline (>70% of which is the cost for the imported fuel).
- ▶ Using Made-in-NS electricity brings those dollars back home.
 - ▶ For instance, bringing that >70% (= \$1.4 Billion) in fuel bills coming back home to NS will create thousands of new jobs.

CAA Calculator	CAA Calculator
Estimated Total Annual Driving Costs for	Estimated Total Annual Driving Costs for
2023 Ford F150 Lightning Lariat Supercrew SWB 4WD	2023 Ford F150 Lariat Supercrew SWB 4WD
\$10,754.40/year*	\$15,502.06/year*
Total Cost per Kilometer \$0.54	Total Cost per Kilometer \$0.78
Average Electricity Economy (kWh/100km) 31.51	Average Fuel Economy (L/100km) 11.26
Fuel Cost per Year (Electricity) \$1,058.51	Fuel Cost per Year (Gas) \$4,165.89

Owners of EVs in Nova Scotia today, recharge at the equivalent of

**Pump Prices of
35 cents a liter**

Load Management and Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G)

- ▶ Many EVs can power your home for days if the power goes out. And some Nova Scotians are already using their vehicles as generators during storms.
- ▶ This capability will also allow vehicle owners to support the grid with their cars.
- ▶ **Work underway:** NS is developing programs that will enable Nova Scotian drivers to unlock the full value of their vehicles and also reduce ratepayer costs by avoiding new investments.



5. NS-NB Regional Transmission



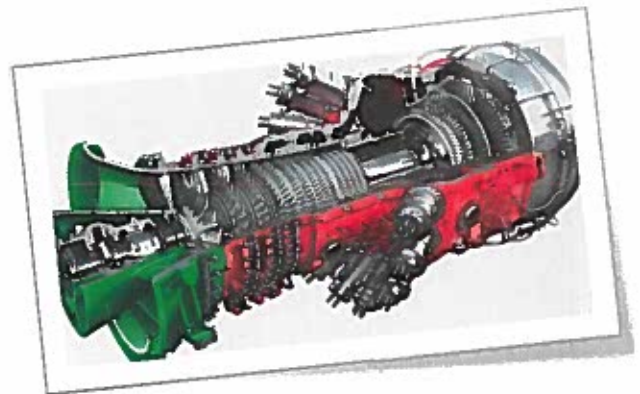
Nova Scotia's electricity system is only weakly connected to the North American grid, through New Brunswick.

- ▶ A new 345kV line to NB is needed to manage renewables, boost reliability and resiliency.
 - ▶ This NS-NB Reliability Tie will run from Onslow to Salisbury, enabling 500MW+ of imports/exports. This project is expected to be online in 2028.
 - ▶ Extending this line to Point Lepreau would enable greater access to NB, New England, and Quebec.
 - ▶ This new line and extension can be completed by 2029 at a total cost of ~\$1.4B, far less than the Atlantic Loop.
 - ▶ This supports regional population growth; enhances reliability; and enables more energy trading.
- ▶ **Work underway:** Interprovincial & Federal talks are underway to support these transmission investments.

6. Hydrogen-Capable/Flex-Fuel Generators

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- ▶ By 2030, and with coal closed, the NS system will still need options that can run for a few days if it is not windy, to ensure power during winter peaks, or should storms/events impact transmission lines.
- ▶ This will require a certain, limited amount of new, fast-acting, dispatchable generation by 2027.
- ▶ Manufacturers are designing new units capable of burning green hydrogen or bio-fuels to reduce GHGs.
 - ▶ Before investments are made, options that could use a domestic clean fuel will be considered.
- ▶ **Next step:** Finalize technology choice, location, and timing for 300MW of fast acting generation.



7. Emergency and Reliability Back-Up

- ▶ Nova Scotia has relied for decades on coal-fired generators for storms or extended cold spells.
- ▶ Many of these units retained the dual-fuel ability to burn oil, to ensure greater reliability during emergencies and when back-up was needed.
- ▶ We will retain some of these units' capabilities to ensure sufficient emergency and back-up:
 - ▶ These will be used, as at present, very infrequently (<1% of the year), with similarly small GHGs of <0.05 MT (vs NS Electricity GHGs of 10.7 MT in 2005).
 - ▶ This saves ratepayer more than \$500 Million.
 - ▶ Every IRP scenario includes retaining at least 3 oil plants (450MW capacity) at 10% of the cost of alternatives.



Nova Scotia's 2030 Clean Power Plan

Wind

Add 1,000+MW new onshore wind by 2030 (offshore potential post-2030)
Green Choice procurement has begun, more every 18 months

Solar

Net Metering now well-established and growing each year
300MW+ large Solar by 2030 - Commercial begun, Community in Fall

Batteries + Renewables Integration

300-400MW Batteries by 2030
Additional renewable integration investments for reliability underway

Electrification/Load Management

Peak Management, Demand Response and Efficiency investments
to reduce 150 MWs of peak and peak growth

Transmission

A new NS-NB Reliability Tie transmission line in service pre-2030
Potential to extend new transmission to Point Lepreau, NB by 2030

Fast-Acting Generation

300MW Hydrogen Capable/Flex-Fuel generators by 2030
Potential for 300+ MWs additional in 2030 or later

Emergency & Reliability Back-Up

450+MW Emergency/Back-up oil generators (use of existing plants)
Potential 100+ MW Coal-to-Gas conversions 2030

Clean Electricity Solutions Task Force

- ▶ The Task Force will:
 - ▶ Examine electricity infrastructure needs for reliability, capacity and storage to meet climate change goals.
 - ▶ Examine connections to other essential services such as telecommunications.
 - ▶ Review the *Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board Act* in terms of electricity generation, transmission and rates.
 - ▶ Engage subject matter experts, the Mi'kmaq and other interested Nova Scotians.
- ▶ The report from the Task Force will be available early in 2024.

Flexibility – for 2030 and post-2030


- ▶ Nova Scotia must avoid taking on too-large new risks (especially post-Maritime Link) or long-term constraints that limit adoption of new, local renewable energy.
- ▶ Our decisions will always consider the current price, timing, volume, product, risk, and local content.
- ▶ The 2030 Plan retains flexibility to add new supply:
 - ▶ As population and load growth are expected.
 - ▶ By backing out even more fossil use (<1.0 MT in 2030), by limiting new fossil investments.
 - ▶ Procurement can then select the best technology available, whether on or offshore wind, solar, hydrogen, or something new, like geothermal.



Post-2030 Energy Options

- ▶ Global efforts to decarbonize electricity generation are accelerating, and new technologies are emerging one after the other into the mainstream.
- ▶ Given this, by 2030, Nova Scotia will possess far more options, and more knowledge, about workable, cost-effective solutions that fit our conditions.
 - ▶ There is enormous promise for the use of offshore wind in Nova Scotia after 2030, as well as hydrogen (potentially before 2030).
 - ▶ The rapid growth of EVs will bring new load but also bring entirely new grid management tools, with enormous potential to reduce system investments.
 - ▶ New long-duration batteries technology, geothermal energy, and bio-energy will also become increasingly cost-effective.
 - ▶ NB may have power available from its Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMRs).

Nova Scotia's 2030 Clean Power Plan

 The elements of Nova Scotia's 2030 Plan are clear, implementable, and limit ratepayer risk and investment. The Plan:

- ▶ Closes coal by 2030.
- ▶ Achieves and exceeds the 80% Renewable Energy Standard.
- ▶ Cuts Nova Scotia's total GHGs by >53%, the best in Canada.
- ▶ Moves NS electricity onto long-term, stably-priced renewables.
- ▶ Creates jobs in every community through solar, heat pumps, and wind.
- ▶ Ensures the Greener Grid is also a More Reliable Grid.
- ▶ Expands Atlantic regional ties.
- ▶ Limits ratepayer risk by avoiding billions in locked in new capital costs to 2075.
- ▶ Expands personal choice.
- ▶ Puts competition at the heart of energy generation and grid management in NS.
- ▶ Enables household and business bill savings – across all energy bills.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council finds that the property located at 2403 East River West Side Road, Sunny Brae, Pictou County, Nova Scotia: ("the Property"), with Tax Account Number 05020123 and PID # 00898684 and further described in the attached Order is dangerous and unsightly;

AND BE IT RESOLVED that Council, pursuant to Section 346 or Part 15 of Chapter 18 of the Acts of 1998, the Municipal Government Act, make an Order in the form attached hereto and forming part of this resolution, the said Order to be signed and issued forthwith on behalf of the Council by the Chief Administrative Officer of the Municipality or his designate.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 6th Day of November 2023.

(Sgd.) _____

ORDER

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT, STATUTES OF NOVA SCOTIA, 1998 CHAPTER 18

ORDER REQUIRING DEMOLITION

TO: Randy Allan Ramsey and Janice Lynne Ramsey

TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Section 346 of *The Municipal Government Act*, The Council of the Municipality of Pictou County ("the Council" and the County) has determined that the property located at 2403 East River West Side Road, Sunny Brae, Pictou County, Nova Scotia, associated with Tax Account Number 05020123, and PID #00898684, which lands are included in those more particularly described in Schedule "A" hereto attached and forming a part hereof ("The Property") is dangerous or unsightly.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that the Council order you to remedy these conditions by doing all of the following work, acts or things ("the work") on the property, that is to say:

Complete all required work to the property as listed below:

- (1) Demolish the former store structure, locally known as Ramsey's Roost, which is in a ruinous or dilapidated condition, leaving the site in a safe condition.
- (2) Remove all debris from the property and dispose of all debris at an approved site for greater certainty, but not limiting the generality of this obligation, all debris on the entire property must be removed.

THE WORK IS TO BE COMPLETED AND DONE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF THE DATE OF SERVICE OF THIS ORDER.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE

THAT in the event of failure by you to comply with the requirements of this Order within Thirty (30) days after the date of service, the administrator may enter upon the property without warrant or other legal process and carry out the work specified in this Order;

THAT the cost of the work, with interest at the rate determined by the Council, for the date of the completion of the work until the date of payment;

- (a) Is the first lien on the property upon which the work was done and that the property is liable to be sold in a tax sale in accordance with *The Municipal Government Act*, and;
- (b) May at any time be sued for and recovered in an action in the name of the County.

THAT after this Order is served; any person who permits or causes a dangerous or unsightly condition, continues to permit or cause a dangerous or unsightly condition or fails to comply with the terms of the Order is liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty of not less than One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars, and not more than Five Thousand (\$5000.00) Dollars, and, in default of payment, to imprisonment for not more than three (3) months;

THAT every day during which the condition is not remedied is a separate offence.

Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services

ORDER

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT, STATUTES OF NOVA SCOTIA, 1998, CHAPTER 18 ORDER REQUIRING DEMOLITION

TO: Randy Allan Ramsey
2425 East River West Side Rd.
Sunny Brae, NS
BOK 1T0

TO: Janice Lynne Ramsey (at email address Janice Ramsey
IAMHAPPY2012@hotmail.com)

TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Section 346 of *The Municipal Government Act*, The Council of the Municipality of the County of Pictou ("the Council" and "the County") has determined that the property located at 2403 East River West Side Road Sunny Brae, Pictou County, Nova Scotia, associated with Tax Account #05020123 and PID #00898684, which lands are included in those more particularly described in Schedule "A" hereto attached and forming a part hereof ("the Property") is dangerous or unsightly.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that the Council orders you to remedy these conditions by doing all of the following work, acts or things ("the work") on the property, that is to say:

Complete all required work to the property as listed below:

- (1) Demolish all buildings and structures which are in a ruinous or dilapidated condition, leaving the site in a safe condition.
- (2) Remove all derelict vehicles, vehicle parts and various equipment.
- (3) Remove all debris and garbage.

THE WORK IS TO BE COMPLETED AND DONE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF THE DATE OF SERVICE OF THIS ORDER.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE

THAT in the event of failure by you to comply with the requirements of this Order within Thirty (30) days after its date of service, the administrator may enter upon the property without warrant or other legal process and carry out the work specified in this Order;

THAT the cost of the work, with interest at the rate determined by the Council, from the date of the completion of the work until the date of payment:

- (a) Is the first lien on the property upon which the work was done and that the property is liable to be sold in a tax sale in accordance with *The Municipal Government Act*, and;

(b) May at any time be sued for and recovered in an action in the name of the County.

THAT after this Order is served; any person who permits or causes a dangerous or unsightly condition, continues to permit or cause a dangerous or unsightly condition or fails to comply with the terms of the Order is liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty of not less than One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars, and not more than Five Thousand (\$5000.00) Dollars, and, in default of payment, to imprisonment for not more than three (3) months;

THAT every day during which the condition is not remedied is a separate offence.

DATED at Pictou, Nova Scotia, this 6th day of November, 2023.

Evan Hale
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



Municipality of the County of Pictou Department of Emergency Services

Municipality of the County of Pictou
Department of Emergency Services
46 Municipal Drive Pictou, NS B0K 1H0
902-485-2251
Jason.lagreca@munpict.ca

Re: 2403 East River West Side Road, Sunnybrae, Pictou County

Explanation of Schedule "B"

November 3, 2023

(Required Actions)

1. Have a civic address posted as required by MOPC by-laws

As there was no visible civic address posted, the owners were ordered to, at a minimum, spray paint the civic address on the building.

2. Clear all exterior combustibles and obstructions from rear exit door.

NFC 2.7.1.6. (Div B) *Means of egress* shall be maintained in good repair and free of obstructions.

The rear egress door is obstructed by construction materials and a decaying wood deck. This situation presents a hazard, as it does not permit a safe and unrestricted exit path.

3. Have brick chimney inspected by a qualified technician and submit report to fire inspector. Conduct all repairs listed in the inspection report or remove the brick chimney.

NFC 2.6.1.4.(Div B) Chimneys, Flues and Flue Pipes

1) Every *chimney, flue* and *flue pipe* shall be inspected to identify any dangerous condition

- a) at intervals not greater than 12 months,
- b) at the time of addition of any *appliance*, and
- c) after any *chimney* fire.

(See Note A-2.6.1.4.(1).)

2) *Chimneys, flues* and *flue pipes* shall be cleaned as often as necessary to keep them free from dangerous accumulations of combustible deposits. (See Note A-2.6.1.4.(2).)

3) A *chimney, flue, or flue pipe* shall be replaced or repaired to eliminate

- a) any structural deficiency or decay (see Note A-2.6.1.4.(3)(a)), and
- b) all abandoned or unused openings that are not effectively sealed in a manner that would prevent the passage of fire or smoke.

As this chimney presents a collapse hazard, I requested that it be inspected or demolished. My authority to request an inspection is further reinforced by the NS Fire Safety Act.

Nova Scotia Fire Safety Act - Section 25

Orders

25 (1) Where the Fire Marshal, a deputy fire marshal, a local assistant



Municipality of the County of Pictou Department of Emergency Services

Municipality of the County of Pictou
Department of Emergency Services
46 Municipal Drive Pictou, NS B0K 1H0
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Jason.lagreca@munpict.ca

or a municipal fire inspector believes that there is a contravention on land or premises of this Act, the regulations, the Fire Code or an order made pursuant to this Act, the regulations or the Fire Code, the fire official may issue to an owner of the land or premises an order that

- (i) remedy the contravention, including do anything in relation to the land or premises that the fire official considers necessary to remedy the non-compliance,
- (x) obtain a report or assessment from a person who possesses the expert or professional knowledge or qualifications Specified by the fire official in respect of fire safety,

4. Have all electrical systems inspected by a Licensed Electrician. Submit inspection report to fire inspector.

NFC 2.4.7.1.(Div B) Electrical installations shall be used and maintained so as not to constitute an undue fire hazard.

*This has been rectified as NS Power confirmed that the electrical service to this building was disconnected. Therefore, no fire hazards from electrical installations are present.

5. Building must be secured from any unauthorized access. (Board windows and doors, or secured in a fashion deemed acceptable by the fire inspector.)

*This has been rectified and is satisfactory. (Although, this is not a permanent solution.)

NFC Div. B 2.4.6.1. Security

- 1) Vacant buildings shall be secured against unauthorized entry. (See Note A-2.4.6.1.(1).)

A-2.4.6.1.(1) Vacant buildings frequently become the target of vandalism and arson. They should be locked, and accessible windows and doors should be barricaded to prevent unauthorized entry. However, fire department access to the interior of the building in the event of a fire should not be made unduly difficult.



Municipality of the County of Pictou Department of Emergency Services

Municipality of the County of Pictou
Department of Emergency Services
46 Municipal Drive Pictou, NS B0K 1H0
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Jason.lagreca@munpict.ca

Summary:

This building presents several safety hazards. The structure is not only in a state of disrepair, but it has also been left partially renovated. The risk of fire for any building is at its highest during renovation and construction, as the compartmentalization and fire separations are compromised, which allows smoke, gases, and fire to spread throughout the building very quickly. Should a fire occur in this building, it will present a serious risk to the adjacent dwelling very quickly. The Order to secure the building is not meant to be a permanent solution. The security of a vacant building is intended to only be a temporary measure until the structure is fully renovated or demolished. As vacant buildings present a serious risk of vandalism and arson, the longer this building is left in its current condition, the higher the risk becomes.

Additionally, the structural state of the chimney appears to be compromised. Due to the state of the chimney, the risk of falling bricks and mortar is a major concern. The narrow space between 2397 East River East Side Rd. and the adjacent residential dwelling is approximately 2 metres. This proximity presents a risk of damaging the adjacent home and presents a serious safety hazard for anyone walking between the structures.

Although I have listed other concerns in the order, these items present the greatest risk to public safety and therefore demand the most attention.

As this build has been identified as Dangerous and unsightly, I have held off on enforcing my order as the building may be demolished if approved. I am concerned that the longer this process continues, the risk to public safety continues to grow.

My other concern is the lack of concern from the building owners, Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey. Throughout this process, they have shown very little interest in rectifying the listed contraventions and have stated that they do not believe themselves to be responsible for this building or the safety of their neighbours. Therefore, I have no confidence that they will act on the Order and that approving the demolition of 2397 East River West Side Rd. would be the best course of action.

Jason La Greca
Fire Inspector, CFI
The Municipality of the County of Pictou

Appendix A



The Municipality of the County of Pictou Department of Emergency Services

Municipality of the County of Pictou
Department of Emergency Services
46 Municipal Drive Pictou, NS B0K 1H0
902-485-2251
Jason.lagreca@munpict.ca

OUR FILE NO: 230602-01

(Please quote File No. on all correspondence.)

Re: Order to Take Action

To: Vacant Structure

2401/2403 East River West Side Rd.

Sunnybrae, NS

Attn. Randy Ramsey

Date of Inspection: May 26, 2023

Reasons for the Order:

A fire inspection was carried out at your premises on 2401/2403 East river West Side Rd. under *Section 25(1)* of the *Fire Safety Act*. The undersigned has determined, upon inspection or investigation pursuant to this Act, that there is a contravention on land or premises of this Act, the regulations, the Fire Code or an Order made pursuant to this Act, the regulations or the Fire Code, the undersigned is issuing this Order to the Owner/Representative of the premises, Randy Ramsey.

The following contraventions, as listed under "Contraventions" in Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this Order, are present at the time of the inspection.

Actions required by the Order:

The undersigned, directs you the Owner/Representative to see that all of the actions listed under the "Actions Required", as set out in Schedule "B", are corrected before this Order can be lifted.

Time Limit for Compliance:

The actions required by this Order must be completed within 14 days. Upon completion of the action required, please contact the Fire Inspector to schedule a reinspection.

All actions required by this Order must be complied with prior to lifting this Order.

This Order is issued at Sunnybrae, in the County of Pictou, Province of Nova Scotia, this 5th day of June, 2023.

Jason La Greca

(Municipal Fire Inspector)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. La Greca", written over a horizontal line.

(Municipal Fire Inspector)



The Municipality of the County of Pictou

Department of Emergency Services

Contraventions

Schedule "A"

1. MOPC By-Law Civic address must be posted as per by-laws.
2. NFC 2.7.1.6. (Div B) *Means of egress* shall be maintained in good repair and free of obstructions.
3. NFC 2.6.1.4. (Div B) Chimneys, Flues and Flue Pipes
 - 1) Every *chimney, flue and flue pipe* shall be inspected to identify any dangerous condition
 - a) at intervals not greater than 12 months,
 - b) at the time of addition of any *appliance*, and
 - c) after any *chimney* fire.(See Note A-2.6.1.4. (1).)
 - 2) *Chimneys, flues and flue pipes* shall be cleaned as often as necessary to keep them free from dangerous accumulations of combustible deposits. (See Note A-2.6.1.4. (2).)
 - 3) A *chimney, flue, or flue pipe* shall be replaced or repaired to eliminate
 - a) any structural deficiency or decay (see Note A-2.6.1.4. (3)(a)), and
 - b) all abandoned or unused openings that are not effectively sealed in a manner that would prevent the passage of fire or smoke.
4. NFC 2.4.7.1. (Div B) Electrical installations shall be used and maintained so as not to constitute an undue fire hazard.
5. Nova Scotia Fire Safety Act - Section 25
 - (i) remedy the contravention, including do anything in relation to the land or premises that the fire official considers necessary to remedy the non-compliance,
 - (x) obtain a report or assessment from a person who possesses the expert or professional knowledge or qualifications Specified by the fire official in respect of fire safety,



The Municipality of the County of Pictou

Department of Emergency Services

Actions Required

Schedule "B"

1. Have civic address posted as required by MOPC by-laws
2. Clear all exterior combustibles and obstructions from rear exit door.
3. Have brick chimney inspected by a qualified technician and submit report to fire inspector. Conduct all repairs listed in the inspection report, or remove the brick chimney.
4. Have all electrical systems inspected by a Licensed Electrician. Submit inspection report to fire inspector.

***Electrical Service will be disconnected until deemed safe by the electrical inspector.**

5. Building must be secured from any unauthorized access. (Board windows and doors, or secured in a fashion deemed acceptable by the fire inspector.)



The Municipality of the County of Pictou

Department of Emergency Services

Information on the appeal provisions under the Act Penalty

Right to appeal:

Nova Scotia Fire Safety Act Section 38(1)

A person who is affected by an order made by a deputy fire marshal, local assistant or municipal fire inspector pursuant to subsection 25(1), clause 25(2)(a), subclause 25(2)(b)(iii) or subsection 30(3) may, within 15 days after the order is served, appeal the order to:

(a) the Fire Marshal, pursuant to Section 39, by submitting a written request to the Fire Marshal for a review of the order; or

(b) the Board pursuant to Section 41

A request to the Fire Marshal to review the Order, should be sent to:

Office of the Fire Marshal

PO Box 231

Halifax Central

Halifax, NS B3J 2M4; or

A request to the Board to review the Order, should be sent to:

Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board

3rd Floor, Summit Place

1601 Lower Water St.

Halifax, NS B3J 3P6; or online at:

nsuarb.novascotia.ca



Municipality of the County of Pictou Department of Emergency Services

Municipality of the County of Pictou
Department of Emergency Services
46 Municipal Drive Pictou, NS B0K 1H0
902-485-2251
Jason.lagreca@munpict.ca

Dear Mr. Ramsey

June 15, 2023

I am writing to you regarding your property at 2403 East River West Side Rd.
(As the address is not posted, this order applies to the property on 2403 or 2397 East River West Side Rd.)

As we discussed in person on June 05th 2023, I have issued an "Order to Take Action" for the premises on the above-mentioned address. The conditions of that building present a hazard for yourself, the community and any firefighters that would have to respond, should a fire occur.

You stated that you had no interest in that structure, but as the owner you are responsible and liable for any damage or injuries that should occur due to the conditions of your property.

The Order I issued is mandatory and is required to be complied with within 14 days of you receiving the Order. Failure to comply does come with consequences. See the Reference below from the Nova Scotia Fire Safety Act.

Nova Scotia Fire Safety Act (Section 44)

Failure to comply with an Order made pursuant to the Act, Regulation, or Fire Code brings a maximum penalty for an individual, or an officer or director of a company,

A fine of \$25,000 or 6 months imprisonment or both;

Or where there are aggravated circumstances, a fine of \$150,000 or 2 years imprisonment or both.

The maximum violation for a company is a fine of \$50,000 or where there are aggravated circumstances a fine of \$250,000.

Equal amounts can also be ordered for Public Safety Education under Section 45.

In the case of a continuing offence each day that the offence occurs may bring an additional penalty.

In addition to the "Order to Take Action" there is also the possibility of a Dangerous and Unsightly Order being issued. This also will require repairs, or demolition.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss what the best course of action would be for yourself and the community.

Kind Regards,
Jason La Greca
Municipal Fire Inspector, CFI
Municipality of the County of Pictou.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Municipality of the County of Pictou is registered with the Canada Revenue Agency as a qualified donee;

WHEREAS the Income Tax Act permits qualified donees to issue official donation receipts for income tax purposes;

WHEREAS the Salem and Area Recreation Association has requested that the Municipality receive donated funds for the operations and improvements to the Salem Park and issue charitable tax receipts to respective donors;

WHEREAS the Financial Services Committee supports this request and recommends that the Municipality's charitable tax number be used for that purpose;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Municipality of the County of Pictou authorize the collection of charitable donations to the Salem and Area Recreation Association and the issuance of charitable tax receipts.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 6th day of November, 2023.

(Sgd.)

RESOLUTION
(First Reading)

TAKE NOTICE that the following by-law will be presented to Council for second reading on December 4, 2023.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council adopt the following Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (PACE) By-Law:

DATED at Pictou, NS this 6th day of November, 2023.

Sgn _____



MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU
PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM (PACE) BY-LAW

1. Title and Purpose

- 1.1. This By-law shall be known as the Property Assessed Clean Energy Program By-law and may be referred to as the PACE By-law.
- 1.2. The purpose of this By-law is to allow the Municipality of the County of Pictou to create a financing program to support the installation of **Energy Efficiency Improvement** on private properties, with the consent of property owners. Property owners will make payments on the **Energy Efficiency Improvement** through a charge levied on the property.
- 1.3. This By-law does not exempt any person from complying with the requirements of other by-laws or regulations in force within the Municipality of the County of Pictou and from obtaining any licence, permission, permit, authority, or approval as otherwise required by the Municipality, the Province of Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Power, or the Government of Canada.
- 1.4 This By-law shall apply only to **Energy Efficiency Equipment** installed through the **PACE Program**.

2. Definitions

2.1. In this by-law, words used in the present tense include the future; words in the singular number include the plural; words in the plural include the singular; and the word shall be mandatory and not permissive. All other words carry their customary meaning except those defined in this section.

2.2. For the purposes of this Bylaw:

2.2.1. CAO means the Chief Administrative Officer for the Municipality or his or her designate.

2.2.2. "Certification of Completion" means a Municipally issued form completed and signed by the Contractor, and counter-signed by the property owner, stating that installation of Energy Efficiency Equipment has been satisfactorily completed on the property.

2.2.3. Deputy Municipal Treasurer means the Manager of Finance for the Municipality, or his or her designate.

2.2.4. Energy Efficiency Improvement means an improvement to real property, as a renovation or retrofitting of an existing building to reduce energy or water consumption, such as window and door replacement, lighting, grey water recovery, low flow fixtures, caulking, weatherstripping, air sealing, insulation, high efficiency heat pumps, solar photovoltaics, battery energy storage, heat and cooling system upgrades, electric charging stations and similar improvements, determined to be cost-effective pursuant to criteria established by the Municipality

2.2.5. Municipality means the Municipality of the County of Pictou.

2.2.6. Participation Agreement means the agreement between the owner of a Qualifying Property and the Municipality for purchasing, installing, and potentially financing of the Energy Efficiency Improvement.

2.2.7. PACE Charge means the Property Assessed Clean Energy improvement tax levied on the property pursuant to s.81A of the Nova Scotia Municipal Government Act.

2.2.8. PACE Program means a program established by the Municipality under which owners of qualifying properties may obtain financing for Energy Efficiency Improvements.

2.2.9. Program Administrator means the person or third party designated by

the Municipality to operate and administrate the PACE Program on behalf of the Municipality.

2.2.10. Qualifying Property means a property located within the Municipality of Pictou defined as eligible in the **Participant Agreement**.

3. Administration

3.1. The owner of a Qualifying Property may apply to have their property evaluated for suitability by the **Energy Efficiency Improvement Contractor** and receive a cost estimate for the project.

3.2. The owner of a Qualifying Property wishing to proceed with the **Energy Efficiency Improvement** must sign a **Participant Agreement**. Before signing the Agreement, the property owner must:

3.2.1. sign a contract with the **Energy Efficiency Improvement Contractor** agreeing to the cost estimate provided; and

3.2.2. meet all obligations as defined in the **Participation Agreement**.

3.3. The property owner may opt for Municipal financing for the installation of **Energy Efficiency Improvement** on the property. Financing shall be subject to the written approval of the CAO, or designate, on behalf of the Municipality, and the execution of a **Participant Agreement** by the owner of the Qualifying Property. The conditions that must be met for approval include:

3.3.1. the owner of the Qualifying Property is not in default of any municipal taxes, rates, or charges;

3.3.2. the owner has paid the application fee and/or required deposit;

3.3.3. any additional conditions specified in the **Participant Agreement** are met.

4. Energy Efficiency Improvement Charge

4.1. The **Energy Efficiency Improvement Contractor** shall submit to the Program Administrator, who in turn will submit to the Director of Corporate Services, a copy of the signed **Participant Agreement** and **Certification of the Completion of the Energy Efficiency Improvement installation**.

4.2. The **Energy Efficiency Improvement Charge** shall become payable upon submission of the **Certificate of Completion** by the **Energy Efficiency Improvement Contractor**. The **Energy Efficiency Improvement Charge** shall be calculated on the basis of the total cost of the project less any federal, provincial, or other funding, such as the **Solar Homes rebate from Efficiency Nova Scotia**, received directly to the Municipality or Program Administrator on behalf of the Qualifying Property owner.

- 4.3. The Energy Efficiency Improvement Charge may consist of:
- 4.3.1. the cost of the Energy Efficiency Improvement, including all equipment, labour costs for installation, permitting fees, and applicable taxes;
 - 4.3.2. applicable PACE Program service fees; and
 - 4.3.3. interest accrued on the charge including any additional interest arising due to any default of payment.
- 4.4. The Energy Improvement Charge shall be paid in equal instalments over on which interest shall be payable as set out in Section 6 and in the Participant Agreement. Property owners may elect to make larger contributions and pay off the Charge at an earlier date.
- 4.5. In the event of a default of any payment under the Participant Agreement, the outstanding balance shall be immediately due and payable and interest shall be accrued on the amount then due and payable at the same rate applied by the Municipality for unpaid taxes and charges in default.

~~The Deputy Municipal Treasurer shall maintain a separate account of all monies due for the~~ Energy Efficiency Improvement Charge pursuant to this By-law and identifying for the subject property:

- 4.5.1. the names of the property owners, property assessment and AAN, PID, and civic address.
 - 4.5.2. the amount of the Energy Efficiency Improvement Charge levied; and
 - 4.5.3. the amount paid on the Energy Efficiency Improvement Charge.
- 4.6. Wherein any property assessment list prepared pursuant to this Section, a property has been omitted by error or has been assessed in error or has been assessed for an Energy Efficiency Improvement Charge for a greater amount or a lesser amount than the property should have been assessed, the Deputy Municipal Treasurer may at any time amend the property assessment list to correct the error and adjust the assessment.

5. Lien

- 5.1. An Energy Efficiency Improvement Charge may be levied against the property upon completion of the project to secure all costs incurred by the Municipality to reimburse the Energy Efficiency Improvement Contractor.
- 5.2. The lien provided for in this By-law shall become effective on the date on which a Certificate of Completion is filed with the Deputy Municipal Treasurer stating that the installation has been completed.

- 5.3. An **Energy Efficiency Improvement** Charge imposed pursuant to this By-law constitutes a first lien on the property and has the same effect as rates and taxes under the Assessment Act and the Municipal Government Act.
- 5.4. An **Energy Efficiency Improvement** Charge pursuant to this By-law is collectible in the same manner as rates and taxes under the Municipal Government Act. The Charge will be collected pursuant to the Participation Agreement through monthly payments.
- 5.5. The lien provided for in this By-law shall remain in effect until the total charge, including any accrued interest, has been paid in full.

6. Interest

- 6.1. Interest will be payable on any balance owing on the Energy Efficiency Improvement Charge at a rate set out in the Participation Agreement.
- 6.2. Interest shall accrue on any Energy Efficiency Improvement Charge or portion thereof which remains outstanding from the date of payment to the Energy Efficiency Improvement Contractor.

7. No Municipal Liability

- 7.1. The Municipality is not responsible for the quality of the Energy Efficiency Improvement, or the quality of the work carried out by the Energy Efficiency Improvement Contractor and as a result, the Municipality nor the **Program Administrator**, shall not be liable for any damage, direct or consequential, loss or liability or injury caused by the supply of Energy Efficiency equipment, its installation, or use by the owner.

Repeal

The Property Assessed Clean Energy Program By-Law adopted by the Municipal Council on December, 2021 is hereby repealed.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council adopt the following Tourism Marketing Levy By-law:

DATED at Pictou, NS, this 6th day of November 2023.

Sgn _____

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU

TOURISM MARKETING LEVY BY-LAW

BE IT ENACTED by the Council of the Municipality of the County of Pictou, under the authority of *Municipal Government Act*. 1998, c. 18, s. 75, as follows:

1. Short Title

This By-law shall be known as the Tourism Marketing Levy By-law.

2. Definitions In this by-law:

- a) "accommodation" means supplying lodging in hotels and motels and in any other facilities required to be licensed under the Tourist Accommodations Registration Act and in a building owned or operated by a post-secondary educational institution where the hotel, motel, facility or building consists of one or more rental units that are offered as lodging;
- b) "council" means the Council of Municipality of the County of Pictou;
- c) "operator" means a person whose business sells, offers to sell, provides, and offers to provide accommodation in the municipality.
- d) "Purchase price" means the price for which the accommodation is purchased, including the value of the services rendered and other consideration accepted by the operator in return for the accommodation provided, but does not include the goods and services tax.

3. Application of Levy

A marketing and promotions levy is hereby imposed in the Municipality, the rate of which shall be three percent (3%) of the purchase price of the accommodation.

1) The levy imposed under this By-law, must be collected at the time of the sale on the total amount of the purchase price and must be remitted to the Municipality at the prescribed times and in the prescribed manner.

2) If a person collects an amount as if it were a levy imposed under this By-law, the person must remit the amount collected to the Municipality at the same time and in the same manner as the levy collected under this By-law.

4. Exemption from Levy

The Tourism Marketing Levy shall not apply to:

1) a person who pays for accommodation for which the daily purchase price is not more than twenty dollars.

2) a student who is housed in a building owned or operated by a post-secondary educational institution while the student is registered at and attending a post-secondary institution.

3) a person who is staying in a room for more than twenty-eight (28) consecutive days; or

4) a person, and the person's family, while receiving medical treatment at a hospital or provincial health-care centre or seeking specialist medical advice, provided the person provides a statement from said hospital or provincial health-care centre.

5. Registration of Operator

1) Every operator of a facility providing accommodations to which this By-law applies shall apply for and be issued a registration certificate by the municipality.

a). Where an operator carries on business at more than one place, the operator shall obtain a registration certificate in each individual place of business.

2) The registration certificate shall be displayed in a prominent place on the premises.

3) Where an operator changes their address, they will return their registration certificate to the municipality for amendment.

- 4) Where an operator changes the name or nature of their business, the operator will return their registration certificate to the municipality for a new one.
- 5) Where an operator ceases to carry on business that a registration certificate has been issued, the certificate shall be void, and the operator shall return the certificate to the municipality within 15 days of the date of closure.
- 6) Where a registration certificate is lost or destroyed, a request shall be made to the municipality for a copy of the original.
- 7) A registration certificate granted under subsection (1) is not transferable.

6. Return and Remittance of Levy

- 1) The municipality may at any time require a return of sales and levy collected by any person selling accommodation; such return to cover any period or periods.
- 2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (1), unless otherwise provided, all operators shall make separate monthly returns to the municipality.
- 3) A separate return shall be made for each place of business unless a consolidated return has been approved by the municipality.
- 4) The returns by operators shall be made and the levy shall be remitted to the municipality the 15th day of the month following the collection of the levy by the operator.
- 5) If an operator during the preceding period has collected no levy, the operator shall make a report to that effect on the prescribed return form.
- 6) Where an operator ceases to carry on or disposes of his business, the operator shall make the return and remit the levy collected within 15 days of the date of closure or disposal.

7. Records

- 1) Every operator shall keep books of accounts, records, and documents sufficient to furnish the municipality with the necessary particulars of
 - a. sales of accommodation,
 - b. amount of levy collected, and
 - c. disposal of levy.

- 2) All entries concerning the levy in such books of account, records and documents shall be separate and distinguishable from other entries made therein.
- 3) Where a receipt, bill, invoice, or other document is issued by a person selling accommodation, the levy shall be shown as a separate item thereon.

8. Calculation of Levy

Where an operator sells an accommodation in combination with meals and other specialized services for an all-inclusive package price, the purchase price of the accommodation shall be deemed to be the price that will be collected for the levy.

9. Refund of Levy Collected in Error

- 1) If the municipality is satisfied that a levy or a portion of a levy has been paid in error, the municipality shall refund the amount of the overpayment to the person entitled.
- 2) If the municipality is satisfied that an operator has remitted to the municipality an amount as collected levy that the operator neither collected nor was required to collect under this By-law, the municipality must refund the amount to the operator.

10. Claim for Refund

- 1) To claim a refund under this By-law, a person must
 - a. submit to the municipality an application in writing signed by the person who paid the amount claimed, and
 - b. provide sufficient evidence to satisfy the municipality that the person who paid the amount is entitled to the refund.
- 2) For the purposes of subsection (1) (a), if the person who paid the amount claimed is a corporation, the application must be signed by a director or authorized employee of the corporation.

11. Offence

A person who contravenes a provision of the By-law is guilty of an offence punishable by summary conviction and on conviction is liable.

- a. on a first conviction, to a fine of not less than \$500 and not more than \$1,000, and
- b. for a subsequent conviction for the same or another provision of this regulation, to a fine of not less than \$1,500 and not more than \$5,000.

12. Administration of By-law

This By-law shall be administered on behalf of the Municipality by the Chief Administrative Officer and any persons designated by the Chief Administrative Officer.

13. Effective Date

This By-law shall take effect from the 1st day of January, 2024.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true copy of a by-law duly adopted by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou at a duly called meeting of the Council on the 6th day of November 2023.

GIVEN under the hands of the Municipal Clerk and under the corporate seal of the Municipality
this 7^h day of November, 2023.

Brian Cullen, Municipal Clerk

Advertising

First Reading October 3, 2023

Date of Publication - The Pictou Advocate October 11, 2023

Date of Publication - Saltwire News October 12th, 2023

Second Reading – November 6, 2023

Date of Publication – Pictou Advocate -Nov. 15, 2023

Date of Publication – Saltwire, The News – Nov. 16, 2023

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council adopt the following Tourism Marketing Levy By-law:

DATED at Pictou, NS, this 6th day of November 2023.

Sgn _____

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU

TOURISM MARKETING LEVY BY-LAW

BE IT ENACTED by the Council of the Municipality of the County of Pictou, under the authority of *Municipal Government Act*. 1998, c. 18, s. 75, as follows:

1. Short Title

This By-law shall be known as the Tourism Marketing Levy By-law.

2. Definitions In this by-law:

- a) "accommodation" means supplying lodging in hotels and motels and in any other facilities required to be licensed under the Tourist Accommodations Registration Act and in a building owned or operated by a post-secondary educational institution where the hotel, motel, facility or building consists of one or more rental units that are offered as lodging;
- b) "council" means the Council of Municipality of the County of Pictou;
- c) "operator" means a person whose business sells, offers to sell, provides, and offers to provide accommodation in the municipality.
- d) "Purchase price" means the price for which the accommodation is purchased, including the value of the services rendered and other consideration accepted by the operator in return for the accommodation provided, but does not include the goods and services tax.

3. Application of Levy

A marketing and promotions levy is hereby imposed in the Municipality, the rate of which shall be three percent (3%) of the purchase price of the accommodation.

1) The levy imposed under this By-law, must be collected at the time of the sale on the total amount of the purchase price and must be remitted to the Municipality at the prescribed times and in the prescribed manner.

2) If a person collects an amount as if it were a levy imposed under this By-law, the person must remit the amount collected to the Municipality at the same time and in the same manner as the levy collected under this By-law.

4. Exemption from Levy

The Tourism Marketing Levy shall not apply to:

1) a person who pays for accommodation for which the daily purchase price is not more than twenty dollars.

2) a student who is housed in a building owned or operated by a post-secondary educational institution while the student is registered at and attending a post-secondary institution.

3) a person who is staying in a room for more than twenty-eight (28) consecutive days; or

4) a person, and the person's family, while receiving medical treatment at a hospital or provincial health-care centre or seeking specialist medical advice, provided the person provides a statement from said hospital or provincial health-care centre.

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- 2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (1), unless otherwise provided, all operators shall make separate monthly returns to the municipality.
- 3) A separate return shall be made for each place of business unless a consolidated return has been approved by the municipality.
- 4) The returns by operators shall be made and the levy shall be remitted to the municipality the 15th day of the month following the collection of the levy by the operator.
- 5) If an operator during the preceding period has collected no levy, the operator shall make a report to that effect on the prescribed return form.
- 6) Where an operator ceases to carry on or disposes of his business, the operator shall make the return and remit the levy collected within 15 days of the date of closure or disposal.

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- 1) Every operator shall keep books of accounts, records, and documents sufficient to furnish the municipality with the necessary particulars of
 - a. sales of accommodation,
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- 2) All entries concerning the levy in such books of account, records and documents shall be separate and distinguishable from other entries made therein.
- 3) Where a receipt, bill, invoice, or other document is issued by a person selling accommodation, the levy shall be shown as a separate item thereon.

8. Calculation of Levy

Where an operator sells an accommodation in combination with meals and other specialized services for an all-inclusive package price, the purchase price of the accommodation shall be deemed to be the price that will be collected for the levy.

9. Refund of Levy Collected in Error

- 1) If the municipality is satisfied that a levy or a portion of a levy has been paid in error, the municipality shall refund the amount of the overpayment to the person entitled.
- 2) If the municipality is satisfied that an operator has remitted to the municipality an amount as collected levy that the operator neither collected nor was required to collect under this By-law, the municipality must refund the amount to the operator.

10. Claim for Refund

- 1) To claim a refund under this By-law, a person must
 - a. submit to the municipality an application in writing signed by the person who paid the amount claimed, and
 - b. provide sufficient evidence to satisfy the municipality that the person who paid the amount is entitled to the refund.
- 2) For the purposes of subsection (1) (a), if the person who paid the amount claimed is a corporation, the application must be signed by a director or authorized employee of the corporation.

11. Offence

A person who contravenes a provision of the By-law is guilty of an offence punishable by summary conviction and on conviction is liable.

- a. on a first conviction, to a fine of not less than \$500 and not more than \$1,000, and
- b. for a subsequent conviction for the same or another provision of this regulation, to a fine of not less than \$1,500 and not more than \$5,000.

12. Administration of By-law

This By-law shall be administered on behalf of the Municipality by the Chief Administrative Officer and any persons designated by the Chief Administrative Officer.

13. Effective Date

This By-law shall take effect from the 1st day of January, 2024.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true copy of a by-law duly adopted by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou at a duly called meeting of the Council on the 6th day of November 2023.

GIVEN under the hands of the Municipal Clerk and under the corporate seal of the Municipality
this 7^h day of November, 2023.

Brian Cullen, Municipal Clerk

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Second Reading – November 6, 2023

Date of Publication – Pictou Advocate -Nov. 15, 2023

Date of Publication – Saltwire, The News – Nov. 16, 2023

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that Richard Williams and Ian MacKay be appointed to the Municipality of the County of Pictou's Climate Change Advisory Committee for two years, ending in March 2025.

DATED at Pictou, NS. this 6th day of November 2023.

(Sgd.)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Municipality of the County of Pictou issued a tender for the sale of three-municipality-owned vehicles in June 2023.

WHEREAS in accordance with the Municipal Council's approval, the 2014 Dodge Ram 2500 was sold to the highest bidder. However, attempts to finalize the sales of the remaining two vehicles were unsuccessful.

WHEREAS the awarded bidder 2009 Chevrolet 1500 no longer wished to purchase the vehicle and the MOPC staff received no response from the awarded bidder for the 2014 Ford F150.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Municipality of the County of Pictou authorize the sale of the remaining two municipally-owned vehicles to the next highest bidders respectively until the vehicles are sold.

DATED at Pictou, NS, this 6th day of November 2023.

(Sgd.)

Memo

To: Municipal Council

From: Brian Cullen, CAO

CC: Karen Cornish, Evan Hale, Logan McDowell; Sueann Musick

Date: 11/3/2023

Re: Pictou County Partnership Agreement

Background

As part of the Municipal Budgeting processes earlier this year, the Pictou County Partnership requested an increase in funding from the municipalities and provincial governments. The municipalities approved an increase in core funding to the REN at 50 percent over the previous years. The original intermunicipal agreement established that municipal funding would match provincial funding on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

The provincial funding decisions do not always align with the municipal budget timeframes. This does create the possibility that municipalities could end up funding more of the core programming than the province; however, the partnership does attract other funding for programs and supports from the province that are not cost shared.

The change to the agreement clause 5(a) is that the municipalities will determine their annual level of funding and will negotiate the provincial funding the level of provincial funding that is to be provided through an agreement with the Partnership and the Province.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the units amend the agreement to establish this budgeting process.

INTER-MUNICIPAL AMENDMENT AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is made this 2nd day of August, 2023. Expiring August 1st, 2024.

BETWEEN:

PICTOU LANDING FIRST NATION, a body corporate, pursuant to section 2(1) of the Indian Act;

(hereinafter called "PLFN")

OF THE FIRST PART

AND:

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU, a body corporate, pursuant to section 7 of the Municipal Government Act, S.N.S, 1998 c.18;

(hereinafter called the "MOPC")

OF THE SECOND PART

AND:

TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW, a body corporate, pursuant to section 8 of the Municipal Government Act, S.N.S, 1998 c.18;

(hereinafter called "New Glasgow")

OF THE THIRD PART

AND:

TOWN OF PICTOU, a body corporate, pursuant to section 8 of the Municipal Government Act, S.N.S, 1998 c.18;

(hereinafter called "Pictou")

OF THE FOURTH PART

AND:

TOWN OF STELLARTON, a body corporate, pursuant to section 8 of the Municipal Government Act, S.N.S, 1998 c.18;

(hereinafter called "Stellarton")

OF THE FIFTH PART

AND:

TOWN OF TRENTON, a body corporate, pursuant to section 8 of the Municipal Government Act, S.N.S, 1998 c.18;

(hereinafter called "Trenton")

OF THE SIXTH PART

AND:

TOWN OF WESTVILLE, a body corporate, pursuant to section 8 of the Municipal Government Act, S.N.S, 1998 c.18;

(hereinafter called "Westville")

OF THE SEVENTH PART

(Collectively, the "Municipalities")

WHEREAS the Municipalities entered into an Inter-Municipal Agreement (the "Agreement") on August 2, 2018, establishing the Pictou County Regional Enterprise Network, a body corporate pursuant to section 60 of the Municipal Government Act (the "MGA"), said Agreement having been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies;

AND WHEREAS the parties entered into an Inter-Municipal Amendment Agreement dated June 20, 2022 whereby they changed the name of the Pictou County Regional Enterprise Network to the "Pictou County Partnership" (the "Partnership")

AND WHEREAS the parties hereto are all the participating Municipalities of the Partnership as of the date of this amendment;

AND WHEREAS the Municipalities wish to further amend the Agreement;

NOW THEREFORE THIS AGREEMENT WITNESSETH that in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein and subject to the terms and conditions set out in this agreement, the parties agree that the Agreement shall be amended as follows:

1. Paragraph 5(a) of the Agreement shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

It is anticipated that the participating Municipalities and the Province will enter into a Contribution Agreement with the Partnership to establish the level of funding that the participating Municipalities on the one hand and the Province on the other will provide to the Partnership on an annual basis.

2. The Parties confirm all other provisions of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect, as amended, and shall be applicable to and binding upon the Municipalities and their successors and assigns.
3. This amendment shall enure to the benefit of and be binding upon the Municipalities thereto and their successors and assigns.
4. This amendment may be executed in several counterparts, each of which when so executed shall be deemed to be an original, and such counterparts together shall constitute one and the same instrument, which shall be sufficiently evidenced by any such original counterpart. A copy of a signed counterpart may be delivered by fax, PDF email or other electronic means which shows a reproduction of the signature and such shall be considered complete delivery and shall be deemed to be a signed original.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Municipalities have executed the agreement by their respective officials, duly authorized on their behalf.

SIGNED, SEALED and DELIVERED this _____ day of August, 2023.

PICTOU LANDING FIRST NATION

ANDREA PAUL, Chief

WITNESS

_____, **Chief Administrative
Officer**

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU

ROBERT PARKER, Warden

WITNESS

**BRIAN CULLEN, Chief Administrative
Officer**

TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW

NANCY DICKS, Mayor

WITNESS

**LISA MACDONALD, Chief Administrative
Officer**

TOWN OF PICTOU

JIM RYAN, Mayor

WITNESS

**KYLE SLAUNWHITE, Chief
Administrative Officer**

TOWN OF STELLARTON

DANNY MACGILLIVRAY, Mayor

WITNESS

SUSAN HIGDON, Town Clerk

TOWN OF TRENTON

DONALD HUSSHER, Mayor

WITNESS

**ALANNA MACDONALD, Chief
Administrative Officer**

TOWN OF WESTVILLE

LENNIE WHITE, Mayor

WITNESS

**SCOTT WEERES, Chief
Administrative Officer**

Memo

To: Municipal Council

From: Brian Cullen

CC Karen Cornish; Sueann Musick, Evan Hale, Rhiannon McNair

Date: November 3, 2023

Re: **Temporary Borrowing Resolution – Internet Project**

Background

As the internet project progresses and phases are complete, it is necessary to move short-term financing to long-term debentures. This will save the Municipality money over the course of the project as our long-term cost of borrowing is lower than short-term financing costs. The next borrowing cycle for Municipal Finance Corporation will be the spring of 2024. At this time, the Municipality will shift **\$28,047,000** to long term debt. This represents the cost of Phase 1, the RDN Wireless Project and the soon to be completed River John portion.

As the project proceeds, cash flowing construction has and is becoming problematic as the Municipality fronts the cash flow with the federal and provincial departments reimbursing their portions based on claims submitted quarterly. Their payment cycles are not aligning with the construction schedule and are taking much longer than anticipated.

The project work must continue, and we do not want to be in a position where we must stop work because we cannot finance short-term obligations and payments to suppliers.

The first claim on the program has been submitted for the period ending September 2022-2023 and represents about \$6.5 million dollars. The delay in being able to claim construction costs was attributed to it taking almost 10 months getting a final statement of work completed and approved by Industry Canada (ISED). Once claims are submitted ISED says they attempt

to pay within 45 days; however, the 45 days seems to begin after the auditing of details of claim are complete, not the submission date.

The final claim for the wireless project was submitted in July 2023 and as of November 3, 2023, ISED is still reviewing the claim (\$1.1 million) and requesting details and changes to documents submitted. As a note, turnaround timing for requests for clarification generally happens within 24 hours of the request from our project team.

While the claims process is cumbersome, the staff at both the provincial and federal departments have been supportive and helpful.

In discussing the project with the Department of Municipal Affairs and the plan to shift short-term financing to long-term debt, one of the requirements is a Temporary Borrowing Resolution for the borrowing. The Municipality currently has a TBR for \$31 million which was approved by the Council earlier this year. The TBR was approved by the Minister for a two-year period as the project will be active for at least this period. The province is recommending that a new TBR be issued to reflect the amount of funding that will be shifted to long-term debt and that the original TBR would continue to allow the Municipality to finance the project over the next two years. It also allows TBR to properly match the assets being funded by long-term debt.

Recommendation:

That the Municipal Council issue a temporary Borrowing Resolution for \$28,047,000 to allow for the issuance of debentures in the spring of 2024, which represents the net asset cost as March 31, 2024.

A further resolution will be required around March 2024 by Municipal Finance Corporation authorizing the issuance of the debentures in the spring borrowing.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE
TEMPORARY BORROWING RESOLUTION

Amount: \$ 28,047,000

Purpose: Rural Broadband Project

WHEREAS Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act provides that the Council of the
Municipality of the County of Pictou, subject to the approval of the Minister
of Municipal Affairs and Housing, may borrow to expend funds for a capital purpose as authorized by statute;

WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of the County of Pictou has
adopted a capital budget for this fiscal year as required by Section 65 of the Municipal Government Act and are
so authorized to expend funds for a capital purpose as identified in their capital budget; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of the County of Pictou has
determined to borrow for the purposes of Rural Broadband Project;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED

THAT under the authority of Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of the
Municipality of the County of Pictou borrow a sum or sums not exceeding
Twenty Eight Million and Forty Seven Thousand Dollars (\$ 28,047,000) for the
purpose set out above, subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;

THAT the sum be borrowed by the issue and sale of debentures of the Council of the
Municipality of the County of Pictou to such an amount as the Council deems
necessary;

THAT the issue of debentures be postponed pursuant to Section 92 of the Municipal Government Act
and that the Council borrow from time to time a sum or sums not exceeding
Twenty Eight Million and Forty Seven Thousand Dollars (\$ 28,047,000) in total from
any chartered bank or trust company doing business in Nova Scotia;

THAT the sum be borrowed for a period not exceeding Twelve (12) Months from the date of the
approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of this resolution;

THAT the interest payable on the borrowing be paid at a rate to be agreed upon; and

THAT the amount borrowed be repaid from the proceeds of the debentures when sold.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution read
and duly passed at a meeting of the Council of the
Municipality of the County of Pictou
held on the 6th day of November, 2023.

GIVEN under the hands of the Clerk and under the seal of the
Municipality of the County of Pictou
this 7th day of November, 2023.

Clerk