

**Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council
Tuesday, January 14, 2025
9:00 a.m.**

Agenda

1.0 Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

2.0 Approval of the Agenda

3.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interests

4.0 Approval of the Minutes

4.1 December 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes

5.0 Public Comment

6.0 Delegations and Presentations

7.0 Correspondence

7.1 Minister Lohr regarding the Municipal Code of Conduct

7.2 Nova Scotia Association of REALTORS® (NSAR)

8.0 Committee Reports

9.0 Unfinished Business

9.1 J. Gordon Achievement Award

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to fund the J Gordon Achievement Award in the amount of \$500 for Ava Mae Smith.

10.0 New Business-

10.1 Budget Management Policy Development

MOTION: THAT the Region of Queens Municipality Council directs the Acting Chief Administrative Officer to provide a staff report with recommendations to develop a Budget Management Policy, which will include considerations for Capital budget overruns, expenditures from Reserves policy, and Operations and Utility budget development processes.

10.2 Hospitality and Expense Policy - Review

MOTION: THAT the Region of Queens Municipality Council re-adopt Administrative Policy 7 – Council and Staff Expenses (2021).

10.3 Letter of Support for Pemsik Mawa'tasikl Anko'tmu'kl

MOTION: THAT the Region of Queens Municipality Council directs the Acting Chief Administrative Officer to provide a letter of support for Pemsik Mawa'tasikl Anko'tmu'kl.

10.4 Funding Finance Education Sessions, Chair, Audit and Internal Control Committee

MOTION: THAT the Region of Queens Municipality Council approve the unbudgeted expense of \$300 for Councillor Jenkins to take part in 3 online courses titled Municipal Finance for Elected Officials delivered by Association of Municipal Administrators Nova Scotia:

11.0 Mayor's Report

11.1 Mayor's Report

12.0 Business from Members of Council

12.1 Snow clearing and winter maintenance of Fort Point Lighthouse Park

MOTION:

THAT the Region of Queens Municipality Council directs the Acting Chief Administrative Officer to provide a staff report with recommendations and projected costs of winter maintenance of Fort Point Lighthouse Park.

12.2 Notice of Motion:

TAKE NOTICE THAT a future meeting of the Region of Queens Municipality Council, I propose to introduce Bylaw No. 26 – A Bylaw Respecting Private Road Maintenance Charges.

13.0 Closed Session

13.1 Approval of In-Camera Minutes Dec 10, 2024 & Dec 16, 2024

13.2 Contract Negotiations

13.3 Property Matter

13.4 Personnel

14.0 Adjournment

Proclamations & Information Items

1/ Alzheimer Awareness Month, January 2025

2/ Transitional Rules Posted for HST Reduction, Province of Nova Scotia

3/ Bylaw Monthly Report, December 2024

Region of Queens Municipality Regular Council
09:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Video Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbZ6s51p7Ok>

Present:

Mayor Scott Christian, Chair
Deputy Mayor Maddie Charlton
Councillor Vicki Amirault
Councillor Jack Fancy
Councillor Stewart Jenkins
Councillor Roberta Roy
Councillor Courtney Wentzell

Staff:

Cody Joudry, CAO
Pam Lovelace, Municipal Clerk

Regrets:

Councillor Wanda Carver

1.0 Call to Order

Mayor Christian called the meeting to order at 09:00 a.m.

2.0 Changes / Approval of Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda by members of Council:

- 11.1 – Electrification at Miriam Hunt Park
- 11.2 – Walking Track
- 11.3 – Grey box sites in Labelle
- 11.4 - Coastal Protection Act
- 11.5 - Mersey Legion Funding for New Year's Levee

Moved by Councillor Wentzell, seconded by Councillor Amirault that the Agenda be approved as amended.

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Jenkins that item 12.1 Closed Session follow 4.0 Public Comments.
MOTION CARRIED.**

3.0 Approval of Minutes

- 3.1 November 25, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Roy:
THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held November 25,
2024 be approved as presented.
MOTION CARRIED.**

4.0 Public Comment

Paul Deveau from Brookdale Cres spoke to Council on the barriers people face living with disabilities in Region of Queens Municipality. He asked Council to put a fitness credit in place to support people living with disabilities who need access to physical fitness programming.

5.0 Closed Session

**At 9:20 a.m. moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault that the Council move to the Closed Session of the agenda to discuss item 12.1: Labour Relations
MOTION CARRIED.**

**At 10:56 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Wentzell and seconded by Councillor Fancy that Council return to the Open Session of the agenda.
MOTION CARRIED.**

6.0 Delegations and Presentations

No delegations or presentations were before the Council.

7.0 Correspondence

6.1 Correspondence was received from Mersey Legion #38 for funding request and distributed to Council.

**Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault that Council receive the correspondence.
MOTION CARRIED.**

8.0 Committee Reports

Councillor Jenkins presented a committee report for Region 6 Solid Waste Management Committee. The committee meets three times per year. Councillor Kacy DeLong Municipality of the District of Lunenburg is new chair of the Committee. Committee members attended a training session, reviewed the 2025-2026 Committee Budget and meeting schedule. The meeting included a round table discussion. Members of the public can use the Region 6 Waste APP for collection reminders and to search the What Goes Where tool. It can be downloaded from the website: <https://region6swm.ca/wasteapp/>. The Committee report included details on the source of recent landfill fires from lithium batteries. Planned public education by Region 6 will encourage proper disposal of batteries.

8.0 Unfinished Business

8.1: Chain of Office

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

**THAT Council receive the report titled "Chain of Office" for information.
MOTION CARRIED.**

Discussion:

Mike MacLead, Director of Land Use Planning, offered a brief background from the staff report on the Chain of Office and Mace and responded to questions from Council. Councillor Amirault spoke in favour of bringing the Chain of Office back to the municipality and thanked resident Barb Redmond for bringing this issue forward to Council. Councillor Jenkins spoke in favour of using the Chain of Office for special occasions. Deputy Mayor Charlton suggested that using a diversity, inclusion and Indigenous may be needed to provide further information for Council.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault:

THAT Region of Queens Municipality Council refer the report for consideration and recommendations to the Dismantling Discrimination and Hate (EDI) Committee.

MOTION CARRIED.

8.2 Cannons at Tupper Park

Moved by Councillor Fancy, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton:

THAT Council receive the report titled “Cannons at Tupper” for information.

MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion:

Adam Grant, Director of Infrastructure, provided Council with an overview of the report and responded to questions from Council.

Councillor Wentzell asked if the report could be referred to the Heritage Advisory Committee. Deputy Mayor Charlton asked about the past promises of Council for the Cannon restoration and agreed the report could go to Heritage Advisory Committee. Councillor Fancy spoke about the potential delay in getting this work completed. Councilor Jenkins stated that any fix would be an unbudgeted amount, and the Heritage Advisory Committee should review it and it could be budgeted for the next annual budget.

Moved by Councillor Wentzell, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton:

THAT Region of Queens Municipality Council refer the *Cannons in Tupper Park* report to the Heritage Advisory Committee for further considerations and recommendations.

MOTION CARRIED.

8.3 Airport Financials and Agreement

Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Wentzell:

THAT Council receive the report titled “Airport Financials and Agreement” for information.

MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion:

CAO Joudry presented the report to Council to outline the financials and agreements at the airport. Councillors discussed the various amounts of expenses and revenues presented for each group and determined more information is required to make an informed decision.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault:

That Region of Queens Municipality Council direct staff to provide a report with the operational plan for the Airport dated January 2024 and request the financial statements of the Flying club and Drag Racers Club for Council to make informed decisions on future agreements.

MOTION CARRIED.

8.4 Joint Letter to NS Dept. Senior and Long-term Care

Moved by Councillor Roy, seconded by Councillor Amirault:

THAT Council receive the report titled “Joint Letter to NS Dept. Senior and Long-term Care” for information.

MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion:

CAO Joudry provided an overview of the report and draft joint letter to Nova Scotia Department of Seniors and Long-term Care. The Province of Nova Scotia requests the Council to review the governance model for Hillsvie Acres Home for Special Care to ensure it aligns with provincial expectations.

Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Roy:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality authorizes the Mayor and staff to execute the letter as presented.

Amendment:

Deputy Mayor Charlton and seconded by Councillor Amirault to amend the motion:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality authorizes the Mayor and staff to execute the letter regarding transfer of operations and governance of Hillsvie Acres as presented.

Motion on Amendment Carried.

MOTION CARRIED.

8.5 Proposed 2025 Council Meeting Schedule

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

- 1) THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled "Proposed 2025 Council Meeting Schedule" for information; AND**
- 2) THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve the Proposed 2025 Council Meeting Schedule.**

MOTION CARRIED.

9.0 New Business

9.1 2024-2025 Capital Projects Update

Discussion:

Adam Grant, Director of Infrastructure, provided an overview of the staff report on Capital Projects 2024-2025. He explained there are challenges in the market, with staffing, and that the report highlights the progress status of each project.

Councillors asked questions about the capital projects expressing concerns about construction delays, need for affordable housing, and additional information such as conceptual designs once available.

Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton:

**THAT Council of the Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled "2024 Capital Projects – Update" for information.
MOTION CARRIED.**

9.2 Building Official Appointment

Mike McLeod, Director of Land Use, responded to questions from Council about the appointment of a Building Official.

Moved by Councillor Wentzell, seconded Councillor Roy.

**(1) THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled "Building Official Appointment" for information; and
(2) THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality appoint Myles Harlow to the position of Building Official for the Region of Queens Municipality to administer and enforce provisions of the Nova Scotia Building Code Act.
MOTION CARRIED.**

9.3 Queens County Track Society CIF Extension

Councillor Fancy declared Conflict of Interest and left his seat for the duration of the discussion on this item. Steve Burns, Community Economic Development Officer, provided an overview of the Community Investment Fund (CIF) and the request for an extension by Queens County Track Society.

Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton.

**(1) THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled 'Queens County Track Society CIF Extension' for information; and
(2) THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality approve the Queens County Track Society's field and running track project CIF funding extension to June 30, 2025, subject to required CIF reporting.
MOTION CARRIED.**

Councillor Fancy returned to his Council seat.

9.4 Westfield Community Centre Society CIF Extension

Steve Burns, Community Economic Development Officer, provided an overview on the request for an extension from Westfield Community Centre Society.

Moved by Councillor Fancy, seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

**(1) THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled 'Westfield Community Hall Society CIF Extension' for information, and
(2) THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality agrees an extension of the CIF grant to Westfield Community Hall Society from January 15, 2025, to September 30, 2025, subject to CIF reporting requirements.**

MOTION CARRIED.

9.5 J. Gordon Achievement Award

CAO provided an overview of the report. The school provided a certificate to the student at graduation that they received the award despite the student not being eligible for the award because she is pursuing an Arts degree and not Business. The family contacted RQM for and update on the funding.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Amirault:

THAT Council receive the report titled "J Gordon Achievement Award" for information.

MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion:

Deputy Mayor Charlton suggested the family set the parameters not the Council or school.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Jenkins.

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to initiate conversation with the family of J. Gordon Achievement Award to discuss the present request and parameters of the award moving forward.

MOTION CARRIED.

9.6 Safety Reserve – Fire Departments

Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Fancy.

**(1) THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality receive the report titled "Safety Reserves – Fire Departments" for information,
MOTION CARRIED**

Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Councillor Amirault.

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to ensure the funds in Reserve 52172 are to fund purchases of safety equipment for the fire departments.

MOTION CARRIED.

At 12:38 p.m. the Mayor called for a 30 minutes.
The Mayor called the meeting back to order at 1:13pm.
Councillor Roy left the meeting.

10.0 Mayor's Report – December 10th 2024

Mayor Christian provided a monthly report to Council as follows:

November 27 - Milton Tree Lighting – wonderful event, former member of our council Ralph Gidney was Santa's helper, providing kids with advent calendars and elf hats filled with treats

November 28 - Domtar / Paper Excellence – feasibility update, on track to decide if the project will advance into the public consultation/environmental impact assessment phase in February 2025.

November 30 – postponed date for Liverpool tree lighting – thanks to the SQCC for organizing the tree lighting and to the SSMCA for an amazing multi-cultural display of celebration through dance and song.

December 2 – travelled to Yarmouth to meet with Mayor Pam Mood of the town of Yarmouth – President of NSFM, wealth of knowledge and incredibly generous with her time –community of Mayors in NS are very supportive – I intend to engage as an active member of the Atlantic Mayor's Congress.

December 2 – Union members employed within our engineering and public works department voted to strike rather than ratify the current offer, this was a very concerning development for myself and my fellow members of Council who would all like to see a good and fair deal for these valuable employees of our organization. Elected officials are not directly involved in the collective bargaining process, we all feel for those employees who are directly involved and are working to understand how we can find a productive and fair path forward.

Dec 4 – Queens County Health Board – Councillor Carver and I attended (although I had to leave early) – would be interesting to receive the presentation from 211 – data on complexity of support needed for residents of Queens.

Dec 8 – Unfortunately, the RQM pulled the float out of the North Queens Santa Claus Parade due to dangerous road conditions due to weather.

11.0 Business from Members of Council

11.1 Electrification at Miriam Hunt Park Gazebo

Discussion:

Mayor Christian spoke on the issue on behalf of Councillor Carver who was not present at the meeting.

Moved by Councillor Fancy, seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to provide a report on the background and cost of options to install permanent electrical connections for the gazebo in Miriam Hunt Park, Caledonia.

MOTION CARRIED.

11.2 Walking Track

Discussion:

The Council discussed removing the fee for the public using the walking track at the Queens Place Emera Centre and gathering more information to track use.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Fancy:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality directs staff to remove the \$2.00 fee and promote the fact that the walking track is free to use from Jan to April; and initiate a staff report as per the items listed below:

- a. Data collection on numbers of participants and user feedback during pilot project;**
- b. Historic data on use of walking track from Emera Place staff including popular and unpopular times of days & months; and,**
- c. Expected financial and operational impacts from this four-month pilot project.**

MOTION CARRIED.

11.3 Grey Box Sites in Labelle

Discussion

Council discussed the issue with garbage collection at the grey boxes in Labelle. Residents experienced rodents, crows, and other creatures making a mess of the garbage area. Residents are concerned the garbage is not being picked up frequently enough. The CAO confirmed that garbage is scheduled to be picked up three times a week at the grey boxes, however, the contractor missed a day. A progress report is due to Council on a solution to better manage garbage collection at the grey boxes.

Moved by Councillor Jenkins, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to provide a report with updates on the current project to address accumulation of garbage and dumping at the gray box sites in Labelle.

MOTION CARRIED.

11.4 Discussion – Coastal Protection Act

Moved by Councillor Wentzell, seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality ask government agencies about enacting our own Coastal Protection Act.

Discussion:

Mayor Christian requested clarification on the motion. Deputy Mayor Charlton mentioned that some Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) members are advocating to the province to bring the Coastal Protection Act back into consideration. Deputy Mayor suggested that the Planning Advisory Committee could consider coastal protection measures during their meetings and could send a letter to NSFM supporting their advocacy efforts.

Councillor Wentzell raised concerns about the need to initiate conversations with other municipalities about the Coastal Protection Act and that the province may have money and manpower to assist municipalities.

Mayor Christian spoke to the motion and suggested Council does not need a motion to enter into conversations with other elected representatives. If a motion was directing staff it would be in order.

Councillor Wentzell and seconder Councillor Jenkins withdrew the motion.

Moved by Councillor Wentzell, seconded by Deputy Mayor Charlton:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a letter from Council to Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities showing support for their advocacy of the Coastal Protection Act.

MOTION CARRIED.

11.5 Mersey Branch #38 Funding Request

Moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Councillor Fancy:

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approve the funding request from Mersey Branch #38 for \$750 and for the Region of Queens Municipality to co-host the New Year's Levee with the Region of Queens Municipality.

MOTION CARRIED.

11.6 – Progress on staff report on Town Lake Reservoir

Councillor Wentzell requested an update on the reservoir conservation which was included in the last meeting agenda. CAO Joudry did not have any updates to provide to Council.

12.2 Closed Session – Personnel

At 1:51 p.m., moved by Councillor Amirault, seconded by Councillor Fancy that Council move to the Closed Session of the agenda to discuss item

12.2 : Personnel.

MOTION CARRIED.

15.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Mayor Scott Christian, Chair

Pam Lovelace, Acting Chief Administrative Officer / Municipal Clerk

Date Approved: _____



**Municipal Affairs
Office of the Minister**

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

December 30, 2024

Dear Mayors, Wardens and Councillors:

I am writing today to commend all municipalities for successfully adopting the legislated Code of Conduct within the required timeline. Province wide adoption of this essential framework reflects a shared commitment to fostering respectful and constructive dialogue at the Council table.

The development of the Code of Conduct framework illustrates the significant collaboration between municipal governments and the Government of Nova Scotia. I would like to express my appreciation to the members of the Code of Conduct Working Group for their commitment and hard work over the past three years in developing and recommending a model that will effectively serve all 49 municipalities and 21 villages.

I would like to highlight that the Working Group recommended reviewing the Code three years after its implementation. This thoughtful approach underscores the importance of continuous evaluation and improvement to ensure that the Code continues to effectively support respectful and constructive conduct at the Council table.

Thank you, once again, for your commitment to the new municipal Code of Conduct. I am confident that this new standard will create a more positive work environment for municipal elected officials across Nova Scotia.

I look forward to our ongoing collaboration in the New Year as we engage in projects that will have meaningful impact on our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John A. Lohr".

Honourable John A. Lohr
Minister of Municipal Affairs

c: Chief Administrative Officers



December 19, 2024

Council members
Queens County

Dear Councillors,

On behalf of the Nova Scotia Association of REALTORS® (NSAR) and our members, please accept our heartfelt congratulations on your election as Councillor in Queens County!

We are pleased to welcome strong leaders who recognize the important economic, social, and environmental impacts of appropriate, income-accessible housing in our communities.

NSAR represents over 2,100 salespeople and brokers across the province. We are the voice of real estate in Nova Scotia.

REALTORS® are a key component of the local economy. In 2023, housing transactions through the NSAR MLS® System generated **over \$586 million in spin-off spending and an estimated 4,400 jobs across the province.**

REALTORS® believe everyone should have a place to call home. Inventory and vacancy rates are extremely low across our province. Without housing, our communities suffer.

REALTORS® have ideas that can help. We look forward to talking to you and your colleagues about actions we can collectively take to ensure that everyone has a place to call home.

Each region of Nova Scotia has volunteer REALTORS® who serve on our Provincial/Municipal Affairs Committee (PMAC). These REALTORS® are your local experts and can be called upon for the most up-to-date local housing data and information.

Please feel free to reach out to Paige Hoveling, Stakeholder Relations Manager, at phoveling@nsar.ns.ca or 902-568-5764 to be connected with your local REALTOR® or receive housing data, support, or housing expertise during your term.

We look forward to working with you and your council colleagues on actions we can take to ensure that every Nova Scotian has a place to call home.

Sincerely,

Roger Boutilier
Chief Executive Officer

Andrew Gilroy
President

Suzanne Gravel
Chair, Provincial/Municipal Affairs Committee

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Region of Queens Municipality 9.2 Staff Report

To: Mayor and Council

From: Pam Lovelace, Acting CAO

Date: January 8, 2025

Re: J Gordon Achievement Award

Background

Region of Queens Municipality holds funds in trust for scholarships that are awarded to graduating students each year. The J Gordon Achievement Award was established in 1999 and an amount of \$500 is to be awarded to a business student, preferably from Milton.


Details

At the Council meeting on December 10, 2024, Council requested staff speak with the Gordon family about the eligibility requirements of the Award to ensure a recipient could pursue courses other than Business:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Charlton, seconded by Councillor Jenkins.

**THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to initiate conversation with the family of J. Gordon Achievement Award to discuss the present request and parameters of the award moving forward.
MOTION CARRIED.**

On January 8, Acting CAO Pam Lovelace spoke with Roy Gordon, the son of Jean Gordon, to ensure the family agreed that a student pursuing Arts could be



the recipient of the award. Mr. Gordon confirmed that the municipality should award Ava Mae Smith the J. Gordon Achievement Award and use their discretion as the stewards of the Fund.

Budget Impacts

There are no budget impacts for this report.

Recommendation

THAT the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to fund the J Gordon Achievement Award in the amount of \$500 for Ava Mae Smith.

Region of Queens Municipality 10.2 Staff Report

To: Council

From: Pam Lovelace, A/CAO

Date: January 6, 2025

Re: Expense Policy Review

Background:

The Municipal Government Act states that by the January 31st immediately following a regular election held under the Municipal Elections Act, the council shall review the expense and hospitality policies and, following a motion by the council, either re-adopt the policies or amend one or both of the policies and adopt the policies as amended.

Details:

Staff have reviewed Administrative Policy #7 and recommend re-adopting the policy in January 2025. Policy #7 was last adopted in January 2021.

Budget Implications:

There are no budget implications.

Recommendation: THAT the Council of Region of Queens Municipality Council re-adopt Administrative Policy 7 – Council and Staff Expenses (2021).

Policy Subject / Title - COUNCIL AND STAFF EXPENSES

GENERAL PURPOSE OF POLICY

- 7.1 It shall be the policy of Region of Queens Municipality to have a standard travel policy for elected council members and staff that clearly sets out what travel costs are reimbursable and the designated amounts.

POLICY APPLICATION

- 7.2 This policy shall apply to all Members of Council, staff where there is not a collective agreement in place covering such items, and all members of the public appointed to committees by Council.

POLICY DETAILS

- 7.3 Council members and staff covered by this policy shall be eligible for reimbursement for travel costs incurred when such costs are authorized by Council or Chief Administrative Officer according to the criteria noted below.

TRAVEL

- 7.4 Council members and staff shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred according to this policy when travelling to attend the following as authorized by Council or Chief Administrative Officer:
- a. meetings of Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities and Association of Municipal Administrators, Nova Scotia
 - b. meetings of Committees, Boards or other Agencies for which the person is appointed by Council and authorized by the Chief Administrative Officer
 - c. attendance at conferences, workshops, or meetings where Council or the Chief Administrative Officer has approved such attendance in advance
 - d. attendance at any meeting or function where the Council member or staff member has been officially invited as part of their role as a member of council or administration and for which they will play a designated role during the meeting or function
 - e. meetings of Council
- 7.5 All council travel within one's electoral district is deemed to be incidental to the discharge of one's' duties and is included in the elected officials' remuneration.
- 7.6 Notwithstanding Section 7.5, where a council member is required to travel more than 50 kilometres within their district on a single trip, reimbursement may be requested.
- 7.7 All Council members and staff shall be reimbursed for the use of one's private vehicle when on approved travel at a kilometre rate equal to the Province of Nova Scotia's current mileage rate.

Policy Subject / Title - COUNCIL AND STAFF EXPENSES

- 7.8 Council members and staff that choose to rent a vehicle for approved travel shall be reimbursed for the exact costs of the rental and gas purchase associated with the rental if supported by the original receipts.
- 7.9 Persons covered by this policy shall be reimbursed for the most economical travel method available considering the distance and location, including airfare, bus, taxi, parking, etc. if supported by original receipts.
- 7.10 All persons covered by this policy are encouraged to carpool whenever possible to reduce travel costs.

REGISTRATION FEES

- 7.11 Registration fees that are payable for approved training shall be reimbursed for all Council members and staff.

MEALS

- 7.12 Meals required to be obtained while travelling on approved municipal business which requires the elected official or staff member to be away from home shall be reimbursed at cost if supported by the original receipt and deemed to be reasonable based on the location of the meal and be approved by the Chief Administrative Officer. Should a member of Council disagree with a decision of the Chief Administrative Officer in this respect, a right of appeal to Council shall exist.
- 7.13 No reimbursement shall be made for meals which are provided as part of a conference or workshop where such registration fee includes specific meals.
- 7.14 Alcohol is not a reimbursable expense.

ACCOMMODATIONS

- 7.15 When travel on municipal business requires a person to be away from home for one or more nights, the person shall be entitled to reimbursement for the total cost of the hotel stay if supported by the original receipt. Such hotel shall be obtained seeking the best possible rate for reasonable accommodations.

INCIDENTALS

- 7.16 When away on approved municipal business, elected officials and staff shall be reimbursed for incidental charges upon submission of a receipt for items like phone calls, parking fees, etc. subject to approval of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Policy Subject / Title - COUNCIL AND STAFF EXPENSES

REIMBURSEMENT APPLICATION

7.17 All applications for travel reimbursement shall be submitted on the authorized municipal travel expense claim form and be signed by the Chief Administrative Officer when approved for payment. Such claims shall be made not less than monthly.

APPEAL PROCESS

7.18 When a Member of Council's expense claim, in whole or in part, has not been approved for reimbursement, and where the Member of Council believes that their expense claim complies with this policy, that Member of Council may submit an appeal in writing to Council within 30 days of the day of denial outlining the appropriate sections of this policy that apply and the rationale for the expense, including copies of any pre-approvals required under this policy.

7.19 Upon receipt of an appeal from a Member of Council, Council shall review the matter in public session at the next appropriate meeting and determine whether the appeal shall be granted or the original decision upheld. Both the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer shall be present to explain the reason for their decision and the Mayor as a member of council is entitled to vote unless otherwise disqualified.

PUBLIC REPORTING

7.20 Approved expense claims for all members of Council and Chief Administrative Officer shall be publicly reported quarterly within 90 days of the end of each fiscal quarter.

REPEAL

7.21 Administrative Policy 7 Respecting Council and Staff Expenses adopted by the Council of Region of Queens Municipality on November 27, 2018, is hereby repealed.

Approved by Council: January 26, 2021

Effective Date: January 26, 2021

10.3 Pemsik Mawa'tasikl Anko'tmu'kl project (DRAFT)

To whom it may concern,

The Region of Queens relies on our natural environment for much of our economy and culture. We have embraced many conservation initiatives over the years, which have helped to support our tourism industry, provide recreation opportunities for our residents and those who come from other areas of Nova Scotia, as well as support sustainable natural resource-based industries, including forestry and fishing.

We are also home to some of the oldest Mi'kmaw archeological sites in Mi'kma'ki, Atlantic Canada.

However, there is more that can be done to bring together the various pieces of protected areas and initiatives into a broader narrative that can both elevate our stories and serve to provide resilience to our economy and our environment into the future.

With this letter, the Region of Queens Municipality is formally endorsing the **Pemsik Mawa'tasikl Anko'tmu'kl project**, which aims to bring together the terrestrial and marine environments in a conservation mosaic. This project will explore gaps in conservation and connectivity and ensure that this work is embedded in Mi'kmaw values and traditions.

We encourage the Province of Nova Scotia to support additional protection of terrestrial parcels as part of its Protected Area Strategy, and to work with Parks Canada to better understand the value and support of a potential **National Marine Conservation Area** in adjacent coastal waters. We understand the value of this area to our fishing communities and support the value of community wellness as imperative to any protected area initiative that ensures sustainable industries into the future.

We welcome the continued work of collaboration on this important initiative so that we may create a future that honours the past and present of our County for future generations in Nova Scotia.

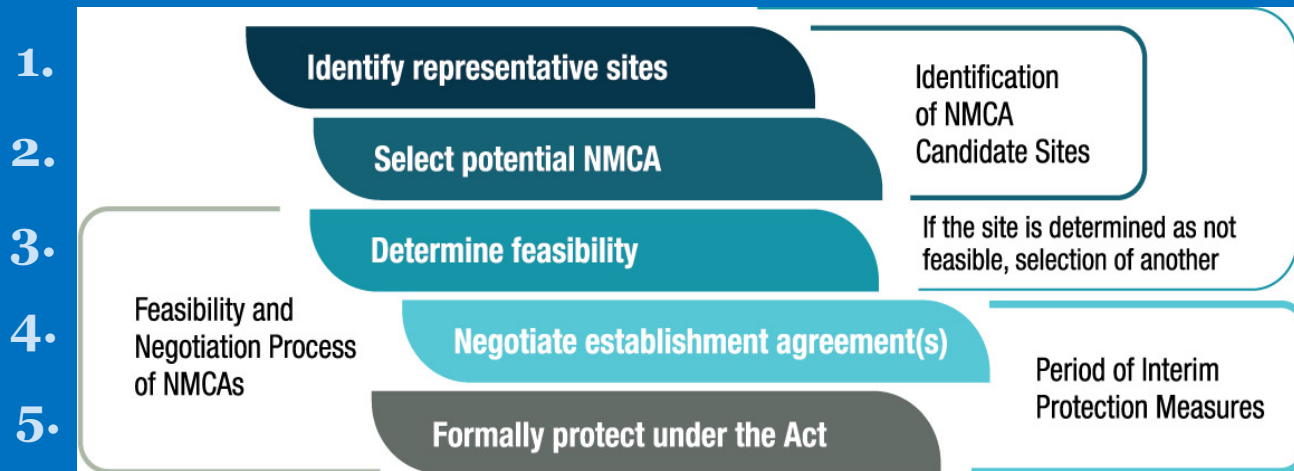
Yours faithfully,

Scott Christian, Mayor



NMCA Establishment Process

Guided by these **five steps**:



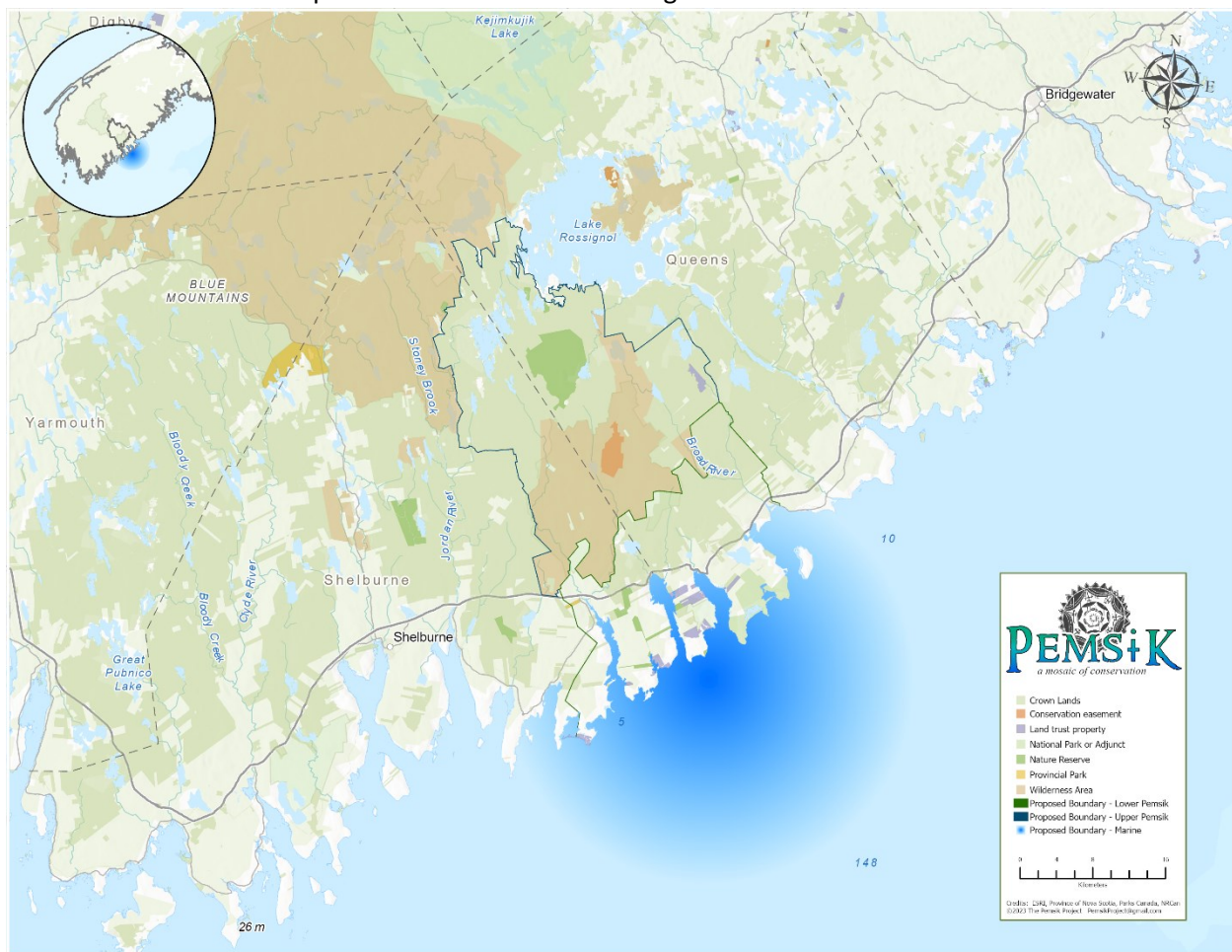
Represents one of 29 Marine Regions
Study site selected
Secure support for Feasibility MOU
Feasibility MOU signed
Feasibility Steering Committee
Indigenous Knowledge studies
Socio-economic, ecological studies etc.
Rights-, stakeholder & public support
Site deemed feasible
Negotiation MOU signed
Final boundaries determined
Develop governance models
Exploration/ Development moratorium
Land transfer agreements
Impact Benefit agreements
Interim Protection



P e m s i k

A Mosaic of Conservation in Kespukwitk

The Indigenous-led vision of Pemsik within the Kespukwitk district of Mi'kma'ki is a coordinated and collaborative conservation area that brings together existing initiatives and works to fill gaps in terrestrial and marine protection. This mosaic of conservation proposes to connect the Tobetic Wilderness Area to the lands, watersheds, and marine waters adjacent to Port Mouton, Port Joli, and Port l'Hebert, as well as the Broad and Sable Rivers. Partners of the Pemsik project are working towards safeguarding the cultural and natural values that are critical to the identity and livelihoods of the Mi'kmaq and rural communities throughout South West Nova Scotia.



A National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) has been proposed as the federal legislative tool for application in the marine component of the Pemsik vision. The whole mosaic of conservation will involve many legislative tools and welcomes a diversity of perspectives and approaches to realizing it.

pemsikproject@gmail.com

What is a NMCA?

NMCAs are a type of marine protected area administered by Parks Canada that protect and conserve healthy and resilient marine ecosystems, conserve cultural heritage, provide lasting benefits for Indigenous peoples and coastal communities, create enjoyable experiences for visitors, and promote awareness and understanding among Canadians.

What is the purpose of a NMCA?

NMCAs are established for the purpose of protecting and conserving representative marine areas for the benefit, education, and enjoyment of the people of Canada and the world. NMCAs contribute to the Government of Canada's commitments achieving the conservation of 25 percent of marine and coastal areas by 2025, and 30 percent by 2030, while helping to advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

How does Parks Canada and its partners achieve the purpose of NMCAs?

Eight interconnected and mutually reinforcing management goals guide Parks Canada's work to achieve the purpose of NMCAs through shared governance with Indigenous governments and communities:

- Protect marine ecosystems and biodiversity to maintain or improve ecological sustainability
- Conserve cultural heritage
- Manage use in an ecologically sustainable manner
- Support Indigenous leadership in marine conservation
- Contribute to the well-being of Indigenous peoples and coastal communities
- Facilitate opportunities for meaningful visitor experiences
- Enhance awareness and understanding of NMCAs
- Advance effective collaboration for management

Will there be any benefits for local communities in protecting this marine area?

The well-being of Indigenous peoples and coastal communities is intrinsically linked to healthy coastal and marine spaces. NMCAs provide a range of benefits including ecosystem services, local food sources, a sense of place, and opportunities to pursue sustainable livelihoods and traditional and recreational activities. They also play a vital role in protecting species, habitats, and ecosystems, mitigating climate change impacts, and providing social, economic, and cultural benefits to communities.

A NMCA provides opportunities to local and Indigenous communities through the development of a conservation economy. Sustained investments will result in the creation of local jobs, business opportunities, investments in youth, research and monitoring, and other economic benefits.

What activities are prohibited within a NMCA?

The Canada NMCA Act prohibits the exploration and extraction of hydrocarbons, minerals, aggregates or any other inorganic matter upholds strict limits on the disposal of substances in the waters within NCMAs. In addition, the federal Protection Standard for MPAs prohibits bottom trawling, disposal at sea of waste and other matter, dumping of fill, deposit of deleterious drugs and pesticides. The Standard also enhances restrictions on vessel discharges.

What type of fishing is permitted in NMCAs?

NMCAs can support commercial, community-led and recreational fisheries that are carried out in an ecologically sustainable manner and compatible with the purpose and objectives of each NMCA.

Bottom trawling is prohibited in all federal marine protected areas established after 2019.

Council Motion Request

Date Submitted for consideration: January 2, 2025

Date of Meeting:	January 14, 2025
Subject Title:	Funding Finance Education Sessions
Motion:	Motion for the Council to approve the unbudgeted expense of \$300 for Councillor Jenkins to take part in 3 online courses titled Municipal Finance for Elected Officials delivered by Association of Municipal Administrators Nova Scotia: Module 1- Setting Operating & Capital Budget Priorities Module 2 – Financial Statements and Reports Module 3- Monitoring Budgets
Background / Reasoning:	As Chair of the Audit & Finance Committee it will provide some added insight to the budgeting processes along with in-depth knowledge of municipal statements and reports that are generated along with the controls associated with the finance department.
Name:	Stewart Jenkins, Councillor District 6

**Proclamation
Alzheimer Awareness Month
January 2025**

WHEREAS: There are an estimated 16,000 people living with dementia in Nova Scotia; and

WHEREAS: It is projected that the number of people living with dementia in Nova Scotia will increase by 87% with nearly 30,000 people likely to be living with dementia by 2050; and

WHEREAS: The Alzheimer Society of NS is committed to alleviating the personal and social consequences of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and to promoting the search for the causes and cures.



112-2719 Gladstone Street, Halifax NS B3K 4W6 Tel: 902-422-7961
Toll Free 1-800-611-6345 Fax 902-422-7971 Email: alzheimer@asns.ca

For more information, or to make a secure online donation, visit

www.alzheimer.ca/ns

Charitable Registration Number: 10670 5379 RR0001



News release

Transitional Rules Posted for HST Reduction

20 December 2024 | 1:34 PM

Finance and Treasury Board

Nova Scotians and businesses across Canada can find information online to plan for the permanent reduction of the harmonized sales tax (HST) that will take effect April 1, 2025.

“The HST reduction is one way the government is helping Nova Scotians and addressing affordability. We want to share these rules as early as possible to provide businesses with sufficient lead time to understand the rules and to make system changes,” said John Lohr, Minister of Finance and Treasury Board. “We also want to help consumers plan and ensure they know that we’re taking the steps necessary to fulfill our promise to lower taxes and make the lives of Nova Scotians and workers more affordable.”

Information about the decrease in the HST to 14 per cent from 15 per cent is at:

<https://www.novascotia.ca/finance/en/home/taxation/tax101/hst/default.aspx.html>

Posting this notice online provides people with a general description of the transitional rules for the decrease and to understand which tax rate applies around the April 1 implementation date.

In general, the transitional rule to determine which tax rate applies is based on the earlier of the invoice date or when the transaction is paid. If the transaction is payable before April 1, the HST of 15 per cent applies. If the transaction is payable after April 1, the HST rate of 14 per cent applies. However, there are special situations where the general rule may not apply.

For more information on general transitional rules, people can contact the Canada Revenue Agency’s business enquire line at 1-800-959-5525 (English service) or 1-800-959-7775 (French service). For more information on the transitional rules for sales of real property, people should contact the Canada Revenue Agency’s technical GST/HST enquiries line at 1-800-959-8287 (English service) or 1-800-959-8296 (French service).

Nova Scotia first announced its intention to decrease the provincial portion of the HST rate on October 23. The government passed a legislative motion on the reduction December 10.

Quick Facts:

- the HST includes the provincial sales tax of 10 per cent and federal goods and services tax (GST) of five per cent; the provincial portion will be reduced to nine per cent
- a one percentage point reduction to the provincial portion of the HST is expected to reduce provincial revenues by about \$260.8 million in the 2025-26 fiscal year; \$265.5 million in 2026-27; and \$272.4 million in 2027-28
- lower income earners who receive the affordable living tax credit will continue to be supported at the same level
- to permanently reduce the HST by one percentage point, the Province must provide notice in writing, make a public announcement and pass a legislative instrument; these steps have been completed
- the final step in reducing the rate is a regulation change by the federal government

Additional Resources:

News release – Nova Scotia Takes Next Step to Permanently Reduce HST:

<https://news.novascotia.ca/en/2024/12/10/nova-scotia-takes-next-step-permanently-reduce-hst>



Bylaw Enforcement Monthly Report - December 2024

Incoming Files	December 2024	Nov -Dec 24 Totals
Dog Complaints	3	7
Dog Complaint Follow-Up	14	21
Dog(s) Running at Large	5	8
Dog(s) Barking Incessantly	1	3
Impounded Dog(s)	0	0
Dog Bites	0	3
Dog Bites - Follow-Ups	5	14
Dangerous and Unsigntly Premises (New)	4	11
Dangerous and Unsigntly Premises (Follow-Ups)	60	78
Court	0	0
Call Outs	0	0
Illegal Dumpsites	0	2
Noise Bylaw	0	2
Taxi Bylaw	0	1
Parking Complaints	0	1
Vending Bylaw	1	1
Public Market Bylaw	3	4
Burning Bylaw	0	1
Civic Numbering Bylaw	3	6
Solid Waste Bylaw	15	21
Smoking Bylaw	0	0
Summary Offences Tickets Issued	1	3
Apprehension, Detention, and Fencing of Livestock	0	2
Other	14	20
Derelict Vehile Program	6	6
Total	135	215
Parking Infractions	0	15
Dog Tags Sold 2023/2024	907	907

Other:

SOT:

1)Dec 4/24 - Solid Waster Management Bylaw #13 - Section b8 - Burning Solid Waste Other Than as Permitted by Bylaw - \$237.50