MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA

Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 5:30pm
Council Chambers
Municipal Administration Building
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

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1. Call to Order – Chair, Warden Nicholas MacInnis
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Review of August 25, 2026 Committee of the Whole Minutes
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
5. Delegations
6. Continuing Business
    a. There is no continuing business
7. New Business
    a. Acceptance of BCSF Funding
    b. By-law Officer Vehicle Purchase
    c. Community Evacuation Plan
    d. Discussion about Basic Income Letter of Support
8. Staff Reports
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. Additions to the Agenda
11. Adjournment

COUNCIL PRIORITIES (JUNE 2026)

NOW	Next
1. TOWN/COUNTY UTILITY **2. 5 YEAR CAPITAL PLAN (On-going)** **3. BOUNDARY REVIEW** **4. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY** **5. HOUSING: HAF**	• POLICY REVIEW POLICY: (On-going) • SOURCE WATER • RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT • ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION • LONG TERM SEWER STRATEGY • MUNICIPAL PLAN: Six MPS Review
ADVOCACY • *Communication Tower: Installation (BNS)* • *Communication Towers: Dead Zones (BNS)* • *ATV Corridors: Map (ATV Club)*	**PARTNERS** • *Housing Needs: Status (AAHS)* • *PFN Collaboration: Meeting* • *Shelter Providers: Forum*

Guiding Principles

Maximize Community Engagement & Communication	**Pursue Partnerships with Local & External Organizations**
Ensure Fiscal Responsibility & Sustainability	**Enhance Livable Community Opportunities**
Realizing Collaboration with Town	**Preserve an Accessible, Inclusive & Safe Place to Live**

Strategic Themes

RELIABLE UTILITIES - INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY- COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS – STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

OPERATIONAL INITIATIVES

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER 1. **TOWN/COUNTY UTILITY** 2. **HOUSING: HAF Action Plan Review** 3. Town/County Relations: Ongoing /Bi-weekly • By law Enforcement Proposal	**COMMUNIUTY SUSTAINABILITY** 1. Accessibility Plan: Review 2. Equity/Anti-Racism: Action Plan 3. Net Zero: Building Review • Climate Resilience Plan (HAF initiative) • Source Water Planning & Protection: (HAF initiative) • Rain Barrel Program
FINANCE 1. **5 YEAR CAPITAL PLAN (On-going)** 2. 2026-27 BUDGET • Water Rate Study • 2025 -2026 Audit • Data Transfer to Cloud	**PUBLIC WORKS** 1. County Water I & I: Ongoing 2. Source Water: (HAF initiative) 3. EPR • Asset Management
ADMINISTRATION **1. BOUNDARY REVIEW** **2.** COMMUNICATION STRATEGY • POLICY REVIEW POLICY • Gateway Signage • Tourism Strategy	**COMMUNITY PLANNING** 1. Eastern Antigonish MPS 2. Density Review: (HAF initiative) 3. MUNICIPAL PLAN: Overview • Subdivision Bylaw: Scope
RECREATION **1.** ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION **2.** Recreation Management Software **3.** Mini-Pitch Phase II: Accessible Washrooms • RECREATION NEED ASSESSMENT: RFP Community Use of Schools & Facility Allocation Policy	

CODES: **BOLD CAPITALS = NOW PRIORITIES**; CAPITALS = NEXT Priorities; Italics = Advocacy; Regular Title Case = Operational Strategies

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 25, 2026, 5:30pm
Municipal Administration Building
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

Present were:	Warden Nicholas MacInnis Deputy Warden John Dunbar Councillor Mary MacLellan Councillor Adam Baden-Clay (by Zoom) Councillor Shawn Brophy Councillor Wayne Melanson Councillor Gary Mattie Councillor Harris McNamara Councillor Sterling Garvie
Regrets:	Councillor Richelle MacLaughlin
Staff Present:	Shirlyn Donovan, CAO Beth Schumacher, Municipal Clerk
Others Present:	Gallery (by Zoom)

Call to Order- Warden MacInnis

Warden MacInnis called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden MacInnis called for approval of the Committee of the Whole meeting agenda. A number of additions were requested:

- Discussion regarding brush cutting by NSDPW
- Non-tarped garbage loads travelling to the transfer station
- Collection Truck Purchase

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Consideration of the June 23, 2026 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden MacInnis called for any errors or omissions in the minutes of June 23, 2026. The minutes were accepted as presented.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

In-Camera Items

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee move into an in-camera session to discuss Contract Negotiations at 5:36pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee adjourns the in-camera session at 5:56 pm.

Motion Carried

The following motion came forward from the in-camera session:

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council award the tender for the Wastewater Treatment Facility – System Assessment and Pre-Design to RVA in the Amount of $99,100 + HST.

Motion Carried

Members of the Committee discussed representation on the liaison committee as noted in the community benefits agreement. Where edits were suggested for the agreement, the motion to approve the community benefits agreement was not made.

New Business

CACL Funding Request

Mrs. Donovan spoke to a funding request that was made by CACL, to contribute to their legacy fund. They have requested $50,000 annually for five years. Staff is suggesting that CACL come in to present to Council at a future meeting to provide more details.

Eastern Nova Scotia Exhibition Barn Funding Request

Mrs. Donovan spoke to a request made by the Eastern Nova Scotia Exhibition for support in their capital campaign for the new barn that they just constructed. She noted that the Town has contributed $20,000 as a platinum sponsor. Discussion followed.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council support the funding request for the Eastern Nova Scotia Exhibition Barn Rebuilding Capital Project in the amount of $20,000 as a platinum sponsor.

Motion Carried.

Helping Healthcare Antigonish – Memorandum of Understanding

Mrs. Donovan noted that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County, Town, and Hospital Foundation regarding Helping Healthcare in Antigonish expires soon, and a renewal of this MOU is before Council for consideration. Mrs. Donovan noted that part of the renewal is looking at updating the name in the MOU from *Community Navigation and Physician Retention Services Association* to *Helping Healthcare Antigonish* to allow for the official name change with the Joint Stocks Registry.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Antigonish, the County of Antigonish, and the Hospital Foundation regarding Helping Healthcare Antigonish.

Motion Carried.

Additions to the Agenda

Brush Cutting Concerns with Nova Scotia Department of Public Works

Deputy Warden Dunbar expressed a concern with the lack of brush cutting on roads, with particular mention of the Heatherton Guysborough Road just off the Heatherton Village Road. He has not had any progress with reaching out to NSDPW and asked if other councillors are having similar concerns. Discussion followed.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council send a letter to Minister Thompson, Minister Morrow, and Minister Tilley regarding the need for brush cutting through the County, specifically on the Heatherton Guysborough Road.

Motion Carried.

Non-Tarped Garbage Loads Travelling to the Transfer Station

Councillor Garvie expressed ongoing concern with vehicles losing garbage while travelling to the transfer station because they have not been tarping their loads. Concern for pedestrian and vehicle safety if items fall off of moving vehicles were shared. Staff noted that they could request the RCMP or compliance to give warnings to discourage this unsafe practice. Opportunities for education and signage were also discussed.

Collection Truck Purchase

Mrs. Donovan explained that staff had budgeted $660,000 for a new garbage truck. She noted that Ms. Feltmate met with companies that are part of the CANOE procurement pool to identify a vehicle that could be delivered by Christmas time. The new truck identified is below the cost approved by Council in the 2026/27 capital budget. Public Works is recommending to reserve / pre-order to truck noted in the motion to ensure delivery by the end of the year. A question was asked about whether contracting out garbage services was evaluated. Staff noted that they had not been directed to explore that option, and the existing contract with Circular Materials subjects to the Municipality to certain obligations.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council reserve the 2026 Freightliner 114SD Tandem Axle Chassis and the LaBrie Expert Manual Comingle Side Loader 35 yard mounted on approved chassis plus the safety add-ons for a total of $496,130 + HST.

Motion Carried.

Adjournment

Moved and Seconded

That Committee of the Whole meeting adjourns at 6:36 pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Nicholas MacInnis

Shirlyn Donovan, CAO

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Memo for Direction

TO: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

FROM: SHIRLYN DONOVAN, CAO

SUBJECT: **Build Communities Strong Funding**

DATE: September 8, 2026

In February of 2025, the Municipality applied to the Canadian Housing Infrastructure Fund (CHIF), direct to Municipalities funding stream, in partnership with Antigonish Affordable Housing Society for funding to support the road and sidewalks into their Sugarloaf Development as well as water and wastewater infrastructure.

In the Summer of 2025, we heard back from the Federal Government with some questions and then didn't hear anything further on our application until Winter 2026 at which time we were told that the CHIF program no longer had funding and asked if we wanted the application to be considered until the Build Communities Strong Fund, to which we agreed.

In July 2026, we were notified that the application was successful and the Municipality would be receiving $566,644 to support the project.

The remainder of the funding for the road project will come from the fundraising that Antigonish Affordable Housing Society is doing for their overall development.

On August 27th, Parliamentary Secretary Jaime Battiste and Warden Nicholas MacInnis announced the federal investment of more than $560,000 in extending municipal water, wastewater, and stormwater systems in the Municipality of the County of Antigonish through the Direct Delivery stream of the Build Communities Strong Fund.

In partnership with the Antigonish Affordable Housing Society (AAHS), this project will involve the construction of a new road and sidewalk and the extension of municipal water, wastewater, and stormwater systems to enable the development of 150 new affordable housing units. The new housing developments will include four units for individuals with intellectual disabilities and 10 supportive housing units

In order to accept the funds from the Federal Government, staff need a motion of Council to transfer the money and confirm we have the authority and capacity to enter into and execute the funding agreement with Canada.

STAFF REPORT

To: Committee of the Whole
From: Beth Schumacher, Municipal Clerk
Subject: **By-law Officer Vehicle Request for Quotations Results**
Date: 08/09/2026

RECOMMENDATION

Staff suggests the following motion for the committee's consideration:

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council purchases one 2026 Chev Equinox LT AWD vehicle from Ron MacGillivray Chev Buick GMC at the quoted price of $42,850.75 (HST incl)**.**

SUMMARY

In July, staff prepared a request for quotes (RFQ) for a vehicle that would be suitable for use by the By-law Officer, outlining required features but keeping the type of vehicle broad to allow for a range of options. The RFQ posted to the municipal website, the provincial procurement website, and was hand delivered to five (5) major dealerships in the community. The deadline for submissions was Friday, August 14th.

BACKGROUND

Staff proposed and received approval from Council to look for a vehicle for the By-law Officer, up to the budgeted amount of $65,000. This budget cap was not shared in the RFQ. Staff stipulated that the vehicle needed to be automatic, all-wheel drive or 4-wheel drive, gas, and have several safety and power features that would support the function of the vehicle for by-law enforcement duties.

DISCUSSION

Seven proposals from five dealerships were received by staff, with one of those proposals being submitted after the deadline (August 24th). The proposals, listed in order received, are as follows:

Dealership	Vehicle	Notable Features	Price (HST Incl)	Image of Vehicle
MotorHub Mitsubishi Antigonish	2025 Mitsubishi Outlander	AWD Trailer stability assist Lane departure warning, driver attention alert, blind spot warning	$51,616.58	

Pothier Motors Limited (Falmouth, NS)	2026 Jeep Compass (New, White Exterior)	AWD Quote includes parts and installation of flashing lights noted in RFQ	$46,590.00	
Keltic Ford Antigonish	2026 Ford Maverick XL (New Shadow Black Exterior)	AWD 8-speed automatic	$50,952.30	
Keltic Ford Antigonish	2026 Ford Bronco Sport Big Bend (New, White Exterior)	4x4 Liftgate w/flip-up glass Lane departure warning, rear parking sensor, pre-collision assist	$48,343.98	
Ron MacGillivray Chev Buick GMC	2026 Chev Equinox LT AWD (New, White or Grey Exterior)	Collision warning system, active lane safety system AWD	$42,850.75	
Ron MacGillivray Chev Buick GMC	2025 Chev Equinox LT AWD (Used, White Exterior)	Odometer = 34,052 Collision warning system, active lane safety system AWD	$32,405.25	
MacDonald Chrysler Limited (submission received August 24th – delay in quote for requested upfit)	2026 Dodge Durango GT	AWD	$65,185.00	

Having reviewed these proposals for compliance with the criteria listed on the RFQ, along with the prices quoted, staff is recommending proceeding with purchasing the 2026 Chev Equinox LT AWD vehicle from Ron MacGillivray Chev Buick GMC at the quoted price of $42,850.75 with HST included.

NEXT STEPS

Once staff is given direction to proceed with the purchase of the recommended vehicle, the successful dealership will be contacted so that arrangements can be made for preparation of after-market features requested and delivery. Staff will then have the vehicle branded, using the municipal branding developed as part of the communications plan work, looking at an options similar to the following:





Recommended Motion:

Staff suggests the following motion for the committee's consideration:

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council purchases one 2026 Chev Equinox LT AWD vehicle from Ron MacGillivray Chev Buick GMC at the quoted price of $42,850.75 (HST incl).

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

STAFF REPORT

TO:	Committee of the Whole
FROM:	Blaise MacDonald, AREMO Coordinator
SUBJECT:	**Community Evacuation Plan**
DATE:	08/09/2026

Recommendation

Staff recommends the following motions:

That the Committee of the Whole recommends that Municipal Council approves the Community Evacuation Plan, dated May 5, 2026, as presented.

Background

The Community Evacuation Plan is intended to provide a clear and coordinated framework for responding to emergencies that may require residents, businesses, and visitors to evacuate the community.

The plan outlines key responsibilities, evacuation procedures, communication methods, and coordination with emergency response agencies.

Discussion

The plan was reviewed by the Department of Emergency Management, Canadian red Cross, Antigonish Fire Services and with the AREMO Planning Committee members at the Q2 AREMO Advisory Committee meeting held on August 27, 2026.

This plan is also being presented to Antigonish Town Council for their review and approval.

ANTIGONISH REGIONAL EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

Antigonish, Nova Scotia

Version 1.0
May 05, 2026

Approval Signatures:

Nicholas MacInnis
Warden
Municipality of the County of Antigonish

Sean Cameron
Mayor
Town of Antigonish

Record of Amendments

Amendment No.	Version No.	Section/Pages Amended	Amended By	Approval Date
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
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12				

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Copy No.	Organization
1	Antigonish Regional Emergency Management Organization (EMO Coordinator)
2	Municipality of the County of Antigonish (CAO)
3	Town of Antigonish (CAO)
4	Nova Scotia Department of Emergency Management
5	Municipality of the County of Antigonish Office - EOC (Multi-Purpose Room)
6	Town of Antigonish Office – EOC (Town Chambers)
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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

This Evacuation Plan is only one part of preparedness efforts that include training, exercises and the debriefing of actual events. As the Antigonish Regional Emergency Management Organization grows, so will the Evacuation Plan. Due to the nature of major emergencies, there may be a need to adapt the plan during an evacuation or sheltering-in-place as well. Therefore, the following plan should not be seen as a definitive rigid solution, but rather the basis for continuous planning efforts.

As a result of an emergency incident in the Antigonish region an evacuation may be the chosen form of protective action. Evacuation may result in a tremendous psychological effect on those persons directly affected. Adequate communication with people involved is essential and shall include explaining that an evacuation is pending, what they shall be required to do and when they should be required to react if an evacuation is issued. A decision to evacuate should only be made when absolutely required.

First response agencies alone cannot be expected to deal with a large-scale evacuation and relocation of residents. An effective response will require participation and cooperation between municipal services, provincial resources and volunteer services such as ground search and rescue and humanitarian organizations.

1.2 Authorities

The authority for an evacuation is afforded by the Nova Scotia Municipal Government Act.

The legal authority for local authorities to order an evacuation rest within the Nova Scotia Emergency Management Act (1990) Section 14(f) – Protection of property and health or safety.

Protection of property and health or safety – Section 14

Upon a state of local emergency being declared in respect to a municipality or an area thereof, the mayor/ warden may, during the state of local emergency, in respect of such municipality or an area thereof, do everything necessary for the protection of property and the health and safety of persons therein may:

a) Cause an emergency management plan or any part thereof to be implemented;
b) Acquire or utilize or cause the acquisition or utilization of personal property by confiscation or any means considered necessary;
c) Authorize or require a qualified person to render aid of such type as that person may be qualified to provide;
d) Control or prohibit travel to or on a road, street or highway;
e) Provide for the maintenance and restoration of essential facilities, the distribution of essential supplies and the maintenance and coordination of emergency medical, social and other essential services;
f) Cause or order the evacuation of persons and the removal of livestock and personal property threatened by an emergency and make arrangements for the adequate care and protection thereof;
g) Authorize the entry by a person into any building or upon land without warrant;

h) Cause or order the demolition or removal of any thing where the demolition or removal is necessary or advisable for the purpose of reaching the scene of an emergency, or attempting to forestall its occurrence or of combating its progress;

i) Order the assistance of persons needed to carry out provisions mentioned in this Section;

j) Regulate the distribution and availability of essential goods, services and resources;

k) Authorize and make emergency payments;

l) Assess damage to any works, property or undertaking and the costs to repair, replace or restore the same;

m) Assess damage to the environment and the costs and methods to eliminate or alleviate the damage.

1.3 Purpose

The purpose of this Evacuation Plan is to provide a path through which a timely and effective evacuation and reception of people can be achieved.

The Plan will be activated as soon as it becomes apparent that, due to an emergency of such magnitude as to warrant its implementation, evacuation and relocation of people is necessary.

Should a major incident occur in our region, the A.R.E.M.O. Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) or designate, on the advice of the first response agency, will consult with the EOC DIRECTORS (CAOs) to activate the Emergency Management Plan (E.M.P.). The EMC or alternate will activate the notification procedure set out in the Emergency Management Plan (E.M.P.), so members of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) are alerted and instructed to report to the EOC.

If the need to evacuate and relocate residents of the affected area(s) is clear, the provisions of the Evacuation Plan shall be implemented. In such events, the Municipality shall discuss the need to declare a State of Local Emergency (SOLE), if a mandatory evacuation is needed. If there is a fire or the possibility of fire, the Fire Chief or Alternate has the authority to declare the mandatory evacuation at the current time there is no advantage to declaring a SOLE.

2.0 THEORY OF OPERATION

2.1 General

Evacuation is one means of protecting the public from the effects of a hazard; protection is achieved by moving people away from the hazard. In planning for evacuation, the characteristics of the hazard and its magnitude, intensity, speed of onset, and anticipated duration are all significant factors. These will determine the number of people to be evacuated, the distance people must be moved to ensure their safety, the need for reception facilities, and the extent of traffic control and security required.

The community must be prepared to conduct both small-scale (e.g. single facility or limited local) and large-scale (e.g. extensive local and regional) evacuations at all times of the day both from known hazard areas and from unexpected incident locations.

2.2 Types of Evacuation

2.2.1 Pre-Emptive Evacuation

- Given adequate warning about a hazard, sufficient resources, and a likely threat, it will be advisable to conduct pre-emptive evacuations.
- A pre-emptive evacuation may be undertaken when if delayed, conditions (weather or other hazard) would impede evacuation.

2.2.2 No Notice Evacuation

- It may be advisable to carry out an evacuation even while a threat is facing a community.
- With an evacuation of this type, decision may need to be made with limited information.
- Decision-makers, such as the EOC Director/ Incident Commander, must be willing to make decisions with whatever information is available at the time. They may have little or no time to wait for additional information because any delay may have a significant impact on public safety.
- Pre-planning will be instrumental in supporting decision-making in no-notice situations.
- Evacuations of this nature are done when life safety is at extreme risk. Such an evacuation poses increased risk to all involved.
- To acquire resources and expedite the evacuation normally requires extraordinary measures (i.e., a State of Local Emergency has been declared).
- Emergency responders may require personal protective equipment, as responder safety will be critical.
- Provincial or Federal assets may be required to facilitate an evacuation of this type.

2.2.3 Post Incident Evacuations

- After a threat has already impacted a community (i.e., flooding), it may be necessary to:
    - Remove residents from an environment that is no longer able to support them, or
    - Prevent or mitigate the onset of additional consequences leading to a prolonged or new emergency.

2.2.4 Partial Evacuations

- Larger incidents may affect the entire region.
- Evacuations of this type often involve a larger number of evacuees, possibly from more than one municipality.

- This will require concentrated effort by emergency management personnel to coordinate, transport, and shelter the affected populations, and will place greater demands on staff and resources.
- Incidents that trigger a wide-spread evacuation typically cause far-reaching damage and are therefore more likely to compromise critical infrastructure in a manner that hampers evacuee movement.
- Structural damage to the transportation systems, such as bridges, and highways, may make them unsafe for use.
- If these sites are located on evacuation routes, those routes may be unavailable, and alternatives will need to be identified.
- In cases where the transportation network is severely restricted by such damage, sheltering in-place may be a safer short-term alternative.

2.2.5 Widespread Evacuations

- Larger incidents may affect the entire region.
- Evacuations of this type often involve a larger number of evacuees, possibly from more than one municipality.
- This will require concentrated effort by emergency management personnel to coordinate, transport, and shelter the affected populations, and will place greater demands on staff and resources.
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- Structural damage to the transportation systems, such as bridges, and highways, may make them unsafe for use.
- If these sites are located on evacuation routes, those routes may be unavailable, and alternatives will need to be identified.
- In cases where the transportation network is severely restricted by such damage, sheltering in-place may be a safer short-term alternative.

2.2.6 Self-Evacuations

- Self-evacuation is when people choose to evacuate without explicit direction to do so.
- If people self-evacuate, they may still request shelter or other essential services.

2.2.7 Shelter-In-Place

- This is a precaution aimed to keep residents safe while remaining indoors.
- Shelter-in-place means selecting a small, interior room, with no or few windows, and taking refuge there. It does not mean sealing off your entire home or office building.

2.3 Evacuation Organizational Structure

To support a mass evacuation of within the Antigonish region the Antigonish REMO Emergency Coordination Centre is structured under the Incident Command System.

2.4 Possible Community Hazards

The Antigonish REMO Hazard Identification Risk Analysis (HIRA) will be assessed by the A.R.E.M.O. Planning Committee (E A.R.E.M.O.P.C). The HIRA will determine the potential hazards that may create

the need to evacuate. The list below is not extensive, and events are not listed and in any order of risk. The following list is considered potential community hazards that may affect all or part of the region.

- Inland or coastal flooding
- Wildfires
- Weather events (hurricanes, blizzard, ice storms, extreme heat)
- Dangerous goods release (transportation or industrial)
- Highway closures

2.5 Evacuation Considerations

When considering the decision-making process as it relates to evacuations, the following factors need to be evaluated:

- Risk analysis of the underlying cause of the incident such as toxicity of substances, explosive characteristics of substance(s), reactivity characteristics of substance(s), wind direction, topography, fire.
- The number of persons to be evacuated.
- The approximate number of persons requiring special assistance to evacuate.
- Debris and damaged infrastructure.
- Egress routes.
- Time of day.
- Available lead time.
- Safety of emergency workers.
- Potential risk to evacuees during movement.
- Availability of resources to support the movement of evacuees.
- Land use of area – residential, employment, mixed uses.

2.6 Activation of the Evacuation Plan

The Emergency Management Coordinator will periodically evaluate the entire Emergency Management Program, by measuring the performance of selected actions and the achievement of desired results.

2.7 Evacuation Presumptions

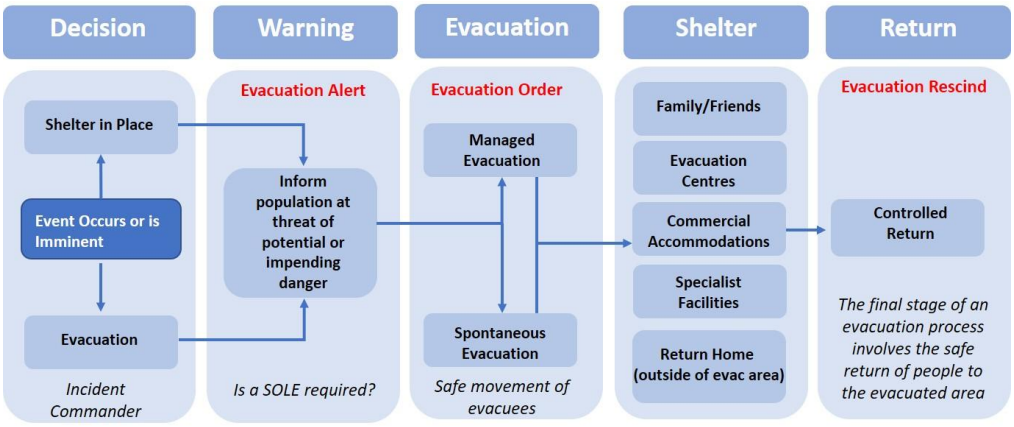
During the development of an evacuation plan, these considerations need to be recognized:

- Spontaneous evacuation will occur when there is sufficient warning of the threat. Between 5 and 20 % of the people at risk will self-evacuate before being directed to do so;
- Some people will refuse to evacuate, regardless of the threat;
- Some individuals will require transportation support to evacuate;
- Some owners of animals will refuse to evacuate unless arrangements have been made to care for their animals;

- Approximately 10 to 20 % of the population impacted will require some form of assistance from local Emergency Services teams in the Reception Centres. This figure could vary depending on the composition of the community.
- Many evacuees will seek shelter with relatives, friends or hotels rather than use government provided facilities;
- For some hazards, such as flooding, designated evacuation routes must be used to safely evacuate people;
- The day of the week and time of day will determine if individuals/families will be at their homes or separated at work and/or school; and
- Many hazards provide a warning period which allows for a planned evacuation and re-entry.

2.8 Evacuation Process

Evacuation takes place within a process that begins with preparing for the possible need to evacuate populations at high risk from imminent or actual disaster. It involves ongoing risk monitoring and management as the situation and needs of evacuees evolve over time, and only ends with their safe, voluntary, and sustainable reintegration back home or in alternate locations.



2.9 Evacuation Operations – Incident Command Team

Once the decision has been made to evacuate an area, the EOC Director shall determine the following:

- Sign the evacuation order;
- Define boundaries of area to be evacuated;
- Indicate main evacuation route(s) to be used and identify necessary traffic control points;
- Assign staging area(s) to be used;
- Time the evacuation will start and if necessary, who will be evacuated first;
- Activate the notification system for affected residents.

2.10 Evacuee Registration and Facility Locations

If an evacuation is necessary, a list of possible facilities is available at the EOC that can be used as Registration Centres, Comfort Centres and/or Emergency Shelters. Once registered, the residents will be directed to appropriate facilities if they require additional support.

The Evacuees who have been relocated to temporary shelters will require a wide range of support services. The Nova Scotia Department of Opportunities and Social Development (DOSD) has the primary responsibility for the provision of all such services, with the assistance of agencies such as the Canadian Red Cross, St. John Ambulance and the Salvation Army. The Canadian Red Cross is under contract with DOSD to provide the following six (6) services in the event of an evacuation.

1. Registration and Inquiry
2. Emergency Clothing
3. Emergency Lodging
4. Emergency Food
5. Personal Services
6. Mental health and psychosocial supports

2.11 Facilities

At first, residents are encouraged to seek shelter with friends, family, hotels or other alternate accommodations. It is important that evacuees register by calling or in person at the reception centre. This will allow authorities to contact you with updates and the re-entry details. There are three types of emergency facilities that may be established:

2.11.1 Comfort Centres

Comfort Centres, sometimes known as Warming or Cooling Centres, are primarily used for residents who are remaining in their homes but do not have full services such as electricity, heat, water etc. The centre can provide a place to go to get light snacks pick up small amounts of needed items and attend to personal hygiene matters. Comfort Centres are normally operated by the municipality and/or local volunteer organizations and are not run by DOSD, however, DOSD may assist in some cases with supplies like bottled water, for example.

2.11.2 Reception Centres

During an evacuation situation, residents can use a reception centre to provide a safe area of refuge to assess their individual situation and make temporary plans. The centre also allows the DOSD through its partners, such as the Canadian Red Cross, to provide a registration and assessment service. In a reception centre, displaced residents can meet with evacuation officials to discuss personal needs and other issues such as security of the evacuation area, re-entry procedures, etc. It is normally at a reception centre that a determination is made on how many residents do not have alternate temporary housing arrangements. If there are enough residents needing overnight accommodation, an emergency shelter may be set up.

Reception centres are provided by the municipality and managed by the DOSD. A reception centre may be open overnight, but by its definition, it does not offer sleeping accommodations. It is normally only used at the beginning of an event and sometimes it may turn into a shelter if the

facility it is in meets the needs of the evacuees. There is no requirement to have the reception centre and the emergency shelter in the same facility.

2.11.3 Emergency Shelters

When enough residents are unable to remain in their homes and no other source of temporary housing, an emergency shelter may be established. The shelter is provided by the municipality and is managed by DOSD through its agreement with the Canadian Red Cross. It operates on a 24/7 basis and provides all the six emergency social services (ESS) including overnight sleeping arrangements. Essentially, the shelter turns into the evacuated resident's home. Therefore, more attention is placed on security and issues around comfort and personal services that will be needed over the time the shelter is operational. Shelters have more requirements for personal space, washrooms, expanded personal hygiene areas, as well as feeding. Food preparation may be done on site if the facility is properly equipped or may be prepared off-site and served at the shelter. Support to the DOSD may be needed, so again, there is an important role for community volunteers.

2.12 Special Needs Populations

Residents of the impacted area may have specialized needs in evacuating. The aged, infirm, hospital patients, nursing home/home for the aged residents, daycares, schools etc. may require specialized transport to evacuate. The facilities responsible for the care of special groups must have an evacuation plan for their site and a pre-selected destination where the needs of the special groups can be managed.

A portion of the population with special needs, reside in family homes or their own homes and may not have a personal evacuation plan. Special populations under home care need to have a preparedness plan and identify themselves to emergency services personnel to ensure that they can be safely removed from danger.

EHS will be directed to coordinate with other emergency services to facilitate the evacuation of populations with special needs.

2.13 Domestic Animal Care and Relocation

Evacuation and care of domestic animals is an increasingly important issue for emergency managers and the public. As pets are not allowed in shelters, the Regional Emergency Management Coordinator will coordinate with DEM NS for the Disaster Animal Response Team of Nova Scotia assistance in the establishment of pet shelters.

There are several considerations involved in providing domestic animal services:

- Communication to owners that the ultimate responsibility to find alternative lodging for domestic animals lies with the animal owner.
- Emergency management organizations and animal care agencies should work together to coordinate the expertise and resources of both emergency managers and animal care providers.
- Domestic animals need to be housed in a facility separate from shelter facilities due to potential allergies from exposure.
- Protocols for rescue workers who encounter animals are also helpful.
- Local authorities should become familiar with public health considerations and liability.

- Food and medical care for domestic animals.
- Clear guidelines should be communicated to owners, for example, how much food to bring, if kennel cases are required etc.
- Care of individuals always takes priority over the care of domestic animals.

In most cases, Emergency Social Services coordinates with pet services with assistance from local animal shelters and non-profit organizations

2.14 Traffic Management

In most evacuation scenarios, most evacuee movements will take place on roadways and highways, in both personal vehicles and coordinated transit vehicles like school buses or private vendors. Given the potentially large numbers of vehicles that will be accessing the roadway network at the same time, it is important to consider what can be done to increase the capacity of roadways.

The purpose of traffic management during an evacuation is to ensure:

- Evacuation routes are kept clear and are used as intended
- Emergency vehicles can access the emergency area
- Unauthorized vehicles are kept out of the emergency area

Traffic management tactics may include:

- The assignment of police resources to strategic locations to prevent congestions and unauthorized access to an emergency area.
- The use of additional signage to provide direction to evacuees on routes, destinations, etc.
- Converting two-way roads to one-way.
- Modifying traffic light controls at appropriate intersections.
- Dispatching tow trucks and other equipment as appropriate to remove obstacles.
- Establishing temporary holding lots for disabled vehicles to keep routes clear for evacuating traffic.
- Closure of inbound lanes on selected roads and highways to prevent people from entering an area while evacuations are taking place.
- Establishing a high-occupancy vehicle lane.

In terms of the best tactics to employ in an evacuation, the choice depends on the unique characteristics of our region's transportation network and the characteristics of the emergency.

2.15 Access Control and Security

Security in evacuated areas is extremely important. Those who have evacuated may not do so in the future if their property has been damaged or stolen during their absence.

Along with controlling traffic during an evacuation, law enforcement will establish roadblocks to limit entry into evacuated areas and, where possible, conduct periodic roving patrols within such areas to deter theft by those on foot. To the extent possible, fire services will take measures to ensure continued fire protection.

Access control points, devices and procedures are predetermined by law enforcement or would be developed or secured by law enforcement specific to the event. These access points or roadblocks may be manned by law enforcement and/or fire service personnel.

If an evacuated area has sustained damage and cannot be reoccupied for an extended period, it may be desirable to implement a permit system with a sign-in/sign-out protocol, to monitor and limit access to emergency workers, homeowners, business owners, utility workers, and contractors restoring damaged structures and removing debris.

2.16 Demobilization and Re-Entry

2.16.1 Return to the Risk Area

The process for re-entry into the evacuated areas must be coordinated to ensure safety of the public, protection of property, and the continuation of response and recovery activities. The Municipalities will be responsible for notifying residents when it is safe to return to their homes and businesses. Law enforcement will be responsible for ensuring the return occurs in an orderly and safe fashion.

2.16.2 Re-Entry Scenarios

Once the threat has passed, Antigonish REMO's re-entry procedures may be based upon one of three (3) scenarios:

- Incident has passed and there is little or no damages that affect the communities.
- Effects are isolated to a localized area, operational area, or region of the county with minimal or isolated significant damages.
- Total devastation with significant infrastructure damages over a widespread area.

2.16.3 Re-Entry Decision

The decision of when to permit residents to return to the affected area will be made cooperatively between Antigonish's Regional EOC, supporting agencies and municipalities in the impacted areas based upon the three scenarios above. The decision to allow re-entry will be based on an overall evaluation of the situation, including the following major factors:

- Access – Following a major event a survey (ground or aerial) of the impacted areas should be conducted immediately to identify and prioritize the most seriously damaged areas of the locality. This can determine the level of damage to major routes into the area and help to determine the time needed for debris clearance from those routes.
- Essential Emergency Services – Emergency Service agencies that have been moved to safety prior to an evacuation need to return to their service areas.
- Water Levels – Floodwaters have receded from most of the area.
- Wildfire Areas – Wildfire activity is controlled and no longer a threat to the public.
- Public Health – Water and sewer services are operating, or reasonable accommodations are in place or available.
- Subsistence – Food is available or made available in the impacted area.

- Utilities – Electricity, water, telephone, and propane services are operating, or information is available about when they will be available in the affected area or reasonable accommodations are in place or available.
- Existing services can support the people already in the impacted area as well as an additional influx of people.

2.16.4 Re-Entry Teams

Re-entry teams should begin the process of clearing access to critical facilities and roads to facilitate the re-entry process. The Pre-Re-Entry Teams consist of but are not limited to:

- Public Works Team with heavy equipment (front end loader, backhoe, etc.), and chain saw crews.
- Power Crews to identify and remove downed utility lines (Power, Cable, etc.).
- Emergency Medical Service to provide medical support to victims that are relocated while opening roads.
- Fire Service agencies to provide incident, evacuation, and re-entry support.
- Law Enforcement to provide security for crews.

It needs to be understood that the Pre-Re-Entry Teams are not Search and Rescue Teams, they are only tasked with opening roads to gain access so Search and Rescue Teams and Damage Assessment teams can gain access to areas of destruction.

2.16.5 Informing Evacuees of Re-Entry Procedures

Public Information Officers at the Incident Command Post, and the EOC will coordinate messaging regarding re-entry procedures. This will be done through multiple means, including news releases, public briefings, social media, town and county website messaging and the municipal emergency notification system.

2.16.6 Phased Re-Entry

Once the decision to permit re-entry has been established, law enforcement personnel should set up checkpoints and roadblocks as needed based upon the level of damage that has occurred. Re-entry can proceed as recommended based upon a phased re-entry. This can ensure primary access to essential personnel and help to manage the number of people entering the disaster area.

- **Phase 1** – allows the re-entry of agencies and groups that play key roles in restoring normal operations in the impacted areas following a disaster. Law enforcement personnel should restrict access during this phase to provide for area safety and security. Phase 1 agencies and groups may include, but are not limited to, the following:
    - Law enforcement agencies
    - Search and Rescue Responders
    - Fire and EHS crews
    - Facility/Industry Emergency Response Teams
    - Debris Clearing and Removal Crews

- Infrastructure and Utilities Repair Personnel
- Official Damage Assessment Teams
- Other personnel at the direction of the Antigonish EOC

- **Phase 2** – allows for the short-term limited re-entry of other critical groups as well as residents and business owners to assess damages. The EOC in coordination with public safety personnel should determine when it is safe to begin Phase 2 entry. These groups may include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - All agencies and personnel listed under Phase 1
  - Resident and Business Owners (with Insurance Adjusters and Contractors) to conduct insurance assessments (access may be temporary)
  - Relief Workers
  - Health Agencies
  - Large Box Store Management and Staff (to support recovery ops)
  - Hotel/Motel Staff (to prepare for receiving of Provincial and National relief agencies)
- **Phase 3** - allows for the re-entry of only those residents and business owners who can prove they live, own, rent, lease, or otherwise have a need to be allowed into the affected areas. It includes all agencies and personnel from Phase 1 and 2, as well as residents and business owners within the evacuated area. Phase 3 may still involve roadblocks and areas where access is limited.

2.17 Essential Services

Depending on the risk, designated essential services cannot be fully evacuated and minimal staff must remain on the job. In this instance, a plan must be in place to ensure the staff remain safe and an extraction protocol with triggers in case the staff must be evacuated quickly. Each municipal unit in the County must complete a list of these services and the minimal staffing requirements well before an incident occurs.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

Evacuation will be under the direction of the Police, assisted by the Fire Service when requested. Traffic control will be under the direction of the Police with support as required, including the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works and municipal Public Works Departments.

Notifications will normally be by door-to-door (if it is safe to do so) canvassing by police, fire, or others as designated by police – see **Annex I** (Instructions for Door Knockers – Shelter-in-Place), **Annex J** (Instructions for Door Knockers – Evacuation Alert), and **Annex K** (Instructions for Door Knockers – Evacuation Order). Where appropriate, sirens and emergency vehicle Public Announcement systems will be used. Antigonish REMO Emergency Coordination Centre (EOC) Information Officer, or designate, will coordinate with local media outlets for 24-hour announcements are to be kept current, and standard public announcement messages are to be available for immediate use.

Antigonish REMO shall maintain a current listing of transportation resources that can be immediately deployed. These shall include private buses, school buses, taxis, etc. For special needs, such as during severe weather, local snowmobile clubs, ATV clubs, Ground Search & Rescue teams, and area fire department resources, etc. may also be requested to assist.

Antigonish REMO Regional Emergency Management Coordinator (REMC) shall maintain a current listing of registration centres/comfort centres/emergency shelters that can be immediately assessed, such as fire halls, community centres, and recreation centres, schools, etc., with a current listing of contact names and phone numbers.

Antigonish REMO will liaison with the Red Cross who are responsible to provide (a) registration and inquiry, (b) lodging, (c) feeding, (d) clothing and (e) personal needs during an emergency. The Red Cross is to be notified immediately when an evacuation is being considered or implemented, normally through the 24-hour emergency response number of 1-800-222-9597.

With termination of the need for evacuation, as determined through consultation among the agencies involved, notice shall be given by all appropriate means to evacuees regarding any special procedures or cautions to be taken when returning to their homes.

Antigonish REMO shall be prepared to work with Provincial and Federal authorities as appropriate to arrange any special funding issues that may result from the emergency.

3.1 Site Level – Incident Commander

- Ensure all agencies that will be involved are consulted prior to evacuation
- Determine evacuation area
- Establish a perimeter to exclude people from entering the evacuation area – indicate perimeter on map
- Establish a policy on whether persons will be advised or ordered to evacuate
- Assemble, brief, and deploy personnel
- Announce evacuation plan decisions (boundaries and evacuation routes)
- Distribute evacuation Alerts and/or Orders
- Door-to-door canvassing and house-marking

- Work with local volunteer groups who are providing on the ground support to evacuation such as local Search and Rescue
- Continue to monitor the situation and re-evaluate the need to evacuate, keeping all field units up to date regarding changes
- Provide advice and information on any special precautions that should be taken during and after the event
- Determine the number of people needing transportation
- Determine actions required to establish access control
- Agency in charge: _____
- Resources assigned:
    - Police
    - Fire
    - Public Works
    - Other _____
- Determine any specialized resources required
- Agency in charge: _____
- Resources assigned:
    - HAZMAT Teams (special equipment needed)
    - Fire Service (level of Personal Protective Equipment needed)
    - Decontamination (set up area)
    - Ambulance Service (triage and treatment area)

3.2 Emergency Operations Centre

- Inform agencies of the evacuation order including DEM NS.
- Prepare a media release for immediate broadcast to the public.
- Initiate a state of local emergency (SOLE) if required.
- Provide resource support to the site.
- Select reception centres for registry and inquiry and shelters if necessary to accommodate the evacuees.
- Provide information to the Incident Command Team at the site(s).
- Assist the site in identifying the main evacuation routes.
- Arrange for services and resources from neighbouring municipalities, private contractors, volunteer agencies and service clubs to support the requests from site and meet the objectives of the EOC.
- During the emergency/evacuation, authorizing extraordinary municipal expenditures as required.
- Ensuring that pertinent information regarding the emergency is promptly forwarded to the Public
- Information Officer (PIO) for dissemination to the media and to the public.

- Working in conjunction with all stakeholders to handle requests for information, key messaging, and agency media releases to ensure consistency with respect to the emergency.
- Develop a re-entry plan for the inspection of evacuated areas and orderly return of residents after the evacuation order is terminated and inspection is complete.

3.3 Emergency Social Services (ESS)

- Consider Reception Centre locations, number of people who will need to be assisted and for what length of time.
- Establish appropriate facility for Reception Centre outside of any potential risk area
- Activate local ESS to set up needed Reception Centres and Group Lodging facilities
- Ensure Reception Centre locations are announced and provided to people impacted.
- Consider at-risk population evacuation needs.
- Consider potential for domestic animals to be evacuated with families and alert pet care providers.
- Dispatch transportation to special facilities and identified areas where assistance is required.

3.4 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

- *Establish Perimeters* – establishment of inner and outer perimeters at the emergency or disaster site
- *Crowd and traffic control* – control to facilitate the movement of emergency vehicles, and if necessary, disperse crowds within the emergency site
- *Evacuation lead* – lead the evacuation of designated buildings or areas
- *Animal control* – act as liaison with the Humane Society when animal control is required
- *Coroner assistance* – provision of assistance to the coroner

3.5 Strait Area Ground Search and Rescue

- *Search and rescue* – provide search and rescue personnel for missing persons under the direction of the RCMP
- *Evacuation support* – assist in evacuation activities, first aid, and help in assembly areas

3.6 Canadian Red Cross

- *Emergency shelters* – manage designated emergency shelters and reception centres
- *Primary provider* – support affected populations by providing sufficient personnel for food, clothing, shelter, reception and information, registration and inquiry, and other personal services

3.7 Department of Natural Resources

- *Wildfire management* – responsible for wildfire control and management

4.0 PUBLIC EDUCATION & AWARENESS OF EVACUATION PROCEDURES

Since public awareness of evacuation procedures will contribute to an effective evacuation process, ongoing public awareness and education shall be an integral component of this plan. To this end, this Evacuation Plan, as part of the A.R.E.M.O. Emergency Management Plan, shall be posted on the Municipality of the County of Antigonish and the Town of Antigonish websites in order that the public may have access to it and printed information shall be provided to residents in historically vulnerable areas. During an emergency evacuation, residents are to be able to access to the local media sources for information and instructions.

4.1 Evacuation Warnings

To be effective, Evacuation Warnings/Announcements should have the following characteristics:

- Authority—Warnings are more credible and more likely to stimulate appropriate public actions if they are issued by a recognized authority.
- Consistency—To avoid confusion and uncertainty, it is important that consistency be maintained when multiple warnings are issued to the public.
- Accuracy—Accuracy and currency of information contained in the warning also affect understanding and belief. Errors can cause people to doubt subsequent warnings.
- Clarity—An unclear warning can cause people to misunderstand or ignore it. Warnings should be in simple language, without the use of jargon.
- Level of Certainty—Certainty determines the level of belief in a warning and affects decision making by those to whom the warning is given.
- Level of Detail—Insufficient information creates confusion, uncertainty and anxiety, and public imagination will tend to fill the information void. This can promote rumours, uninformed misconceptions, or fears.
- Clear Guidance— Messages containing clear guidance about protective actions people should take and the time available for doing so are more effective than those which provide no specific instructions.
- Repetition of Warnings—Where time permits, warnings should be repeated preferably using more than one delivery method. This provides confirmation of the warning message, helps increase persuasiveness and overcomes the problem of people not responding after hearing a warning only once.
- Impact Areas—Warning information that clearly states the areas actually or likely to be affected by the event is most effective.
- Methods of Information Dissemination—Warnings are more effective if a range of methods is used rather than a single method, thereby reaching as many people as possible in the shortest time. Methods need to be chosen to fit the time-frame available and should recognize that some modes are appropriate in reaching many people but with only relatively simple or generalised information (i.e., radio, television) whereas others can provide more specific information to targeted individuals (i.e., telephone, facsimile machine, computer, two-way radio, door knocking or use of community leaders or wardens). Use of the Emergency Warning Signal “Alert Ready” will

enhance the effectiveness of electronic media warnings by alerting listeners for an urgent safety message to follow.

- Information Dissemination for Special Needs Groups—Consideration must be given to the specific problems of special needs groups. Dissemination to, and receipt of information by, many of these groups will pose different challenges, for example, language. Neighbours can also help by checking on special-needs people in proximity.

4.2 Essential Content - Evacuation Warning Messages

Evacuation Warning Messages will be prepared by the Public Information Officer in conjunction with advice from available specialists. Information should include:

- The issuing authority;
- The date and time of issue;
- An accurate description of the hazard (what has happened or is likely to happen);
- The area that is likely to be affected immediately by the hazard and any areas that may be affected in the longer term, for example, in the case of flood, areas that will be inundated once banks of dykes have been over-topped;
- Advice to those receiving the warning including:
    - evacuating (including anticipated duration of absence, if known) or staying indoors;
    - risk minimizing measures (if staying);
    - what to bring, for example, medication, or what not to bring, for example, pets, unless advised otherwise;
    - listening to a local radio station or monitoring municipal websites and social media for advice;
    - securing of premises and personal effects;
    - evacuation routes;
    - assembly areas;
    - assistance available (transport, medical, relief centres, counselling);
    - not using telephone unless absolutely necessary;
    - safeguarding domestic pets and other animals; and
- What is being done to control the hazard; and
- The time the next warning will be issued or advise that no further warning will be issued.

5.0 PLAN EVALUATION, REVIEW and MAINTENACE

5.1 Plan Evaluation and Responsibilities

The Antigonish Emergency Management Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the exercising of the Emergency Evacuation Plan (EEP). The EEP will be evaluated and compiled biennially.

5.2 Plan Maintenance and Responsibility

The Antigonish EEP will be maintained by the A.R.E.M.O. Emergency Management Planning Committee (A.R.E.M.O.P.C.) and the A.R.E.M.O. Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC).

The EEP will be reviewed biennially and, where necessary, revised by a meeting(s) of the A.R.E.M.O. Planning Committee (A.R.E.M.O.P.C.) and the A.R.E.M.O. Advisory Committee (A.R.E.M.O.A.C.). The EEP shall be revised subject to the approval of Municipal Councils.

ANNEXES

Annex A – Abbreviations and Definitions

Assembly Points/Areas

Assembly Points or areas are designated areas within the community which are to be used in the case of emergency situations. They are intended to provide a safe area for individuals to congregate while either waiting for emergency personnel to respond or to receive transport to Reception Centres and/or Group Lodging facilities. Can also be known as staging areas.

At Risk Populations

For the purposes of this document at-risk populations are described using the functional needs framework as described within the following framework.

The framework includes people with disabilities as well as individuals who do not identify as having a disability, but have limitations in any of the following key functional areas:

Communication needs: limited ability to speak, see and hear, read or understand English, limitations in learning and understanding;

Medical needs: assistance with bathing or feeding, managing medications, on dialysis or oxygen, operating power-dependent equipment to sustain life;

Independence needs: maintaining functional independence with medical equipment such as

wheelchairs, walkers, or scooters;

Supervision needs: persons with dementia or Alzheimer's, prisoners and unaccompanied children;

Transportation needs: persons who cannot drive due to disabilities, age, addictions, legal restrictions, socioeconomic factors.

The functional needs approach points to a diverse group of individuals potentially in need of additional assistance before and during emergencies.

Chokepoint

"Chokepoint" is synonymous with "bottleneck" and is often an area of high centrality in the transportation system.

CRC

Canadian Red Cross

DEM

Department of Emergency Management

DOSD

Depart. of Opportunities and Social Development

EOC

A pre-designated facility established by a local authority to coordinate the overall agency or jurisdictional response and support to site operations. When the site-level response requires resources or

	coordination not immediately available at site, an EOC should be activated.
ESS	Services that are provided short term to preserve the emotional and physical well-being of evacuees and response workers in emergency situations.
EHS	Emergency Health Services
Emergency Shelter	A location designated by the local ESS team, in cooperation with the local authority, which provides dormitory style accommodation for people displaced from their homes because of an emergency or disaster. These services are usually provided in local community centres, school gymnasiums and arenas. At an Emergency Shelter individuals will normally be provided with a sleeping space, meals as well as information about the emergency.
Evacuation	Removal of people from an area that is either directly or imminently to be impacted by a disaster or emergency.
Evacuation Alert	The population in an area is informed that they may be required to evacuate soon and that they should prepare accordingly. While Evacuation Alerts may give the population an estimated notice period for evacuation, the reality of the situation may require immediate action with very short notice. Evacuation Alerts do not require a declaration of a state of local emergency.
Evacuation Order	The population is ordered to evacuate an area according to a formal written document that outlines the area in question and why an evacuation is necessary. Evacuation Orders are based on the authority granted through the declaration of a state of local emergency covering the impacted area under the Emergency Program Act. This is an order and as such does not allow for any discretionary decision on the part of the population. They must leave the area immediately.
Evacuation Rescind	When the emergency which necessitated the evacuation is under control and the hazard/ emergency zone is declared safe, a Rescind of the Evacuation Order is issued.
Group Lodging	See Emergency Shelter.
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials
HRVA	The purpose of Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) is to help a community make risk-based choices to address vulnerabilities, mitigate hazards and prepare for response to and recovery from hazard events. “Risk-based” means based on informed choices of alternate unwanted outcomes. In other words, communities make risk reduction choices

	based on the acceptability of consequences and the frequency of hazards. Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) is not an end. The purpose of hazard, risk and vulnerability analysis planning is to anticipate problems and possible solutions to help save lives and property, reduce damage, and speed a community's recovery. HRVA helps us work towards disaster-resilient communities.
Incident Commander	The individual responsible for the management of all incident operations at the incident site.
Tactical Evacuation	An evacuation resulting from a hazard impact that forces immediate action, thereby allowing little or no warning and limited preparation time.
Pre-Planned Evacuation	A pre-planned evacuation is an evacuation resulting from an event that provides adequate warning and preparation time.
RCMP	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Reception Centre	A location designated by a local authority ESS Team, as a safe gathering place for people displaced from their homes because of an emergency or disaster. At a Reception Centre, individuals may register to receive Emergency Social Services (food, clothing, and/or lodging) as well as information about the emergency.
Relocation	Removing people and animals from an area that is safe at the present time but may become hazardous and/or contaminated soon.
EMC	Emergency Management Coordinator
REMO	Regional Emergency Management Organization
Self-Evacuation	When individuals make the decision to evacuate although there is no official Evacuation Order in place for their area.
Shelter-in-Place	"Shelter-in-Place" is a protective measure that encourages the population to stay indoors and perform safety measures (such as closing windows) for the duration of the threat.
SOLE	State of Local Emergency
Traffic Control Points	Points along the evacuation route that have stations to control the flow of traffic.

Annex B – Evacuation Alert

_____- **EVACUATION ALERT**

DATE: _____ TIME: _____

An Evacuation Alert has been issued by the _____at the Antigonish Emergency Coordination Centre.

(Briefly describe event and potential risk)

Because of the potential danger to life and health, the _____ has issued an Evacuation Alert for the following areas:

Geographic description including boundaries and properties potentially impacted.

An Evacuation Alert has been issued to prepare you to evacuate your premises, or property should it be found necessary. You may need to leave your home because of an emergency. We provide this warning so that you may prepare yourself and your family to leave immediately if requested to do so. Residents will be given as much advance notice as possible prior to evacuation; however, you may receive limited notice due to changing conditions.

** Map/description of potential evacuation route and map of evacuation alert area to be provided **

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO WHEN AN ALERT IS IN EFFECT

Upon notification of an ALERT, you should be prepared for the Evacuation Order by:

- Locating all family members or co-workers and designate a Reception Centre outside the evacuation area, should an evacuation be called while separated.
- Gathering essential items (see 'What you Should Take' section). Have these items readily available for quick departure.
- Preparing to move any disabled persons and/or children.
- Moving pets and livestock to a safe area.
- Arranging to transport your household members or co-workers in the event of an evacuation order. If you need transportation assistance from the area, please call _____.
- Arranging accommodation for your family if possible. In the event of an evacuation, Reception Centres will be opened if required.
- Monitoring news sources for information on evacuation orders and locations of Reception Centres.

WHAT YOU SHOULD TAKE IF EVACUATION ORDERED

For your personal comfort and safety, we recommend you take the following items with you:

- Personal information for all family members (birth certificates, health cards, driver's license)
- Money (cash, cheques, debit cards, credit cards)
- Cell phone(s) and chargers
- Medications and medical aids such as wheelchairs or walkers
- House and personal insurance information
- Personal care items for 3-days (72-hours)
- Toys, games, favourite items for children
- Car seats for children that require them
- Change of clothing
- Name and phone numbers of family members and important contacts

Pets

If possible, take your household pets with you in an appropriate carrying case. Take food and any medications your pets will need for 3 days. Leashes or restraining devices should be brought with your pets. Pets should have identifying collars as appropriate. If you need assistance evacuating your pets, please call _____
immediately. If you are unable to take your pets with you, be prepared to evacuate without them and emergency personnel will make all reasonable efforts to ensure their safety.

Further information will be issued at _____or should the situation change. For more information, contact: _____.

_____
Mayor/ Warden

Annex C – Evacuation Order

_____- **EVACUATION ORDER**

DATE: _____ TIME: _____

YOU MUST LEAVE THE AREA IMMEDIATELY

An Evacuation Order has been issued by _____the due to immediate danger to life safety due to:

(Briefly describe event and potential risk)

Members of _____will be expediting this action.
(Agencies)

The Evacuation Order is in effect for the following areas:

(Geographic description)

** Map/description of potential evacuation route and map of evacuation order area to be provided **

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

- You must leave the area immediately
- Follow the travel route provided and register at _____

(ESS Reception Centre address)

- If you need transportation assistance from the area, please advise the individual providing this notice or call (contact number) _____
- Close all windows and doors
- Shut off all gas and electrical appliances, other than refrigerators and freezers
- Close gates (latch) but do not lock
- Gather your family: take a neighbour or someone who needs help
- Take critical items (medicine, purse, wallet, and Keys) only if they are immediately available.
- Take pets in pet kennels or on leash
- Do not use more vehicles than required
- Do not use the telephone unless you need emergency service.

YOU MUST LEAVE THE AREA IMMEDIATELY

For more information, contact: _____

_____
Mayor/ Warden

Annex D – Evacuation Rescind

_____- **EVACUATION RESCIND**

DATE: _____ TIME: _____

Evacuation Order issued: Date _____ Time: _____

To the area(s) | | Is **rescinded.**

For more information, please contact: _____.

_____

Mayor/ Warden

Annex E – Evacuation Contact

Incident: _____

Date: _____ Time: ___

<table>
<tr><td>Name of Person Contacted:</td><td colspan="4">Signature of Person Contacted:</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Civic Address Location of Contact:</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Phone Numbers of Contact Location:</td></tr>
<tr><td>Emergency Contact Name & Number
(once evacuated)</td><td colspan="2">Name:</td><td colspan="2">Phone Numbers:</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5"></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Number of Persons at Location</td><td colspan="2">Adults</td><td colspan="2">Minors</td></tr>
<tr><td>Males</td><td>Females</td><td>Males</td><td>Females</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Transportation Available</td><td colspan="2">Yes</td><td colspan="2">No</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Pets/Livestock</td><td colspan="2">Evacuate with People</td><td colspan="2">Could not Evacuate</td></tr>
<tr><td>Species</td><td>#</td><td>Species</td><td>#</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Special Needs or Assistance Required:</td></tr>
<tr><td>Contact Made By: (Print Name)</td><td colspan="4">Signature:</td></tr>
</table>

F – Potential Evacuation Routes

To Be Developed

Annex G – Evacuation Planning Worksheet

Threat Information					
Type	**Details**				
Fire					
Natural Disaster					
Hazardous Materials					
Civil Disobedience					
Other					
Impact	**Details**				
Life Safety					
Environmental					
Other					
Comments:					
Population / Location					
Population Size - # of	Persons:			Animals:	
Density	☐ High	☐ Medium		☐ Low	
Type	☐ Residential	☐ Commercial		☐ Industrial	
Special Considerations					
Type	**Yes**	**No**	**Type**	**Yes**	**No**
Schools			Transport Available		
Hospitals			Translators		
Population (shut-in)			Physical Disabilities		
Secure Treatment / Jail			Non-Housed		
Shelters Available			Visitors / Tourists		
Location / Distance (Plot on Map)					
Distance from incident to population			M:	Km:	
Direction threat is from population	☐ North	☐ South		☐ East	☐ West
Terrain is:	☐ Flat	☐ Sloped		☐ Steep	☐ V. Steep
Available Evacuation Routes:					
Comments:					

Hazardous Materials Conditions				
Condition:	☐ Contained	☐ Not Contained	☐ Controlled	☐ Uncontrolled
	☐ Continuous	☐ Not Continuous	☐ Stable	☐ Unstable
Description:	☐ Puff	☐ Pool	☐ Plume	☐ Other
Location:	☐ Ground	☐ Elevated	☐ Accessible	☐ Inaccessible
Temperature:	Ambient:	On Fire:	Heated:	Cooled:

Describe evacuation plan (Plot on Map)

☐ **Confirm area to be evacuated**
☐ **Determine if immediate evacuation or shelter-in-place required**
☐ **Determine evacuation routes (roadways, highways etc.)**
☐ **Determine alternate route in case primary exits are blocked**
☐ **Identify and develop transportation plan for those that request support**
☐ **Identify a safe assembly point for impacted persons to assemble (*ensure plenty of space for everyone to gather so you can perform a head count and double-check that everyone got out safely)***
☐ **Develop communication plan, clearly communicate evacuation instructions to everyone in impacted are**
☐ **Issue evacuation message via alert ready, CJFX, The Hawk (Door knockers)**

Annex H – Acknowledgement of Refusal to Evacuate

A formal advisory of an emergency and instructions to evacuate, were given to:

occupying the residence at:

Despite these warnings, the occupant(s) have chosen not to evacuate the premises.

The occupant has been informed that:

- The safety of occupants of these premises may be compromised;
- Occupants refusing to evacuate may not fully benefit from the emergency services provided by A.R.E.M.O., as resources will largely be assigned to assisting the evacuation effort;
- Occupants' refusal to evacuate may place emergency response personnel in unnecessary danger; and
- Occupants refusing to evacuate may become liable for personal injury or property damage caused directly or indirectly by their refusal to evacuate when so requested by civil authorities.

_____ _____

Responder Date

Annex I – Instructions for Door Knockers – Shelter-in-Place

1. Go to door quickly. Knock loudly or ring doorbell
2. Advise occupants of the need to Shelter-in-Place
3. Advise occupants to take the following measures:
4. Give occupants a copy of the *"Shelter-in-Place Instructions for Residents"*
5. Gather information from the occupants and complete the Shelter-in-Place Information Spreadsheet. The purpose of this spreadsheet is to gather information in case an 'Evacuation Order' is issued.

Tell occupants to monitor media for updates, or go to Municipal Websites for updates:

- Municipality of the County of Antigonish
- Town of Antigonish

Instructions for Residents – Shelter-in-Place

- Get everyone inside immediately, including pets.
- Close all doors and windows.
- Shut down furnace, air conditioners, and exhaust fans and vents.
- Close fireplace dampers.
- If possible, enter a room with no or few windows and seal any doors, windows, vents with plastic sheeting and tape.
- Place wet towels at base of door(s).
- Monitor local media for updates or go to Municipal websites for updates.
- Remain inside until an "All Clear" message has been given by emergency officials.



Annex J – Instructions for Door Knockers – Evacuation Alert

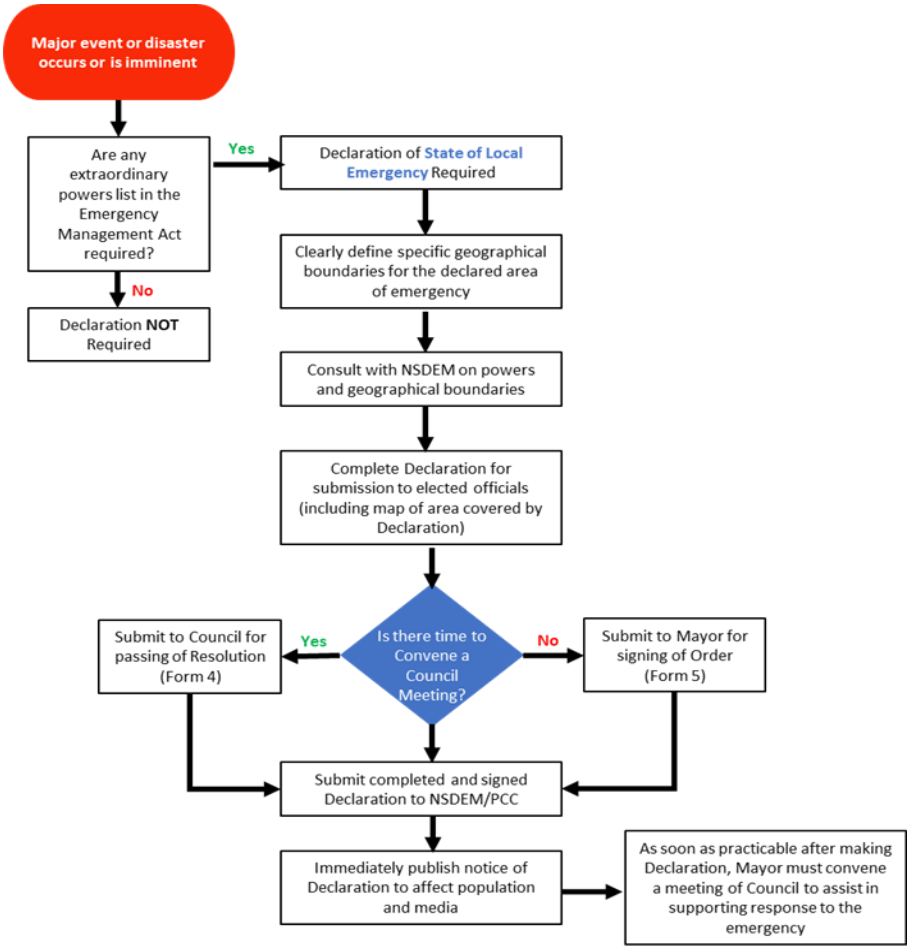
1. Go to door. Knock loudly or ring doorbell
2. Advise occupants of the 'Evacuation Alert' and give them a copy of the Evacuation Alert and map. Make sure occupants understand that they are not required to leave at this time but must leave the area immediately if an 'Evacuation Order' is issued.
3. Advise occupants to have their emergency kit and important documents ready to go, which should include things like insurance and personal papers such as birth certificates. They should also pack:
    a. Several days' clothing.
    b. Medicines, prescriptions, and mobility aids.
    c. Consider pets and get leashes, carriers, and pet food ready to go.
    d. Also consider the kids and bring some comfort items, like a favourite toy or colouring books to help keep them busy.
    e. Don't forget to check in on family, friends and neighbours who may have mobility or other issues to contend with.
    f. This is a good time to collect precious photos and mementos that can't be replaced.
4. Tell occupants to stay tuned to local radio stations and Municipal Websites or follow the Municipalities' Facebook page for updated emergency information.
5. Complete the Evacuee Information Spreadsheet. Make sure you ask if any of the occupants may require assistance to evacuate if an Evacuation Order is issued. Note their names, address and phone number and report this information to the Emergency Coordination Centre.
6. ***People that are not able to evacuate independently, or who need more time to evacuate, should consider evacuating at this time. While the Municipality will try to give as much notice as possible, Evacuation Orders may be issued very quickly. The Emergency Coordination Centre can help arrange transportation for people who want to voluntarily evacuate at this time.***
7. If the occupants are not home, leave the Evacuation Alert in a visible location. Note the address of the home on the Evacuation Alert Information Spreadsheet and note that occupants were not home.
8. Advise occupants that a Reception Centre will be established if an Evacuation Order is issued. Evacuees can bring their pets with their leash and/or kennel. Animals will not be allowed in the Reception Centre (Exception: seeing eye dogs and special service dogs) but will be kept in a secure location outside the Reception Centre.

Annex K – Instructions for Door Knockers – Evacuation Order

1. Go to door quickly. Knock loudly or ring doorbell.
2. Advise occupants of the Evacuation Order and give them a copy of the Evacuation Order and map. Make sure occupants understand that they must leave the area immediately.
3. Complete the Evacuation Contact Information (Annex E). Make sure you ask if any of the occupants require assistance to evacuate. If yes, report this information to the Emergency Operations Centre.
4. If the occupants are not home, leave the Evacuation Order in a visible location. Note the address of the home on the Evacuee Information Spreadsheet and note that occupants were not home.
5. Advise occupants that a Reception Centre has been established and provide the location. Evacuees can bring their pets with their leash and/or kennel. Animals will not be allowed in the Reception Centre (Exception: seeing eye dogs and special service animals) but will be kept in a secure location outside the Reception Centre.
6. If evacuees do not have transportation, provide the location of evacuation transportation muster points.
7. ***Ask occupants if they intend to evacuate. If occupants refuse to leave do not force them. If they have children under the age of 19, note the address and notify your Supervisor at the Emergency Coordination Centre. Ask for the name of their next of kin and dentist. Record this information. If time permits, ask them to sign a simple statement that they understand and accept the risks and that emergency services may not be able to assist them if the threat worsens.***

Annex L – Declaring a State of Local Emergency (SOLE)

(Reference: Nova Scotia Emergency Management Act)



1. **Cause an Emergency Management Plan or any part thereof to be implemented.**
2. **Acquire or utilize personal property by confiscation or any means concerned necessary.**
3. **Authorize or require a qualified person to render aid.**
4. **Control or prohibit travel to or from an area or road, street or highway.**
5. **Provide for the maintenance and restoration of essential facilities, the distribution of essential supplies and the maintenance and coordination of emergency medial, social and other essential services.**
6. **Cause or order evacuation of persons and the removal of livestock and personal property threatened by an emergency and make arrangements for the adequate care and protection thereof.**
7. **Authorize the entry by a person into any building or upon land without warrant.**
8. **Cause or order demolition or removal of any thing where the demolition or removal is necessary or advisable for the purpose of reaching the scene of an emergency, of attempting to forestall its occurrence or of combating its progress.**
9. **Order the assistance of persons needed to carry out the provisions mentioned.**
10. **Regulate the distribution and availability of essential goods, services and resources.**
11. **Authorize and make emergency payments.**
12. **Assess damage to any works, property or undertaking and the cost to repair, replace or restore the same.**
13. **Assess damage to the environment and the costs and methods to eliminate or alleviate the damage.**

Annex M – Contact List

NSP Power Outage
Emergencies

Forest Fires/Poaching/Wildlife **1-877-428-6004**

1-800-565-2224

Bell Aliant Outage
611 or 1-506-663-4032/ 866-502-2914

Transportation and Renewal
1-844-696-7737

Eastlink Outage

Environmental Emergencies (oil spills and gas leaks) **1-888-345-1111**

1-800-565-1633

NS Department of Emergency Management
1-833-758-4540

Maritime Northeast Pipeline
Emergencies
1-888-444-6677

Disaster Animal Response Team
Antigonish Office **902-863-4513**

Department of Natural Resources **1-902-233-4089**

A.R.E.M.O. Regional Emergency Management Organization

Town of Antigonish Office
902-863-2351
After Hours
902-318-3077

Municipality of County of Antigonish Office
902-863-1117
After Hours **902-863-9699**

A.R.E.M.O. EMO Coordinator
Blaise MacDonald
902-867-7152
Blaise.MacDonald@Antigonishcounty.ca

911 - This is for emergencies only. If someone's health, safety, and/or property are threatened, and help is needed right away.

511 - For information about Provincial roads in Nova Scotia.

211 - For community and social services.

MEMO FOR INFORMATION

TO: Committee of the Whole
FROM: SHIRLYN DONOVAN, CAO
SUBJECT: **SEPTEMBER 2026 STAFF REPORT**
DATE: 08/09/2026

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

- CAO attended:
  - RK MacDonald Steering Committee Meeting
  - Meeting with the Department of Justice regarding RCMP Billing Model
  - Meeting with Town CAO about the Sewer Treatment Plant Intermunicipal Service Agreement
  - EMO Advisory Meeting
  - Regular meetings with the Town and DPW to discuss ongoing construction activities in Town and County.
  - Planning Advisory Committee Meeting
- Communications Strategy
  - Reviewed and updated website content as material is transferred to the new site.
  - Finalized the rebrand, which will launch with the new website this fall.
  - Targeting a soft internal website launch on Fall 2026.
- Tourism
  - Attended an Antigonish Tourism Association Committee meeting and a members' meeting.
  - Met with Tourism Director Lynne Delory and Shannon Long of the Town of Antigonish to review upcoming Antigonish Tourism Association initiatives, including:
    - Summer programming was active, with opportunities for residents and visitors, including the return of Music on Main and outdoor movie theatre events in rural Antigonish.
    - Upcoming initiatives include a September food truck rally, an expanded October JazzFest with more venues and variety, and the launch of the new tourism website this fall.
- Good Neighbours – supported home visit event organization.
- Communications (Ongoing)
  - Continued regular municipal communications, including Council meeting highlights and service updates, across multiple platforms.
  - Managed correspondence on behalf of Council.
  - Prepared media materials and speaking notes for public events.

  - Collaborated with the Town of Antigonish to maintain consistent, aligned public messaging.

- AREMO (Communications)
  - Worked with Shannon Long to develop and update emergency communications materials, including graphics, fillable templates, forms, and website content for emergency and evacuation scenarios.
  - Ran a wildfire social media campaign to raise awareness of forest fire preparedness and evacuation procedures.
  - Developing a hurricane season social media campaign to encourage residents to be prepared.
- EMO Update
  - August 24th Attended Fire Chiefs & RCMP meeting to address concerns raised by Fire Chiefs relating to the number of Fires in Region suspected to be of arson cause
  - August 27th Facilitated Q2 AREMO Advisory meeting
  - Progressing training Facility poured concrete slab (60’ x 74”) this will house the live fire simulator and vehicle extrication exercise site
  - Working with SEL on building drawing for new Antigonish Emergency Services building
  - Finalize Antigonish Emergency Evacuation Plan and submitted to Town and County Councils for review and approval
  - Revised MOA for Fire Services with Paqtnkek First Nations, MOA approved.
    - Increase in Fire Service Fee from $2000.00 annually to $19,050.00 annually
- Boundary Review
  - The Board’s decision on the application was issued on July 15th, with the final order of the Board being issued on August 11th.
  - Staff has updated the municipal webpage dedicated to the Boundary Review project to include copies of these documents and maps: https://antigonishcounty.ca/boundary-review-2025/
  - Staff is working with PVSC to prepare their systems for the boundary updates.
- By-law Enforcement
  - New By-law Officer, Nasif Shah, started on June 29th
  - Uniform design, vehicle selection process, and training have taken place over the summer.
  - Several ongoing Dog Control files, one Fences Arbitration File
  - By-law review process/development process underway for Noise By-law, Parking By-law, and Domestic Animal By-law

- Over the summer the Municipal Clerk has attended several provincial consultation sessions regarding the RCMP funding formula, and attended an information session at the local RCMP detachment about their Race-Based Data Collection Initiative.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Our Auditors were in the office the last week of August and have substantially completed the Audit work for March 31, 2026. We are anticipating the financials to be presented to Council in October.
- Tax Office staff prepared water billing the first week in August (approximately 1,800 water bills for the June / July 2026 billing cycle).
- As of August 31, 2026, 180 households had used the Low-Income Tax Exemption Program. The program remains open until December 31, 2026, and tax office staff report that it has been well received by the public.
- Two Finance department staff are board members on the County's Occupational Health and Wellness committee which meet monthly.
- Provincial, Pension and various Funding Reporting, assistance with Beautiful Streets funding reporting.
- Policy Review – Senior Leadership are looking at all policies of the municipality and have met regularly to work through reviewing policies to come to the committee.
- Two Finance department staff have joined the County Communications Committee. Finance Staff have reviewed the County website "Tax and Finance" section of the website and provided recommended updates to the County website refresh.
- Provide support to other departments projects and or initiatives as directed by the CAO.
- Finance department is on the Association of Municipal Tax Collectors (AMTC) board and is sharing responsible for maintenance of their website.
- Ongoing day to day operations (collections, reconciliations, payroll, property tax and utility customer maintenance, bill payments, monthly HST remittances, etc.).
- Member of the Finance Department is a board member for Strait IT. Board meetings occur monthly.
- Collaborate with Administration and Public Works Department on the Extender Producer Responsibility Program.
- Finance staff support the Antigonish Arena in the role of financial record keeping (day to day accounting, year end audit preparation, HST remittances, reconciliations, etc.).

Public Works

- New Public Works Director, Cole MacIssac, started on August 10th.
- Ongoing work with Envirosphere on landfill surface drainage
- Ongoing work with FracFlow Hydrogeologists to monitor groundwater leachate
- Ongoing I & I in the fringe area
- Completion of Apple Seed sidewalk and line painting
- Completion of Mt Cameron Sidewalk
- Sidewalk Repairs Trunk 7

Recreation

- Make Your Move Antigonish (MYMA)
  - MYMA and Town Rec continue to work on an Active School Travel project that will encourage more students to 'make their move' to school.
  - Planning for a fall hike series
  - Planning on an expansion to our equipment loan program with a few loans that support movement in the workplace / office area.
  - Hosted a few Group Bike Rides in August and plan on hosting a few more in the fall.
- AT
  - Phase 4 of the Corridor project has begun with plans of completion in Nov. The construction is going well with little disruption to traffic and flow.
  - Florence Circle Connector project: Land Agreements are being finalized and funding continues to be sourced to support the construction of the MUP.
- Pool Learn to Swim Program
  - Completed a successful swim program in July.
  - Interviews are taking place for new swim instructors with plans to host a fall session of swim lessons.
- 2026 Summer Season
  - Completed a successful summer of day camps. Big shout out to all our summer staff!
- Needs Assessment
  - The final draft report of the recreation needs assessment is close to completion and will be presented to council for review shortly.
- Mini-Pitch Washroom
  - Work is ongoing on the development of an RFP for a mini-pitch washroom, which will have a smaller footprint than the original design.

NEN Detachment Report

ANTIGONISH
May 2026

DISTRICT COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

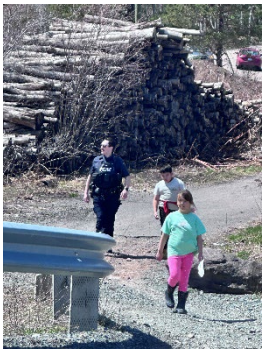
Antigonish RCMP responded to 569 calls for service during the month of May which shows an increase of 127 calls over April 2026. May was marred by two very difficult investigations that certainly rocked the communities on the east side of the county. These types of crimes leave scars on families and communities, and we have been fully engaged with our specialized Major Crimes teams to bring these investigations to a conclusion.

OUR PEOPLE



Cst Riley MacKenzie was the recipient of the MADD Canada Constable Heidi Stevenson Watch Silver Award for taking over 15 Impaired drivers off our local roadways.

PRIORITIES



We remain engaged and committed to community engagement throughout the Town, County and Paqtnkek. This month, Cst Connor Cantwell, Sgt James Jessome and S/Sgt Kim Hillier all attended the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls walk of awareness. These walks serve to honour those who are missing and murdered while supporting families and renewing Calls for Justice. The walks are acts of remembrance and resistance and are often the starting point for deeper advocacy and understanding.

EVENTS



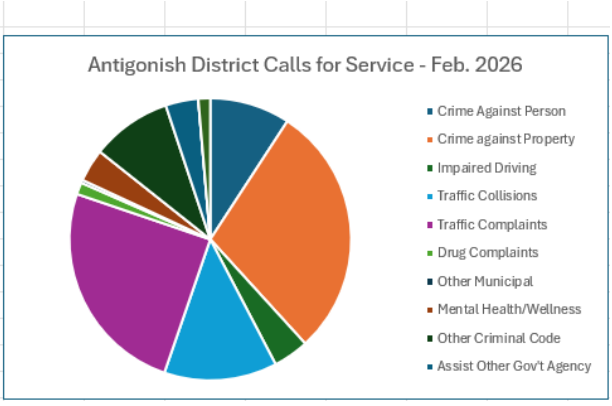




May was also a busy month for events including the opening ceremonies for the Special Olympics, Smile cookie decorating in support of the Naomi Society and The MMIWG walks.

MONTHLY STATISTICS

Occurrence and Crime Reporting - Calls for Service				
Type of File	Total	Town	County	Paqtnkek
Crime Against Person	27	12	11	4
Crime against Property	85	41	39	5
Impaired Driving	12	3	8	1
Traffic Collisions	38	16	21	1
Traffic Complaints	73	11	62	0
Drug Complaints	4	3	1	0
Other Municipal	1	1	0	0
Mental Health/Wellness	11	1	6	4
Other Criminal Code	27	13	11	3
Assist Other Gov't Agency	11	2	7	2
Crime Prevention	0	0	0	0
Break & Enter	4	0	4	0
Total	293	103	170	20



This month we logged an additional 196 patrols during night shift!

We also completed 32 conditions checks on known offenders

NEN Detachment Report

ANTIGONISH
June 2026

DISTRICT COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Antigonish RCMP responded to 719 calls for service during July—a significant increase from the previous month. Tourist season arrived in full force, and perhaps the summer heat had everyone feeling a little more energetic than usual! Our members rose to the challenge and remained highly proactive, conducting offender compliance checks and visible patrols throughout the county and across every street in town. July also brought a full calendar of community events and engagement opportunities. Being present at these gatherings keeps us connected to the people we serve and reminds us that, even amid the serious and difficult situations our members encounter, our communities continue to be filled with life, hope and plenty of reasons to come together.

OUR PEOPLE



Local members participated in the Highland Games parade, marching with the RCMP Pipe and Drums band. Despite the hot temperatures they still had smiles at the end of the route!



PRIORITIES

Members conducted targeted patrols and roadside checks while responding to reports from concerned members of the public. Driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs puts everyone at risk. We remind motorists to plan ahead, arrange a safe ride, and never drive impaired. If you suspect an impaired driver, call 911 and provide the vehicle's description, location, and direction of travel when it is safe to do so.

Cst Colton Lohnes was fully engaged in planning check stops, airing Public Service announcements and planning resources to keep the roadways safe.

EVENTS





This month's events included the Antigonish Highland Games, Canada Day, IWK 250, and Havre Boucher Parade, focused patrols all over the county and lots of great community visits!



This month we logged an additional 203 patrols during night shift!

MONTHLY STATISTICS

Occurrence and Crime Reporting - Calls for Service				
Type of File	Total	Town	County	Paqtnkek
Crime Against Person	34	9	16	9
Crime against Property	93	38	50	5
Impaired Driving	21	9	11	1
Traffic Collisions	37	8	29	0
Traffic Complaints	89	8	77	4
Drug Complaints	2	2	0	0
Other Municipal	2	2	0	0
Mental Health/Wellness	21	15	3	3
Other Criminal Code	32	10	19	3
Assist Other Gov't Agency	13	3	8	2
Crime Prevention	0	0	0	0
Break & Enter	4	1	3	0
Total	348	105	216	27

