

# **MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH**

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA**

**Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 5:30 pm**

**Council Chambers**

**Municipal Administration Building**

**285 Beech Hill Road**

**Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4**

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1. Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of January 22, 2019 Committee of the Whole Minutes
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
5. Delegations
  - a. Local Department of Transportation Team  
Basil Pitts and his team will be on hand for their quarterly discussion with the Committee, to review operations over the summer and discussion the upcoming winter season.
6. Continuing Business
  - a. MPAL Plan Approval  
An opportunity to address any questions that came up in the Council information session, and consideration of the plan for approval.
7. New Business
  - a. Financial Update  
The Director of Finance will present the annual Financial Update. Materials will be distributed at the meeting.
  - b. Pickleball Sponsorship Request  
A request has been received from the Arisaig Pickleball Association and Antigonish Pickleball Association are hosting the 2019 Nova Scotia Provincials on May 25 & 26, and have requested the Municipality's consideration of sponsorship of the event. Further details can be found in the letter attached.
  - c. Request for Municipal Contribution Increase from the PARL Board  
The Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage have provided an update regarding their new library funding model. Information provided by the Deputy Minister is attached for the Committee's information.
8. Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions
  - a. Antigonish Heritage Museum Board
  - b. Antigonish Arena Commission
  - c. Antigonish Crime Prevention
  - d. Eastern District Planning Commission Board
  - e. Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee
  - f. Eastern-Straight Regional Enterprise Network Liaison Oversight Committee

g. Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

h. RK MacDonald Nursing Home

9. Community Events

This item provides Councillors with an opportunity to briefly bring to the attention of Council events that are taking place in their communities.

10. Staff Reports

a. ESREN Staff Report

b. EDPC Staff Report

c. RCMP Activity Report

11. Additions to the Agenda

12. In Camera Items

13. Adjournment

# MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF **ANTIGONISH**

## **Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, January 22, 2019, 6:00 pm  
Council Chambers  
Municipal Administration Building  
285 Beech Hill Road  
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron  
Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart  
Councillor Mary MacLellan  
Councillor Donnie MacDonald  
Councillor Vaughan Chisholm  
Councillor Remi Deveau  
Councillor Gary Mattie  
Councillor Neil Corbett  
Regrets: Councillor John Dunbar  
Councillor Bill MacFarlane  
Staff Present: Glenn Horne, Clerk-Treasurer  
Shirlyn Donovan, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator

### **1. Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron**

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden McCarron, at 5:39pm

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda.

Physician Recruitment was added to the agenda.

**Moved By** Deputy Warden Stewart

**Seconded By** Councillor Mattie

*That the agenda be approved as amended.*

**Motion Carried**

3. **Approval of January 15th Committee of the Whole Minutes**

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the minutes.

**Moved By** Deputy Warden Stewart

**Seconded By** Councillor Corbett

*That the Committee of the Whole minutes of January 15, 2019 be approved as presented.*

**Motion Carried**

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. **Continuing Business**

a. **Consideration of Economic Development Options**

Mr. Horne suggested that the Committee make a decision regarding the future of ESREN.

Councillor Mattie liked the idea of having an ESREN staff member at Council meetings. Councillor Mattie suggests renewing the contact for another year.

Councillor Corbett asked if the Province had agreed to pay their commitment. Mr. Horne said that the province has agreed to pay the committed amount going forward but not back dating.

Councillor MacLellan sat in on the meeting about Chinese Tourism and would like to support the REN for another year.

Councillor MacDonald agrees to support the REN for another year.

Deputy Warden Stewart agrees to support the REN for another year.

Councillor Deveau agrees with staying in for another year and give notice again for a year from now.

Councillor Chisholm agrees to support the REN for another year.

Warden McCarron would like to push the REN for measurable outcomes. Warden McCarron stated that the Municipality withdraw their current notice of withdrawal and give notice for a year from now. If they do not meet the outcomes then we do not move forward.

Mr. Horne suggested to Council that Guysborough has not made their decision whether they will stay with the REN. If Guysborough were to leave, the Municipality would not have to pay more, they would scale the organization accordingly. The decision that the Committee makes tonight would have to hold true whether Guysborough stays or goes.

Going forward Council will give a list of 2-3 major outcomes that they would like to see the REN meet. They will be given until December of 2019 to meet those outcomes. Mr. Horne also stresses how important Board Recruitment is.

Councillor Mattie has some concerns around local businesses seeing any benefit from the REN.

The Committee came to the consensus to withdraw their current notice and stay with the REN for one more year.

**6. New Business**

**a. Consideration of a Special Event Permit**

We have received a Special Event Permit for Nova Scotia Summer Fest August 23 & 24. A conditional event permit can be issued based on the conditions being met.

**Moved By** Councillor Mattie

**Seconded By** Councillor Deveau

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve a conditional permit for Nova Scotia Summer Fest, proposed to take place at Keppoch Mountain on August 23 & 24, 2019. The following conditions would apply:*

- *A complete operational plan including provisions for emergency access, severe weather and sewage management shall be provided to the Municipality for its consideration on or before April 5, 2019, at 4pm. Any deficiencies with this plan identified by the Municipality shall be addressed to the satisfaction of the Municipality.*
- *A site plan/map and an on and off-site parking plan shall be provided to the Municipality on or before April 5, 2019, at 4pm. Any deficiencies with this plan identified by the Municipality shall be addressed to the satisfaction of the Municipality.*
- *Proof of insurance shall be provided to this office on or before April 5, 2019, at 4pm.*
- *All other provisions of the Municipality's Special Events Bylaw are in force and shall be adhered to unless approved in writing by Municipal Council.*

**Motion Carried**

**b. Community Partnership Grants**

Ms. Donovan reviewed the new Community Partnership Grant Policy, Guidelines Document, Application Form, and Leadership and Travel Assistance Grants Policy.

Councillor MacLellan asked for clarification on whether the grants can be used to fund part-time staff wages.

**Moved By** Deputy Warden Stewart  
**Seconded By** Councillor MacLellan

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the proposed amendments to the Community Partnership Grants Policy.*

**Motion Carried**

**Moved By** Councillor MacDonald  
**Seconded By** Councillor Mattie

*The Committee recommends that Municipal Council adopt the Leadership and Travel Assistance Grants Policy as presented.*

**Motion Carried**

**7. Additions to the Agenda**

**a. Physician Recruitment**

Mr. Horne presented a letter from Sarah MacDonald looking to strike a committee of 8-10 people who can roll out the red carpet when physicians come to see St. Martha's. Ideas for how to do this included making a welcome basket, potentially picking them up at the airport, or just being a friendly face to be introduced to.

Warden McCarron stated that we should showcase what our community has to offer. The Committee would meet about once a month or as needed when a recruit comes to town.

**8. Adjournment**

**Moved By** Councillor Chisholm  
**Seconded By** Councillor Deveau

*That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:05pm*

**Motion Carried**

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Warden Owen McCarron

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Glenn Horne, Municipal Clerk/Treasurer



January 17, 2019

3561 Highway 245  
Antigonish NS B2G 2L1

Shirlyn Donovan  
Strategic Initiatives Co-ordinator  
Municipality of County of Antigonish  
285 Beech Hill Road  
Beech Hill, Nova Scotia  
B2G 0B4

**Re: Sponsorship - 2019 N.S. Provincial Pickleball Tournament**

Dear Shirlyn Donovan,

The Highland Region clubs, Arisaig Pickleball Club and Antigonish Pickleball Society, were successful in securing the privilege to host the 2019 Provincial Pickleball Championships. Hosting the Provincial Championships will put Antigonish on the Nova Scotia Pickleball Map and meet some of the key objectives of providing both recreational and competitive play opportunities in the Highland Region.

**Pickleball** is a fun sport that combines many elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong. It is played both indoors and outdoors on a badminton-sized court and a slightly modified tennis net. The game is played with paddles and a plastic ball with holes (whiffle ball) and can be played as doubles or singles. The game was created for all ages and skill levels. The sports provide an excellent avenue for regular exercise and socializing. The sport is enjoyed by folks of all ages but the largest demographics are with the 60+ age group.

Pickleball in the Highland Region of Nova Scotia has exploded in popularity during 2018 and is still seeing rapid growth. During 2018, both the Arisaig Pickleball Club (APC) and Pickleball Antigonish Society (PAS) were incorporate as non-profit societies with over 100 registered club members.

The organization's mandates are to promote the sport of pickleball and provide the opportunity for recreational and competitive play within the Antigonish Town and County area.

In the 2018 Provincial Championships held in Wolfville, the demographics for the tournament was 75% of participants were in the 55+ age bracket. We expect similar demographics for the 2019 Provincial Championship Weekend. These facts are important as a wide range of studies have shown that the best way to ensure health in longevity is to regularly engage in physical activity.



Also, healthy connections between people are important at all ages, but even more so with seniors. Regular social connections help us all emotionally, mentally and physically. The chance to promote such interactions before, during and especially after the tournament is a huge opportunity.

To increase the draw for the 2019 Provincial Championship Tournament, the Highlands Tournament Committee has arranged for Jennifer Lucore to be the “Honorary Tournament Marshal”. Jennifer Lucore is a 17-time USAPA National Champion, 11-time Canadian Champion, 4-time International Champion.

The tournament will be hosted at the Keating Centre. In addition to the tournament, there will be pickleball clinics (with an international instructor(s)) and practice/warm-up games hosted on Friday May 24<sup>th</sup> at the Keating arena. This is expected to have the tournament players spending additional time in the Antigonish area.

- This event will draw people to Antigonish and “show case” our wonderful community
- Organizers are expecting in excess of 200 participants
- Will bring economic stimulus to the area
- This will be an opportunity for spectators to watch an exciting new game
- Will be a template for future tournaments (Potential for hosting the 2020 Atlantic Championships)

To host the tournament, financial support is requested to offset the tournament costs which may run in excess of \$20,000.

We are seeking support in the amount of \$3,000 to help defray the cost of hosting the tournament.

Your support would be greatly appreciated. We look forward to further discussing this with you.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Smith & John Vautour  
Sponsor Coordinators  
[rpsmith@eastlink.ca](mailto:rpsmith@eastlink.ca) 902-863-5357





February 1, 2019

Dear Mr. Horne,

Historically, Nova Scotia's public libraries have been funded using a per capita model. In 2011, due to concerns about population changes in some library regions, the population figures that were utilized to determine funding were frozen based on the 2009 estimated population levels and have remained so until now. As you can appreciate, this has caused concern in all library regions as it has benefited some library regions and not others. The proposed model seeks to address this imbalance while also factoring in many of the concerns and opportunities raised by Chief Librarians and Boards.

Given the provincial scope of public libraries, there is no way to exclude population as a factor in the new model. As such, the population figures utilized have been updated to reflect 2017 estimated population levels. The difference in the amount of funding increase that each region would receive is, primarily, a reflection of each regions' population fluctuation.

We understand that a model that is purely population-based would likely lead to further issues in the future. To address this, we engaged with the library community to develop a new funding formula that would meet the needs of the public libraries while limiting the funding concerns that exist in the current per capita model. The formula that was developed was applied across all library regions. We did elect to maintain French Language grants for Eastern Counties Regional Library Board (ECRL) and Western Counties Regional Library Board (WCRL), and an equity grant (based on population density) for ECRL.

I am happy to say that, with the proposed model and provincial increase to the base funding, we have achieved a scenario that will benefit all library regions. No region will be losing money. Additionally, with the creation of a new, dedicated provincial grant funding program (\$500,000), libraries will have access to funds to support innovation and unique regional needs. We will be working with CORL and LBANS to design the fund. It is important to note that access to the Provincial Culture Innovation Fund will also remain intact.

We understand that the model will need to be adjusted over time. As such, a review of the formula will be conducted every five years. Additionally, we will be working collaboratively with library boards and others to develop common measures and accountability metrics to ensure we are reporting consistently on the great work of our libraries across the province. If there are significant concerns that need to be addressed, be assured that we will be working with the libraries to ensure that our libraries are vibrant now, and into the future.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that all Nova Scotians receive equitable access to public libraries and the benefits they provide our communities.

We are confident this model reflects the many discussions held over the past few years concerning the challenges faced by the library system. We further thank the members of LBANS—many of whom represent municipalities, and CORL for their diligence in the development of this model.

We welcome your comments.

Sincerely,

Tracey Taweel  
Deputy Minister  
Communities, Culture and Heritage  
1741 Brunswick Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
PO Box 456  
Halifax, NS B3J 2R5



# Library Funding Review

January, 2019

# Context

- The current model for funding libraries is not meeting the requirements and evolving needs of Nova Scotia libraries and users
- With the exception of Halifax, most regions are seeing population declines and it's challenging to offer equitable services
- Communities embrace libraries as cornerstones so services go beyond book lending to being hubs
- Since 2014-15 interim funding increases were made while CCH worked towards a new funding formula

# Seeking Solutions

- CCH engaged its stakeholders to develop a new funding model that moves away from sole per capita calculations to a blended formula
- The proposed model provides stability and predictability in funding and allows libraries to undertake strategic planning
- Will also help address funding challenges: rural population decline, rising operations costs, changing roles of libraries in communities

# Core Services

- Supporting and promoting reading and literacy
- Providing access to technology and supporting digital literacy
- Preserving and promoting culture and creativity
- Providing safe physical spaces that encourage community involvement

# Shared Funding

- Province invests \$14.4 million annually to support Nova Scotia's nine regional public library boards, allocated on a per capita basis, using population numbers from 2009

Regions outside of Halifax	Halifax public libraries
71% provincial	26% provincial
26% municipal	71% municipal
3% board	3% board

# Proposed Model

Component	Staffing	Operating	Collections	Technology	French Language Grant*	Equity Grant*
Per Capita	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Halifax: 1 staff per 1,269 of the region's population multiplied by average board salary range</li> <li>Non-metro: 1 staff per 2,200 of the region's population multiplied by average board salary range</li> </ul>	\$1.50 per capita	\$3.50 per capita	\$400 per staff (number of staff calculated under staffing – includes fixed and per capita component)	10% of total staffing (staffing uses both per capita and a fixed component)	5% of total staffing (staffing uses both per capita and a fixed component)
Fixed	\$380,000 per board (6 staff)	\$15,000 per board	\$7,800 per board	Refresh Public Access Computers (PAC) every three years: \$1,000 per current number of PAC computers divided by 3		



# Proposed Provincial Change

- \$2 million investment (bringing total provincial investment to \$16.4M annually)
- Additionally:
  - Creation of new application based program dedicated to library boards
  - \$500 thousand annual investment beginning in 2020-21
  - To foster innovation, creativity and partnership for programming tailored to community needs
  - To support and build capacity for libraries to implement local and innovative initiatives
- Culture Innovation Fund
  - Access to this fund remains intact

# Implications

- Changes need to be made through regulations and municipalities require one-year notice
- Potential impact of new formula on municipalities is \$1.65 million – discussion and input with municipalities in upcoming weeks
- Will be evaluated after 5 years

# Funding Comparison: Province

	CURRENT	PROPOSED	TOTAL CHANGE (\$)
Annapolis Valley	1,739,200	1,919,600	180,400
Cape Breton	1,930,400	2,053,100	122,700
Colchester-East Hants	1,279,600	1,490,100	210,500
Cumberland	550,000	775,400	225,400
Eastern Counties	727,000	911,400	184,400
Halifax	4,916,000	5,274,300	358,300
Pictou-Antigonish	1,124,900	1,383,800	258,900
South Shore	1,002,900	1,262,400	259,500
Western Counties	1,120,300	1,320,500	200,200
TOTAL	14,390,300	16,390,600	2,000,300

# Funding Comparison: Municipal

	CURRENT	PROPOSED	TOTAL CHANGE (\$)
Annapolis Valley	636,900	702,900	66,000
Cape Breton	706,900	751,800	44,900
Colchester-East Hants	468,600	545,700	77,100
Cumberland	201,400	283,900	82,500
Eastern Counties	231,900	333,800	101,900
Halifax	13,424,500	14,402,700	978,200
Pictou-Antigonish	412,000	506,700	94,700
South Shore	367,300	462,300	95,000
Western Counties	373,500	483,600	110,100
TOTAL	16,823,000	18,473,400	1,650,400

# Funding Comparison: Board

	CURRENT	PROPOSED	TOTAL CHANGE (\$)
Annapolis Valley	73,500	81,100	7,600
Cape Breton	81,600	86,800	5,200
Colchester-East Hants	54,100	63,000	8,900
Cumberland	23,200	32,800	9,600
Eastern Counties	26,800	38,500	11,700
Halifax	576,600	608,600	32,000
Pictou-Antigonish	47,500	58,500	11,000
South Shore	42,400	53,300	10,900
Western Counties	43,100	55,800	12,700
TOTAL	968,800	1,078,400	109,600

# Next Steps

- Meeting with Regions
- February 22 – Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM)
- Please provide written input to
  - [Rhonda.Walker@novascotia.ca](mailto:Rhonda.Walker@novascotia.ca)

Or

– Rhonda Walker  
1747 Summer Street  
Halifax, NS B3H 3A6

# Library Funding Review

Thank you!





# Eastern Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Committee Highlights

February 2019

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***Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging & Printed Paper (PPP) Update*** –NSFM has circulated information to Chambers in NS to disburse to members and some other businesses for feedback. They are accepting responses on the proposal by March 15, 2019. (Attached)

***Plastics Reduction*** – A letter was sent to Minister Miller and response received regarding EPR and plastic shopping bags. In the response it was shared that although they are not banning the plastic shopping bag at this time, they are collaborating on the topic with colleagues from across Canada. NSE staff will be involved in the development of an action plan to realize the zero waste plastic strategy they signed back in November with a shared vision to keep plastics in the economy and out of the environment. As CCME president for, Minister Miller looks forward to advancing the work. **Action:** ERSWM Members were tasked to consider with their Council; without the desired province wide ban on plastic shopping bags, is there interest in working to develop a municipal bylaw to do the same? A report was shared from ERSWM to inform the discussion.

***Efficiency Study*** - AECOM continues to work on this file. Community profiles are nearing the end of the draft stage. Information from the Provincial Datacall will be used to develop the financial benchmarking for municipalities/regions as was required by Nova Scotia Environment (NSE). They will seek municipal input on the financials before finalizing.

## ***Changes made to Nova Scotia's Solid Waste-Resource Management Regulations:***

**Waste-To-Energy Regulation Change** – A letter dated January 16, 2019 from Minister Miller informs of amendments made to the NS Solid Waste Resource Management Regulations. NSE amended the definition of waste diversion in the regulations to include energy recovery. Also, added the definition for energy recovery as the extraction or production of energy, including fuels, from municipal solid waste, construction and demolition debris. With this addition, waste diversion now means waste reduction and reuse, recycling, composting, or energy recovery. The letter also clarifies for waste to energy technologies, that thermal treatment facilities will be able to accept designated materials from Schedule 'B.' - the designated banned materials list. This clarification is consistent with the waste hierarchy where creating energy from waste is preferable to disposal in landfills. Please note that these materials will continue to be banned from landfills.

**Expanded E-Waste & Oil/Glycol Programs** (Start March 1, 2020) – We learned on February 6, 2019 that new materials have been added to Schedule B – designated materials landfill ban list to start March 1, 2020. The list has been updated to include the following items: microwaves; E-book readers; GPS devices; video game systems and controllers; external hard drives, optical drives, and modems; used oil; glycol; empty oil and glycol containers; and used oil filters. The new regulations require industry producers to develop and operate a collection and recycling program. It must be in place by January 1, 2020. The Electronic Products Recycling Association will expand its program to include the new items. The Used Oil Management Association will expand the program it runs in other provinces into Nova Scotia.

***Regional Chairs Meetings: with Minister Miller – February 21, 2019 & Regular – March 29, 2019***  
***ERSWM Meeting – next date March 21, 2019.***

Prepared by: Nicole Haverkort, Regional Coordinator/Educator  
Date: February 14, 2019



**Letter Shared by NSFM to Chambers in NS and Atlantic, also to some other businesses:**

Dear Business Owner:

80% of Canadians now live in provinces where the cost of managing post-consumer materials is built into consumer pricing. For example, when most Canadians buy Kraft Dinner, the purchase price includes the cost of recycling the box after it has been used.

The Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM), in partnership with the Solid Waste Management Regional Chairs Committee, has worked with stakeholders to draft a proposal for a program to do the same thing for printed paper and packaging in Nova Scotia. It's called extended producer responsibility (EPR) for printed paper and packaging (PPP).

In this draft proposal, businesses would be exempt from the EPR program unless they produce both more than \$2 million in revenue per year and more than 1 tonne of PPP materials.

The bigger the producer, the greater the share of the EPR program costs they would shoulder. Producers just meeting the thresholds of \$2M revenue and 1 tonne of PPP would pay a low amount to be a part of the program. For example, businesses that just meet the thresholds in Saskatchewan pay an average of \$292 per year.

A fact sheet about the proposal, drafted in partnership with the Regional Chairs, is available [here](#). Additional background information from the Regional Chairs is available [here](#).

Analysts estimate that approximately 250 Nova Scotian companies could be a part of the program. In other provinces, these programs have resulted in producers becoming increasingly aware of their environmental footprints, and in some cases, have led them to develop more environmentally-friendly packaging. And businesses working together on province-wide EPR solutions have realized economies of scale in other jurisdictions.

The Government of Nova Scotia has reviewed [NSFM's request](#) and has asked us to reach out to businesses across the province to seek feedback. We are interested in whether this program would affect you and your business and would like to collect your feedback so that we can share it with the Province. We'd like to know what you like about the draft proposal, and why. We'd also like to know about anything you don't like, and how you would change it. Do you want EPR?

**We would like to hear from you by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.** Written responses are preferred. Responses prepared using your business letterhead will be shared with the Province with your letterhead intact. Responses can be [emailed](#) or sent by hard-copy to the address below.

We are happy to answer any questions you might have by [email](#) or by phone. We are planning two Q&A sessions for the afternoons of March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Please let us know if you are interested in participating and we will add you to the list for invitation.

Contact information:

Will Brooke, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities  
[wbrooke@nsfm.ca](mailto:wbrooke@nsfm.ca)  
(902)-423-8673

Hard copies of responses should be mailed to:  
1809 Barrington St, Suite 1304  
Halifax, NS, B3J 3K8



**ESREN**  
EASTERN STRAIT  
REGIONAL ENTERPRISE NETWORK

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF  
**ANTIGONISH**

in partnership with

**Local Representative: John Beaton, CEO**  
**February 2019**

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### Strait of Canso Economic Zone Project (Lead: Misty MacDonald)

Final data is currently being compiled from interviews with Stakeholders to be presented at next lead stakeholder meeting tentatively scheduled for February 28th. One of two funding applications submitted regarding the implementation of GOAL 3 has been submitted and the group is currently in the process of securing funding commitments from stakeholders.

GOAL 3: The Strait of Canso economic zone has a focused strategy for business recruitment.

Upon successful funding, priorities will be focused on the development of a Strategic Marketing plan and supporting materials for all stakeholders to use in the promoting the economic zone. For further details on the implementation of Goal 3 please contact Misty MacDonald.

### Regional Tourism (Lead: Maria Ludlow, EDO)

The committee working “Towards a Guysborough County Tourism Strategy” held a public session on January 14<sup>th</sup> in Sherbrooke, hosted by the Sherbrooke Village Museum. It was attended by 27 people who brainstormed to define strategic goals and then work towards objectives and actions. The next workshop will be held in Mulgrave (date & location TBD). On February 26<sup>th</sup> a public information session to be held at the Guysborough CLC will feature presenters from Tourism NS, TIANS, DEANS, and RICHES. A draft strategic document is expected to be completed by Spring 2019 and initial action steps to be implemented.

### Investment Readiness (Lead: John Beaton, CEO)

**Invest Eastern-Strait Project:** <https://www.esren.ca/esren-map/>

**Phase 2: Investment Report Card:** Pending. This project will see ESREN working alongside an investment consultant to assess investment potential of each municipality and develop a work plan for making each municipality more investment ready. Included in this work will be a multi-year workplan for ESREN to assist partner municipalities with improvement projects. Improvements may include (but not limited to) investment areas such as lead handling, infrastructure improvements, taxation structures, process for investment responses, promotion, investment response teams, etc.

**Note:** This project will launch upon notice of ESREN’s continuation.

## Broadband (Lead: Maria Ludlow, EDO)

The broadband committee met on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 with Bell Aliant representative Richard Jordan, Regional Access Planner and John Swantee to discuss Bell's coverage in the Eastern Strait Region. Bell indicated that they would prepare potential coverage plans for the area based on current infrastructure and need in the coming weeks. They stressed the need for additional funding to help service the areas in which there is no private business case or for NS broadband trust funds. Cellular coverage and potential funding streams were also raised as a topic of discussion. Once Bell has completed the information it will be presented to the Connect Eastern-Strait Committee.

## Regional First Nation/Municipal Economic Development Forum (Lead: Misty MacDonald, EDO)

Planning and development for regional economic development forum resulting as a sub-project of the joint economic partnership between P'aqtnekek First Nation, the Municipality of the County of Antigonish, and ESREN. The group has previously identified energy projects as one area of enhanced collaboration between parties and will host an energy fair at the beginning of the forum. Planning committee is meeting weekly and a tentative date has been set for May 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

## Eastern Strait Connector Program (Lead: Maria Ludlow, EDO)

As of January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019; the Connector Program has made 30 Connectees and 31 Connectors. There are several community events taking place in February for both employers and employees. Networking events and community-based activities include:

- Antigonish Employer Support Forum partnership with NS Works and ISANS
- Guysborough Employer Support Forum partnership with NS Works and ISANS
- Connect @ X partnership with St. FX departments
- Business Summit/Career Fair
- Public Engagements
- And, Labour Pool Development

The Connector Program benefits the Eastern-Strait region and newcomers by facilitating intercultural communication and creating personal connections based on both shared interests and community members' desire to make Eastern Nova Scotia a more welcoming and connected area.

For more updates please visit our website:

[www.esren.ca](http://www.esren.ca)

## **LOCAL Projects**

This report represents local projects only for your Municipality. If you wish to view the projects pertinent to the other Municipalities, please advise and we can forward those reports as well.

### **Municipality of the County of Antigonish**

## **BusinessNow!**

***The following businesses we have provided assistance under an agreement of confidentiality. Since the Town of Antigonish is a direct contributor to ESREN we will share this information with you - however ask that you respect our client's wishes of confidentiality.***

### **Startup: Eggcitables**

We are working with one new startup this month. Hanna Chisholm is the Owner of “Eggcitables” a vegan product currently aimed at a Nation-wide market. We’ve been working with Hanna to expand market base and preparing for an expected increase in production - Eggcitables is currently being manufactured via social enterprise in Halifax but we are looking into opportunities for expansion within the County for medium-sized manufacturing. Chisholm who is a native of Antigonish and still lives here is a recent graduate of St. F.X. and wants to maintain roots here.

### **Referral:**

We received a new referral with regard to an immigrant who would like to start a business in Antigonish. John Beaton will meet with the individual to discuss the business concept while Matt Berrigan connects them to NS Works to see what resources including English language training might be available.

### **Business Intake:**

All Occasion Luxury Transport Inc. Economic Development Officer Maria Ludlow is working with Mr. Gerard MacIsaac on company branding and identification of market segments. MacIsaac lives in Lochaber and operates a luxury transport business serving a local and provincial market.

## **Business Innovation Hub (A local lead project with Antigonish County)**

***ESREN is currently working with the private and public sector Innovation Hub committee to acquire funds to develop an innovation hub for new entrepreneurs. As an example of this concept see Ignite Labs, Yarmouth. <http://edcignite.com/>***

At our last meeting in late January, we have spoken with representatives from both ACOA and NS Rural Innovation District Funds and both organizations feel that we have a strong case for funding with the current concept. We also have a representative of ACOA (Mark Van De Wiel) who sits on the committee in an advisory capacity. ESREN will apply for Consultant Advisory Services Funding from ACOA this week to build a concept plan and budget. We will then use the concept to apply for infrastructure and operational capital in April/May of 2019. At this point in time the committee expects that we will proceed as a partnership with Volta Labs in Halifax to form “Volta East” in Antigonish along with many other providers of innovative entrepreneurial support. The overall concept aims to retain skills and establish new businesses in Antigonish.

## **Flex Labour Pool Project (FLPP Antigonish)**

***The FLPP Project is a result of labour concerns raised by owners of Peace by Chocolate, Tony’s Meats and Nova Construction. We are building a platform that accesses temporary labour using a new term called “Flex Labour” and an online platform accessible by employers and individuals wanting to work casual part-time labour. These candidates could be students, underemployed or retired individuals who work when they want to or when they are able to. We have also partnered with NS Works, NSCC and St. F.X. Once the system is built and working, we will house it with NS Works in Antigonish.***

With funding from Venture for Canada (VFC), ESREN has been able to hire a coordinator to begin examine best practices for online labour pools. The Research Coordinator will be responsible for presenting options to the committee and speaking with business owners and candidates to gauge interest and determine demand. The coordinator began working on February 6<sup>th</sup> and we will have him on staff until at least August, 2019.

## **Events**

- Business Support Forum – Cultural Workshop Placement – Mulgrave and Guysborough February 28<sup>th</sup> held at CLC in Guysborough, partnering with ISANS and NSW
- Business Network Curling Bonspiel – early March, Chedabucto Curling Centre
- Employer Summit & Job Fair – Claymore Inn & Suites, Antigonish, March 12<sup>th</sup>

## **Governance Events**

ESREN Board Meeting – January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, held in Antigonish

ESREN LOC Meeting – January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 held in Port Hawkesbury

**Antigonish County**

**Building Permits (Jan. 1 - 31)**

	Permits		Value	
	2019	2018	2019	2018
<b>Residential</b>				
New	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
Mobile Homes	1	1	81,000	150,000
Additions, Alterations and Renovations	1	0	35,000	-
Garages and Accessory Buildings	1	1	15,000	25,000
Multiple Units	0	0	-	-
	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$ 131,000</b>	<b>\$ 175,000</b>
<b>Agricultural, Commercial or Industrial</b>				
Agricultural	1	0	30,000	-
Commercial	0	2	-	120,000
Industrial	0	0	-	-
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>	<b>\$ 120,000</b>
<b>Institutional Buildings</b>				
New	0	0	-	-
Additions and Alterations	0	0	-	-
	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$ 161,000</b>	<b>\$ 295,000</b>

**Antigonish RCMP Monthly Report – 2019/01/01-2019/01/31**

**Submitted by Sgt. Warren McBeath – 2019/02/07**

**Occurrence and Crime Reporting**

Type of File	Town	County	Paqtnkek	Totals
Crime against Person	34	22	10	66
Crime against Property	12	7	1	20
Impaired Driving	5	6	0	11
Traffic Collisions	12	21	0	33
Traffic Offences	6	51	1	58
Checkpoints	1	3	0	4
911 Act-Offences Only	13	14	0	27
Other Municipal	6	0	0	6
Other Provincial	15	11	6	32
Other Criminal Code	3	1	0	4
Assist Other Gov't Agency	2	1	0	3
Assist GP/Crime Prevention	22	26	1	49
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>313</b>

**Upcoming Events:**

Reading Week at St. FX University is from February 18-22.

**Human Resources:**

S/Sgt. Holly Glassford remains on an indefinite assignment to the Northeast Nova District Office since September 11, 2017.

Cst. John Donaldson from Port Hawkesbury Detachment has been identified as the incoming Constable in the Street Crime Enforcement Unit. No date has been set for his transfer, although it should be in the next few months.

Two Constables have suffered duty-related injuries in January and will be off-duty for over 30 days.

As always, I am available at any time to meet or make presentations to your respective Council.

Regards,



Sgt. Warren McBeath  
Acting District Commander  
Antigonish RCMP  
902-863-6500  
warren.mcbeath@rcmp-grc.gc.ca