

October 7, 2024

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building by videoconference and teleconference on Monday, October 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Dist:

- 1 Clr. Don Butler
- 2 Clr. Deborah Wadden
- 3 Clr. Darla MacKeil
- 4 Clr. Mary Elliott
- 5 Deputy Warden Wayne Murray
- 6 Warden Robert Parker
- 7 Clr. David Parker
- 9 Clr. Peter Boyles
- 10 Clr. Randy Palmer
- 11 Clr. Andy Thompson
- 12 Clr. Chester Dewar

**ABSENT**

- 8 Clr. Larry Turner

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Brian Cullen, CAO Municipal Clerk-Treasurer  
Sueann Musick, Director of Corporate Services/Deputy Clerk  
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer  
Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development (videoconference)  
Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services (videoconference)  
Shellie Pettipas, Administrative Assistant  
Adam MacInnis, Communications Officer

**CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Warden Parker called the meeting to order and invited Councillors to pray or reflect, as may be their preference, to help Council focus and properly do the work of the Municipality and to remember our Indigenous communities. He acknowledges that we are on the ancestral territorial lands of the Mikmaqi people and would like to thank the Mikmaqi people today for their ancestors sharing these precious lands with all our ancestors, whether they arrived here 400 years ago or four years ago. May we all live in peace and harmony together.

## **AGENDA**

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Elliott that the agenda be approved as presented. **Motion Carried**

Warden Parker requested the agenda to include an opportunity for the Councillors who are not returning to speak. This will be added under the Business Items Not Requiring Action.

## **EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS**

No emergency resolutions were brought forward.

## **ERRORS AND OMISSIONS/CORRECTION OF MINUTES**

- a. Warden Parker asked if there were any errors, omissions, or corrections in the minutes for the September 3, 2024 Council Meeting. The minutes of the September 3, 2024, Council Meeting were reviewed by the Municipal Council. Warden Parker proclaimed the minutes of the meeting of September 3, 2024, as the official record of the meeting.

Clr. Wadden requested that the resolution for the Youth Leads Art Program on page 9 be corrected to state “the youth in this program” instead of “the youth in his program.”

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Thank you from the Abercrombie Cemetery Corporation for the Municipal Service Grant.
- b. Thank you from Gaelic Workshop for the Council Grant

## **PRESENTATION – NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Korede Esan and Tabatha White from the Nova Scotia Department of Public Health in the Northern Zone gave a presentation to Council.

# INTRODUCING PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health promotes and protects the health of all communities in Nova Scotia.



[Public Health | Nova Scotia Health \(nshealth.ca\)](https://nshealth.ca)



## PUBLIC HEALTH CORE AREAS





Guided by Public Health Standards and Protocols.



# HEALTH PROTECTION





**OCTOBER 2024** 

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Springhill Junior Centre High Bass River West Colchester 1	Prince Alexander 2	3	Thereseau Concordia School St. Charles Bridget School 4	5
6	7	Dr. Mel MacLeod 8	Central Colchester Junior High 9	10	11	12
13	14	Waverley Education Centre 15	Wood Pitcairne Comprehensives School 16	Princess Margaret High 17	18	19
20	21	Peabody Highway High 22	North St. Marks School 23	North St. Marks School 24	25	26
27	28	St. Charles Junior High 29	Thereseau School 30	31		

-  Authority by NS Health Protection Act to take steps to prevent/control spread of communicable disease
-  Notifiable diseases are reported, and Public Health investigates (as soon as **suspected**, or **next business day**)
-  Immunizations (Grade 7 School Immunizations, Covid/Flu Clinics, PH Office Clinics, PH Mobile Outreach clinics)
-  Visit Map of PH [Immunization Clinics](#) for upcoming dates

# EARLY YEARS



-  Home Visiting Program (prenatal to 3 years)
-  Early childhood immunization clinics
-  Connection to community organizations
-  Access to resources around feeding and taking care of baby

# HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

- ✓ Focus on development of partnerships to foster healthy public policies
- ✓ Work with schools, municipalities, and decision makers to create bylaws and guidelines that lead to healthier communities
- ✓ Health Promoting Schools (HPS) is a vision for working together to foster healthy, inclusive, and vibrant school communities
- ✓ Through HPS initiative, PH roles include School Health Promoter, Youth Engagement Coordinator, School Nutritionist, Dental Hygienists and Youth Health Centre Coordinators



# SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH FRAMEWORK

August 2019

## Upstream approach



Photo credit: [Benton-Franklin Health District](#)

## WHAT IS HEALTHY PUBLIC POLICY?

- Healthy public policy aims to improve conditions in which people live, learn, work, age, and play
- Has a focus on health and equity in all aspects
- Impacts overall health and wellbeing of communities

Example: Smoke free spaces

# OUR ACTIVITIES

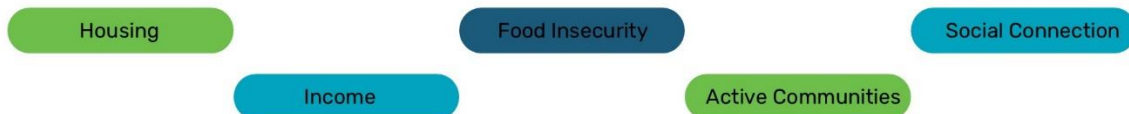
Working collaboratively on local public policy to improve population health and advance health equity



Health Equity

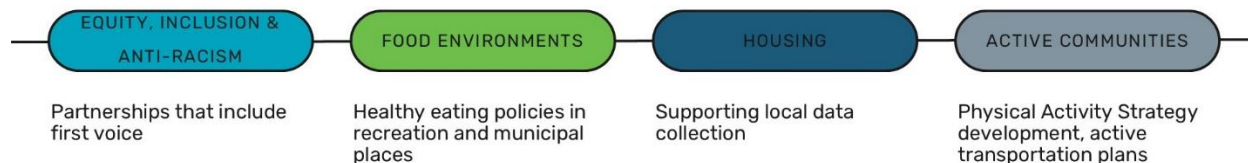
## Community Health Planning

- Contribute health promotion expertise, sharing evidence, monitoring factors that impact health
- Access to zone level data on topics; Housing, Income, Food Security, Active Communities, and Social Connection
- Ways public health and municipal governments can work together to improve population health



# How can we work together?

work with others to understand the health of our communities, and act together to improve health



## Thank you!

Please reach out if you have more questions



**KOREDE ESAN**

Health Promoter  
Korede.Esan@nshealth.ca



**STEPHANE FEUER**

Health Promoter  
Stephane.Feuer@nshealth.ca



**JALISA CLARKE**

Nutritionist  
Jalisa.Clarke@nshealth.ca





**TABITHA WHITE**

Public Policy & Social Action  
Tabitha.White@nshealth.ca



# RESOURCES

- [Public Health | Nova Scotia Health \(nshealth.ca\)](#)
- [Public Health Reports | novascotia.ca](#)
- [Health Protection Act](#)
- [06026\\_itsthelawposter\\_en.pdf \(novascotia.ca\)](#)
- [Northern Zone School Immunization Calendar | Nova Scotia Health \(nshealth.ca\)](#)
- [Public Health Immunization Clinics | Nova Scotia Health \(nshealth.ca\)](#)
- [Northern Zone Public Health Early Years Prenatal Handout.pdf \(nshealth.ca\)](#)
- [Northern Zone Public Health Early Years Handout 0.pdf \(nshealth.ca\)](#)
- [Health Promoting Schools Initiative](#)
- [FVP Info and FAQs for parents ENG September 2024 FINAL.pdf \(nshealth.ca\)](#)
- [Let's Talk: Determinants of Health](#)



Nearest Public Health office: 902-752-5151

Clr. Butler asked if the Health Protection Community Clinics would be in place again this year in Lismore. Ms. White said there is an online health protection team and a map of where the clinics are currently scheduled.

Clr. Parker asked if work was done to promote the need for vaccinations in children and the public. Ms. White said they have been updating the website resources and social media and are getting the word out about free vaccinations.

Warden Parker said that the municipalities in the county, along with the Aberdeen Hospital, have worked together over the last five years on crisis mental health and have gotten a few practices changed. The Warden asked what role Public Health plays in mental health. Ms. White said that there are different team members in different areas. Some work is done by supporting young parents, providing them with access to different resources, and connecting them with support. Ms. White said that mental health and health are connected and that public health works to address issues from a preventative perspective.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS NOT REQUIRING ACTION**

## **THE EAST RIVER BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

The East River Business Development Report was received as presented.

## **RIVERVIEW HOME ADULT RESIDENTIAL CENTRE**

Clr. David Parker said the Residential Centre is in the middle of a transition that will take several years. A meeting was held with senior representatives from the Department of Community Services and a group representing families of loved ones residing in the facility.

Clr. Parker said a court order remedy of the specificities must happen. They would like to have the Riverview Adult Residential Centre (main building) closed in 25 months from now. The three group homes on the site would be approximately 12-24 months longer.

Two groups of clients are severely disabled, and they will require the construction of specialized homes, which Riverview Home Corporation is prepared to do. This will cover most of the residents left in the residential centre. The other half dozen or so and the two dozen in the group homes will be moved out to homes in the community. These homes must be located where services are accessible and into homes that can hold 2-4 residents. Most of the homes will be acquired from the open market of homes available in the county.

Clr. Parker believes things are going well in meeting the timelines. The Department of Community Services is much more focused on policy and is getting out of the housing business. They are currently working through some of the transition requirements. Each resident will be individually evaluated along with their support group, and this process will begin early in the new year.

Clr. Parker and Clr. Clarrie Mackinnon are not reoffering and will be leaving the board. With the recent passing of Rick Feehan and Eileen MacKinnon, two long-term volunteer community board members, Clarrie and Clr. Parker is applying to stay on that board as a voluntary community board member and feels well-positioned to meet the requirements.

Clr. Parker said that Riverview Residential Centre is reasonably well-positioned to meet the requirements of the remedy. There is a plan to build medical homes, there is a contractor, a sight, and a design in place, the only thing that has been the holdup is waiting to hear from the Department of Community Services with the go-ahead, and today the go-ahead was given. Things are progressing, and there is a strong board.

Warden Parker asked who would pay the bill now that the province is not looking after housing. Clr. Parker said the province will allocate an individual budget to each person, and that person with guidance will decide how that money gets spent. Warden Parker asked who would pay to build the homes. Clr. Parker said the Corporation would be building the houses, and the cost would be amortized in the amount asked for rent. There are significant business opportunities to build fourplexes and rent them out.

Clr. Wadden asked how the citizen representatives are appointed and felt it was important to keep the individuals informed during this transition. CAO Cullen said that Council appoints the elected members, and the board appoints the citizen members.

Clr. Dewar said the home was upgraded and questioned how a judge could make this decision and is surprised this decision has not been challenged. Some residents do not have family, and this is the only home they know. Clr. Dewar said that staff are worried about their jobs and everything to come with this change. Clr. Dewar said this will be seen as an awful mistake down the road.

Clr. Parker said staff have been assured that there will be many job opportunities. Families' main interest is ensuring their loved ones are well cared for. Warden Parker extended a thank you to the board and is pleased with all the hard work being done.

### **LAST MEETING FOR COUNCILLORS**

Warden Parker thanked Clr. David Parker and Clr. Don Butler for their service to the county and said that each Councillor adds something valuable to the Council and this county's future.

Clr. Don Butler appreciates the opportunity to share opinions on topics in the community and says it has been an enjoyable eight years. Clr. Butler has been a community activist for the past 28 years and has been involved with council programs. It was interesting to sit on the other side of the table and gratifying to see that good things happen because of the work of many committees. Clr. Butler has enjoyed this opportunity and now has a great understanding and will continue to be an activist within the community.

Clr. David Parker has represented 26 different communities over the last 24 years and has found people to be straightforward, sincere, and very grateful to receive help; this was a rewarding part of the job. Clr. Parker thanked the residents from District 7 and said it has been a privilege and an honour to speak to and represent them. Clr. Parker thanked fellow Councillors and said it had been a rewarding experience.

Warden Parker welcomed Pictou West MLA Marco MacLeod, who attended the meeting.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS OR ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION**

#### **REVIEW OF SNOW CLEARING TENDERS**

#### **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Clr. Elliott to accept the Department of Public Works snow clearing tenders as presented. **Motion Carried**

Clr. Dewar asked if the same people were hired to do the work, and it was not satisfactory if they could be let go. Warden Parker agreed there should be accountability.

Mr. McDowell said some bidders also have contracts with road maintenance, and controls are built into the contracts. Nine bids were received for the on-call list; if good service is not received, there are options to move on to the next bidders. Over the terms of this contract, there will be a more hands-on approach, with greater leverage in ensuring the work is done.

Clr. Boyles asked if something could be put in for instances like the big snowstorm that left people snowed in. Mr. McDowell said that was a reason why there was an on-call list to give more preapproved contracts the go-ahead.

### **RESOLUTION**

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Dewar to approve the appointment of Nancy Cheung to the Accessibility Committee. **Motion Carried**

### **RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** the Municipality of the County of Pictou appoint Nancy Cheung to its Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee for a term ending in March 2026.

Dated at Pictou, NS, on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October 2024.

(Sgd)

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### **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

#### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS UPDATE**

Mr. Hale gave a presentation to Council with an update on Emergency Preparedness for the county.




# Emergency Management Preparedness

October 2024 - Update



## Action Items (Identified in last presentation)

- Standard Operating Procedures
  - Communication
  - Following Plans
  - Comfort Center Network
  - Training
  - Delay in information getting to the PCC
  - NS Guard
- 

## Action Item #1 - Standard Operating Procedures

- SOP's have been created and implemented for Comfort Centers
- SOP's for MOPC Operations being updated/created
- Comprehensive SOP's being worked on for Pictou Island, In conjunction with relevant agencies (JRCC, RCMP, EHS, Coast Guard).

## Action Item #2 – Communication

- SimplyCast technology has been created and implemented in the county, we currently have approx. 500 subscribers.
- Access E11 has been configured to be used for tracking issues during emergencies.
- A full time REMO hotline has been established.
- Expanded staff approvals for Provincial Alert Ready
- Hardwood Hill Radio Tower project is nearly complete, testing is ongoing with good results.

## Action Item #3 – Following Plans

- MOPC Participated in exercise Nova Bravo (May 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>)
- Working with Nova Scotia EMO on changes to local REMO Functions - Provincial REOC (Regional Emergency Operations Center)
- Preparing for EMO Nova Scotia's Regional Exercise being held in November 2024.

## Action Item #4 – Comfort Center Network

- Grant approved in March 2024
- Phase 1 of funding in complete
- Phase 2 underway with project completion by March 2025.
- 28 Centers receiving funding



## Action Item # 5 – Training

- Since the last update, two MOPC staff have taken and completed ICS 100 & 200, with 6 more staff signed up for November.
- Recovery Response (Wellness, Property Checks) training being offered to firefighters taking our Basic Firefighting Course.
- State of Local Emergency Training planned for MOPC staff
- Alert Ready training being planned and offered to Fire Chiefs

## Action Item # 6 - Delay in information getting to the PCC

- EMO Nova Scotia has is working on the creation of REOC Offices throughout the province. (Regional Emergency Operations Center).
- Local REMO's will be able to contact their REOC to pass along information, request resources, etc. Having an office locally will improve our ability to communicate and "Close the loop".



## Action Item #7 – NS Guard

- Thousands of people province wide have signed up for the guard
- All training will be provided to Guard members
- Insurance coverages such a liability and WCB details are still being worked out
- The Guard can be requested by REMO, or a Municipality.

Questions?



Warden Parker asked who can call the Provincial Alert Ready and if a fire chief could make that call or if it had to go through the municipality to be called. Mr. Hale said that a fire chief can make the request, which would then be assessed and have a higher threshold to be met.

Warden Parker asked how the Simply Cast Technology works. Mr. Hale said it is essentially the same technology as the Provincial Alert Ready. This technology pushes messages out to a device and is subscription-based. It is used for non-life-threatening alerts. This will be used as an early alerting tool for residents and messages can be received by text, email or landlines. This is a free service and currently there are about 500 subscribers.

Deputy Warden Murray asked how residents could sign up for this service. Mr. Hale said they can call the office to sign up for the system, scan the QR link, or click the link on the municipality's website, which brings them to the registration page.

Clr. Boyles asked how many people would be manning the Provincial Coordination Centre. Mr. Hale said that further municipal staff will be trained, which will help ensure that the right people are in the room.

Clr. Thompson asked if work is being done on the Volunteer Vulnerable Persons Registry list. Mr. Hale said there was a meeting with Community Services on that topic, and the province is still looking at different ways of rolling it out.

Clr. Boyles asked if a line was down and if a backup number could be called. Mr. Hale said the emergency numbers are voiced over the internet phone line. CAO Cullen said that the line would work unless the fibre line coming into the municipal building is cut. Mr. Cullen said that fibre routes will find a path and self-heal.

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

CAO Cullen said the NSFM Long Service Awards are no longer being presented at the annual conference and have been sent to the municipality for presentation.

Long Service Award Recipients recognized were:

Warden Robert Parker: 15 years of service  
Clr. Deborah Wadden: 15 years of service  
Clr. Andy Thompson: 15 years of service  
Clr. Randy Palmer: 20 years of service  
Clr. Chester Dewar: 24 years of service  
Clr. David Parker: 24 years of service

Clr. Palmer observed a moment of silence for Mr. Rick Feehan. Mr. Feehan was a good friend and a valuable member of the Audit Committee. He was a truly amazing man.

Clr. David Parker said the Tree Planting Sub Committee will hold the annual Hardwood Seedling Giveaway on Saturday, October 12, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. A total of 500 hardwood seedlings and tree shelters have been ordered. The seedlings will be given on a first-come, first-served basis. Clr. Parker said county residents will be allowed two trees per property owner, who must be at pickup time. Clr. Parker said this is the committee's most significant purchase and positively impacts community members.

Warden Parker said the tree-planting event is one of the most progressive things since the Climate Change Advisory Committee started. This sends a valuable message from Council to residents. Warden Parker expressed thanks to Clr. David Parker, on behalf of all Council members, for heading up the spring and fall tree-planting events for the last two years.

Deputy Warden Murray said a showcase and social will be held at Scotburn Elementary School on Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. This will be a networking event and an opportunity to meet neighbours while learning about local businesses.

Clr. Thompson said a Hunter's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2024, at the Springville Church Hall. This event will be held each Saturday until the first week of December from 6:30-10:00 a.m.

Clr. Butler said a Hunter's Breakfast will be held at the Kenzieville Community Centre on Saturday, October 26, 2024, from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.

**MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION**

There were no motions of reconsideration.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the Warden declared the meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

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WARDEN

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MUNICIPAL CLERK