

September 6,2022

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building, and by videoconference and teleconference on Tuesday September 6, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

## **PRESENT**

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

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

Brian Cullen, CAO, Municipal Clerk-Treasurer  
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer  
Evan Hale, Director of Emergency Services  
Sueann Musick, Communications Officer  
Logan McDowell, Director of Public Works & Development

## **CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Deputy Warden Murray called the meeting to order and invited Councilors to pray or reflect, as may be their preference, to help Council focus and properly do the work of the Municipality, and to remember our indigenous communities. He acknowledges that we are on the ancestral territorial lands of the Mikmaq people and would like to thank the Mikmaq people today for their ancestors sharing these precious lands with all our ancestors whether they arrived here 400 years ago or 4 years ago. May we all live in peace and harmony together.

## **AGENDA**

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Turner that the agenda be approved. Motion carried.

## **MINUTES**

The minutes of the August 2, 2022, Council Meeting were reviewed by the Municipal Council. There were no additions, deletions, or clarifications entered by members of Council. The Deputy Warden proclaimed the minutes of the meeting of August 2, 2022, as the official record of the meeting.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- a) Department of Public Works regarding planned intersection improvements at the intersection of Route 245 and Trunk 4 in Sutherland's River.

Clr. Butler commented that he was pleased with the work and results being implemented by the Department of Public Works.

- b) Correspondence from Amanda Reid expressing concern over decision to cut funding to the River John Community Coordinator

Clr. D. Parker commented that this letter was very well written, and that Council should reexamine the concept of community coordinators and the level of funding we may provide at a future meeting.

- c) Thank you letters for grants: (not circulated): Heartland Bike Tour (Sponsorship); Case Smiles Nova Scotia, B. Dalton Graduation Bursary

## **PRESENTATION: PICTOU COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LITTERING AND EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY**

Deborah Searle, Waste Reduction Coordinator, Pictou County Solid Waste presented to Council the following information:

*Tackling  
Litter in  
Nova Scotia*

September 6, 2022



*Litter is not  
Pictou County  
specific issue*



PICTOU COUNTY  
**GO CLEAN  
GET GREEN**



## *Local Litter Initiatives*

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- Pictou County's Go Clean Get Green
  - 2022 - 127 registrations, 1,480 volunteers, over 6.6 tonnes of litter collected
- Great Nova Scotia Pick-Me-Up
- Nova Scotia Adopt-A-Highway Program - 9 active groups
- Pictou County Solid Waste Students
- Individuals doing their part!



## *Litter Compliance*

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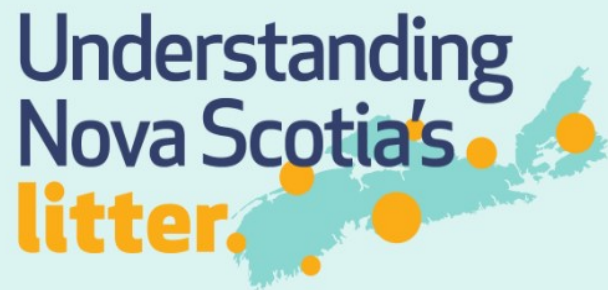
- Pictou County Solid Waste does not have the ability or resources to issue fines for littering
- RCMP can fine \$445.00 for a first offence
- Provincial inspectors can fine under the Environment Act
  - Summary Offence Ticket- \$467.50
  - Mandate letter from the Premier proposes enacting the Litterbug Act to have highest penalties in Canada.
- Extremely difficult to catch and prosecute

## *Divert NS Roadside Litter Audit -2021*

### Objectives

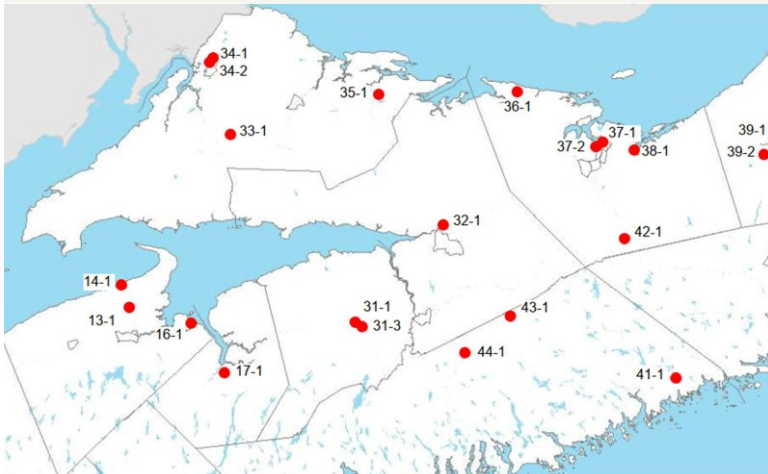
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- Comprehensive sampling of roadside litter across the province
- Provide comparison with 2008 litter audit
- Provide data to support education, policy and compliance initiatives
- Audit performed by Dillon Consulting



## *Litter Audit – Site Selection*

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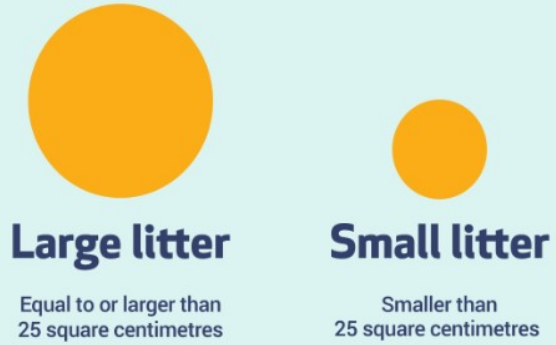
- Selected based on 55 sites audited in 2008
- A minimum of one site was audited per location, with additional sites if time permitted
- A total of 75 sites were audited between June 14 & July 15, 2021
- 5 sites were audited in Pictou County

# Litter Categories

- All large litter (>25 cm<sup>2</sup>) collected, categorized, and weighed
- Branded large litter identified
- 13 large litter categories, with 97 sub-categories
- 16 small litter categories

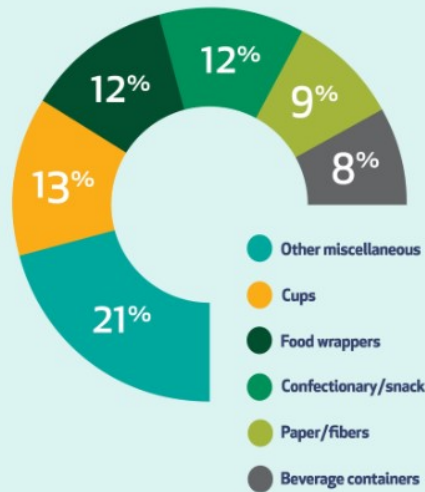
## What we found.

Litter was categorized as:



Understanding Nova Scotia's litter.

## Large litter by category.



Understanding Nova Scotia's litter.

## Small litter by category.



# 32%

Cigarette butts/debris

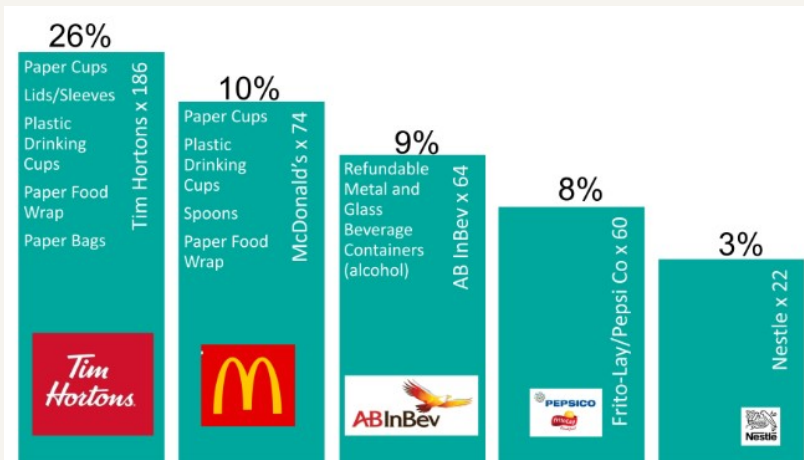


Understanding Nova Scotia's litter.

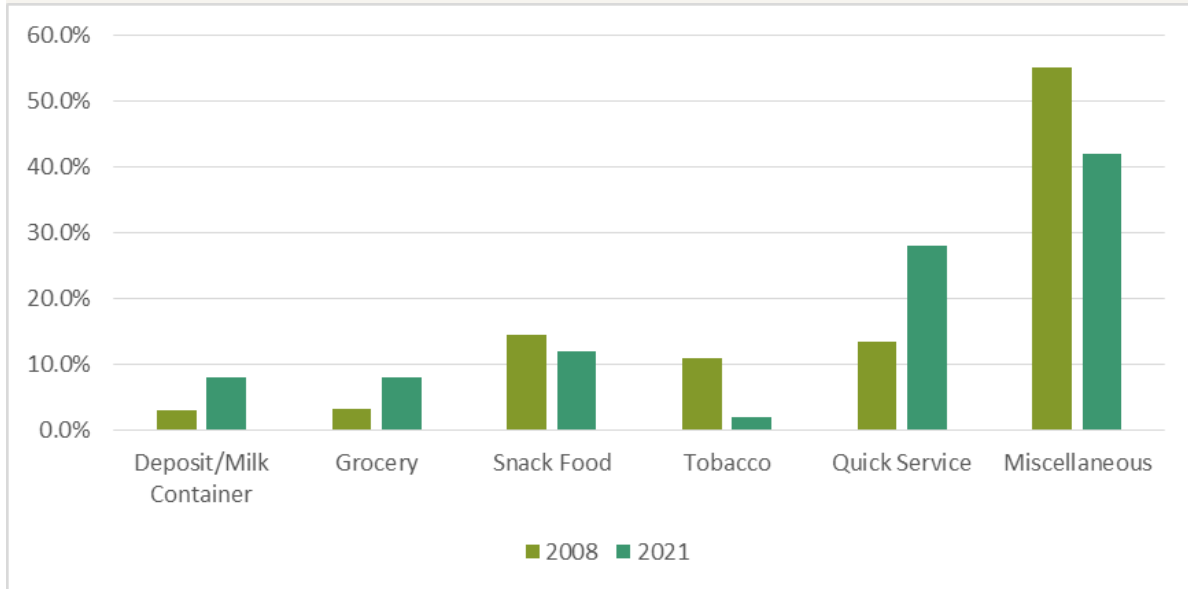
## Branded Litter – Top Contributors

707 of 2844 (25%) of large litter was branded

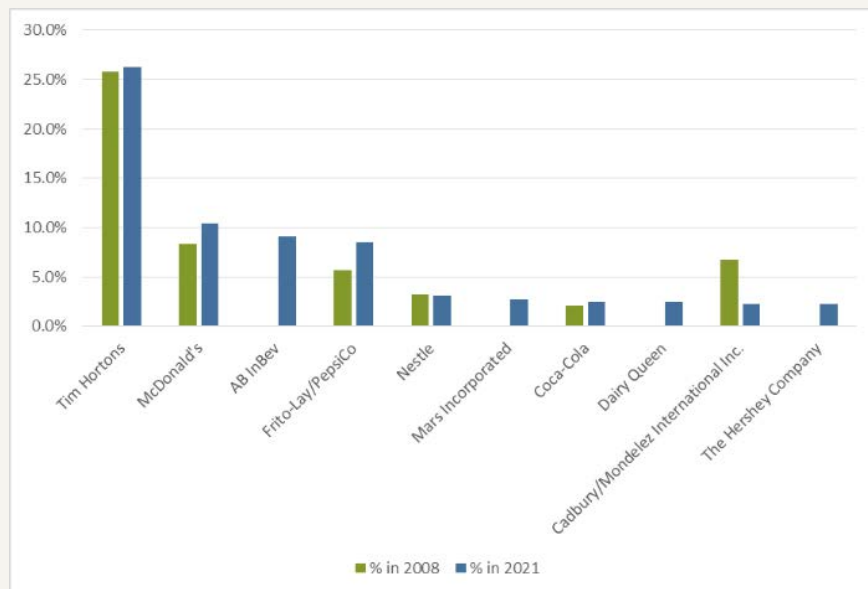
Total of 147 brands, representing 73 parent brands



## 2008 vs 2021 Large Litter Comparison



## 2008 vs 2021 Branded Litter Comparison



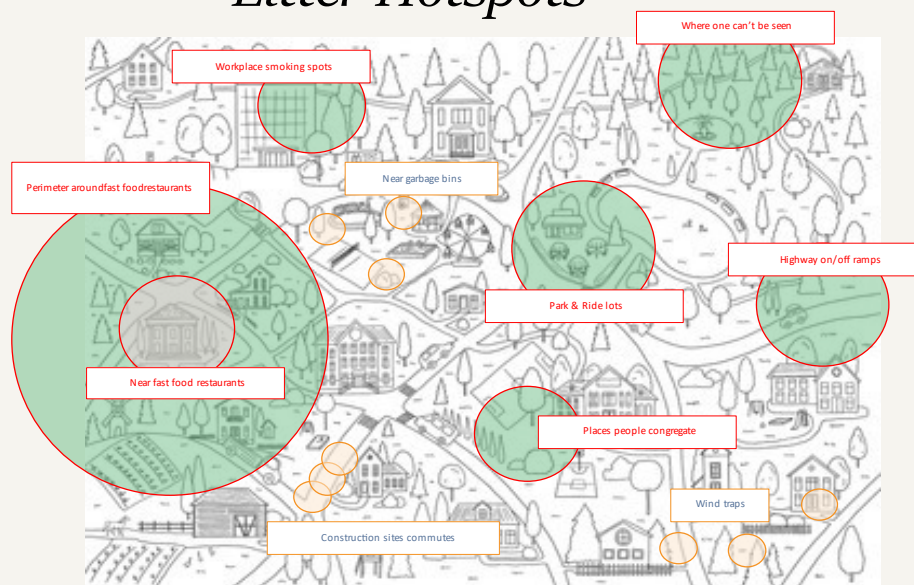


# Divert NS Behavioural Research

- Davis Pier was hired for this research project
- Objectives:
  - Gain a better understanding of the behaviour of litterers in Nova Scotia - interviews, surveys, etc.
  - Identify examples of successful approaches to altering littering behaviour in the literature and within other jurisdictions
  - Target research on priority categories from 2021 roadside litter audit- cigarette butts, cups, fast food packaging, alcoholic beverage containers



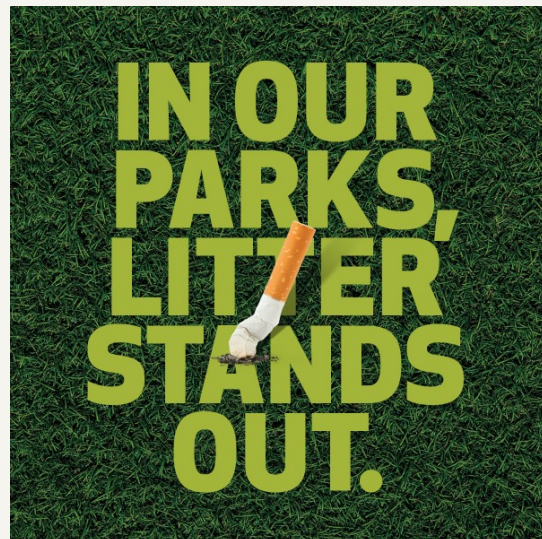
## Litter Hotspots



*Intervention  
Pilots –  
Cigarette  
Butts and  
Coffee Cups*



*Divert NS Campaign and Resources*



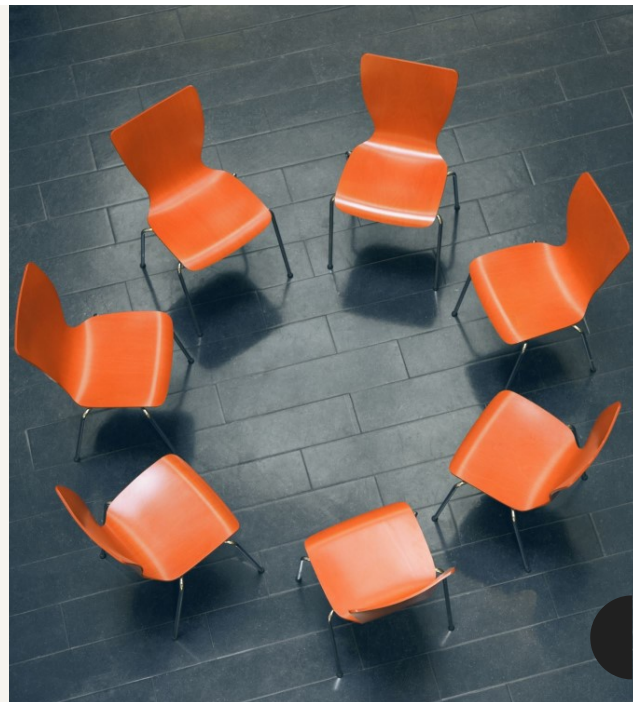
## *Extended Producer Responsibility*

- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Printed Paper and Packaging (PPP)
- Shifts costs from the consumer to the producer.
- 80% of Canadian consumers live in areas with an EPR program for PPP.
- Goal for municipalities- Residents won't notice any change.



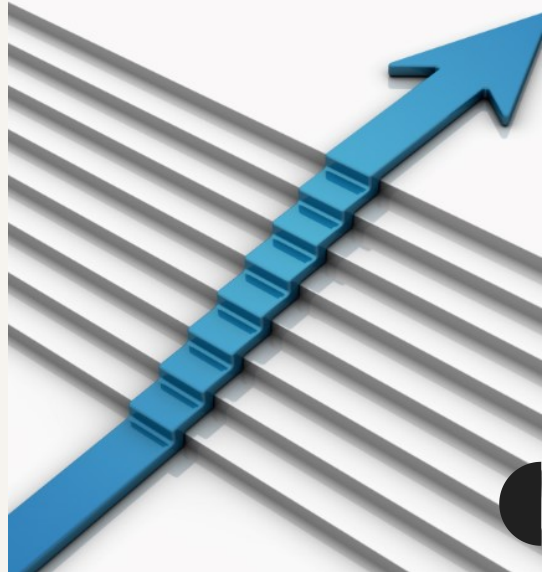
## *Status of EPR for PPP in Nova Scotia*

- December 12, 2021 - NSECC announced that they would be starting a targeted 90-day consultation on January 10, 2022.
- During this time, a separate consultation would take place for batteries, lighting and additional electronics- similar to PEI
- Requested that the NS Regional Chairs Committee, NSFM and AMA submit a consensus response to the consultation.
- This was submitted to NSECC on April 11, 2022.



## *Latest Update*

- June 24<sup>th</sup> Regional Chairs Meeting, NSECC staff reported:
- Leadership has been briefed on the responses to the targeted consultation
- NSECC staff has started working on draft regulation for both PPP and BLAE (batteries, lighting, additional electronics)
- Staff believe that the regulations for BLAE will be put forward first and are hoping both will pass in the fall sitting of the legislature
- Once passed, 23 years for the program to be fully up and running
- Expecting a further update at the September 16<sup>th</sup> Regional Chairs meeting



*Thank you!*



Clr. Boyles said that enforcement seems to be an issue and at a recent meeting in Linacy the RCMP said they do not have the resources to enforce littering. Ms. Searle said that enforcement is an issue both from a policing standpoint and environmental inspectors.

Clr. Boyles said that there is concern about the way materials are picked up. Ms.

Searle said that the way materials are collected has been examined. There are issues with the materials not being compacted quick enough, so blue bags fall off the truck.

Clr. D. Parker said that education does make a difference and illegal dumping while improving is still a problem in remote areas of the county. Ms. Searle stated that illegal dumping is an area of concern, and that the municipal units and Pictou County Solid Waste are examining options for the next collection contract on ways to improve the system and collection methods of large items that often form the basis of illegal dumps.

Clr. MacKeil said she was intrigued by the signs and wondered if they would make a difference at the entry points such as the ferry terminal. Ms. Searle stated that will be interesting to see how the Provincial government responds to recommendations and signage along the highways.

Clr. MacKeil asked if there is anything that can be done with uncovered loads. Ms. Searle stated that this is an issue that they try to educate the public about covering the loads that come to the Mount William Site. It is an area that education helps; however, on a yearly basis the employees from the Mount William facility do a cleanup along the Trenton Connector.

Clr. Thompson commented that Highway 104 past Exit 26 is a clean stretch of highway and wondered if this is because the private developer is looking after the maintenance.

Clr. Palmer stated that years ago the province had students pick up garbage along the roadside; however, it became a safety issue. Clr. Palmer said the Go Green Get Clean is a great program; however, littering is a huge issue, and it will be a very tough to overcome the issue as many people just do not seem to care.

Warden Parker stated that there is a lot of effort being put forward on the issue of littering and asked what the next steps are. Ms. Searle stated that they are focusing on some educational items over the next year. There is no clear direction yet from the province; however, there will be a more proactive approach from the government and agencies.

Clr. Turner asked if the question of why people litter has been answered? Ms. Searle stated that she will share the behaviour study with council members. Clr. Turner stated that there are jurisdictions that do not seem to have the problem such as Prince Edward Island. Ms. Searle stated that in conversations with waste management personnel in PEI they do not have any answers for why they do not seem to have the issues.

Ms. Searle in response to Deputy Warden Murray said that she is hopeful that some proactive things will come from the work being undertaken. Deputy Warden Murray stated that there is new signage along the Cabot Trail and hopefully it will make a difference.

Deputy Warden Murray thanked Ms. Searle for her presentation and information presented to Council.

## **RESOLUTIONS DISTRICT 6 INTERSECTION LIGHT**

Clr. MacKeil presented a resolution to Council as follows:

### **RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou has adopted a policy with respect to the provision of street lighting at intersections in areas where residential street lighting does not exist;

WHEREAS this policy is intended to aid in the safe passage of motor vehicles on public streets or roads and pedestrian traffic at street intersections and other pedestrian infrastructure in a manner which is both affordable and adequate for vehicular and pedestrian traffic;

WHEREAS the Property Services Committee has considered a request for the installation of an intersection streetlight in District #6 at the intersection of Highway #376 and the Durham Road;

WHEREAS the Director of Public Works & Development has carried out an analysis of the area including the condition of the roads, speed limits, and the lack of flashing beacons or signalized traffic control.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve the installation of one intersection streetlight, in accordance with Policy #2008-09-34 in District #6 at the intersection of Highway #376 and the Durham Road.

**DATED** at Pictou, NS this 6th day of September 2022.

Sgd. Darla MacKeil  
Randy Palmer

### **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil, seconded by Clr. Palmer that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented. Motion Carried.

## **RESOLUTIONS CHARITABLE RECEIPTS FOR DONATIONS RIVER JOHN PICKLEBALL**

Clr. Elliott presented a resolution to Council as follows:

**RESOLUTION**

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

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

WHEREAS the River John Pickleball Club has requested that the Municipality receive donated funds for the Club's Capital Campaign and issue charitable tax receipts to respective donors;

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council authorize the collection of charitable donations to the River John Pickleball Club's Capital Campaign and the issuance of charitable tax receipts for same.

**DATED** at Pictou, NS this 6th day of September 2022

Sgd. Mary Elliott  
David Parker

**MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. Elliott, seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented. Motion Carried.

**RESOLUTIONS: CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN 2022-2023**

Clr. MacKeil presented a resolution to Council as follows:

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council adopt the 2022/23 – 2026/27 Capital Investment Plan in the amount of \$61,235,304, the same having been reviewed and approved by the Financial Services Committee of Council.

**DATED** at Pictou, N.S. this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September 2022.

Sgd. Darla MacKeil  
Chester Dewar

**MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil, seconded by Clr. Dewar that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented. Motion Carried

**Internet Project Update**

The CAO presented the following information to Council on the Rural Internet Project.





## FIBRE UPDATE

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- **MOPC to Pleasant Heights Sub-division and Hardwood Hills**
  - Except for a few laterals waiting on some minor NSP make ready work, the fibre is fully commissioned.
  - This section has test customers active and plans are on track for general availability by Sep<sup>th</sup> 15
  - Letters are going out to the serviceable addresses inviting them to get hooked up.
    - ISP's will market their individual packages to the serviceable homes
- **Pleasant Heights to Central West River**
  - Construction and splicing is complete.
  - The data rack with access equipment is being installed next week at CWR and the fibre will then be terminated testing will be completed.
    - Expect the fibre to be commissioned for use by Sept<sup>th</sup> 21
    - Once this equipment is commissioned, letters can go to the serviceable addresses.
- **CWR to Mt. Thom**
  - The build from CWR to Mt Thom is underway. There is approximately 2500 meters of strand run from Mt Thom east.
  - Crews are continuing to run strand followed by cable + splicing.
  - We expect to have the fibre ready for service on this route by the end of October.

## MAKEREADYPROCESS

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- Meeting was held with Nova Scotia Power on August<sup>23<sup>rd</sup></sup> to discuss make ready process.
- As a result of the meeting:
  - Nova Scotia Power has assigned 4 Power Line Technicians to the Northern Area (Pictou/Colchester)
  - A dedicated detailer has been assigned to our project.

## RDN TOWER UPDATES

Tower Location (Number of Potential Subscribers)	Comments
Hardwood Hills[250]	Tower is live, will add test customers ASAP, set channels etc. Expect this to be complete mid Sept.
Greenhill[190]	Tower is live, RF coverage survey and set channels in conjunction with Hardwood Hills. Hardwood Hills & Greenhill see each other so RF tweaking to be co-ordinated Fibre expected late October so once fibre in should be true GA
MOPC/Pictou[180]	Microwave & FWA being installed. Fibre in place Microwaves feed McLellans & Mt Thom
Mt Thom[200]	Complete RF tweaking by mid Sept. Microwave & FWA installed. Backhaul from MOPC Expect to be live end of next week. Complete RF tweaking by mid Sept.

## RDN UPDATES

Tower Location (Number of Potential Subscribers)	Comments
McLellans[178]	Microwave backhaul from MOPC. Confirmed steel has been shipped to Turris. Expect Turris to start install next week, complete Friday 9 Complete RF tweaking by end of Sept.
Eureka [380]	Tower built. No clear ETA on power, looking at alternatives. Back haul from McLellans going live is dependant on McLellans. FWA & Microwave install targeting mid Oct to align with power resolution. Drawings approved last Friday and sent table to commence construction. Materials are an issue, lead times for steel 8 weeks Exact construction date TBD. Power ETA TBD.
River John[185]	FWA & Microwave targeting late Oct to align with power resolution. NB backhaul to River John assumes we can construct the MOPC/Hardwood Hills tower which requires resolution of the driveway issue lease complete Turris will be contracted to do the FWA & microwave install. Lead time on Steel 6 weeks Start Towers mid October We expect to bring these towers from live to GA in staged manner. Working on backhaul design from MOPC/Pictou and mechanical limits of tower. Site to cover Pictou Island
Willowdale[50], McKelvie[20] Sunny Brae (50)	Eden Lake, Bailey's Brook Leases signed Are all at land acquisition stage.
Town of Pictou Water[50]	Eden Lake, Bailey's Brook Leases signed Are all at land acquisition stage.
Eden Lake[107], East River[104], Baileys Brook[270], Poplar Hill[108]	
Blue Mtn[48]	

## COMMUNICATIONS

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- Letters are sent to all serviceable properties once testing on systems is complete
  - Fibre and Wireless
  - Explains the process for each resident to follow for services.
- ISP's will do independent marketing of their packages, which does correspondence to the portal for signing up.
- Planning an official launch event for late September; details and logistics are being worked upon

In response to several questions about the wireless service, the Cao stated that as a tower becomes operational, they will confirm the coverage areas who will be served from the tower. Letters will then be sent to the homeowners that can be serviced outlining the process for them to have installation. Clr. Thompson asked about the Garden of Eden area and coverage as some people are eligible for Starlink and others are not. The CAO replied that we are reviewing our coverage maps to ensure data is correct; however, wireless technology can be site specific so some may get a reliable service and other next door may not.

### **HILLSIDE PROPERTY OWNER REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT PLUMBING CHARGES**

Clr. Boyles brought forward on behalf of residents in his district who incurred charges of \$885.50 from a plumbing company, when the problem with the blockage was on the Municipality's lateral.

Mr. McDowell informed the committee that the Municipality was not informed of the problem until a contractor was onsite doing a repair. At that time municipal staff determined that there was a blockage in our lateral that was caused by a sag in the line. Mr. McDowell explained that had the homeowners contacted the municipality our investigative techniques would have been less expensive, and we would have fixed the problem.

Clr. Palmer asked if the problem was solely on the municipal side or did the homeowners have issues within their line. Mr. McDowell replied that the issue was within the municipal lateral. Clr. Palmer said that in his opinion the municipality should reimburse the homeowners as the problem was ours. Clr. MacKeil stated that we need to do more to educate the public that they should be calling us first, rather than independent contractors. Clr. D. Parker said that he had an incident at a property that he is involved with, and a call was made to the municipality and the response and the clean was quick and thorough.

### **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. Dewar, seconded by Clr. Boyles that the residents be reimbursed the \$885.50 that they incurred because of the blockage on their property.

Motion Carried

### **PICTOU CULTURAL HUB ARTISAN SUBMISSION REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The CAO explained that the committee is looking for someone to help review submissions of artwork for the new facility. Clr. Wadden and the Warden sit on the oversight committee, with the Warden representing the Municipality and Councilor Wadden representing the Library Board.

### **MOTION**

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil, seconded by Clr. Elliott that Councilor Wadden represents the Municipality on this sub-committee of the Pictou Cultural Hub Project.

Motion carried

### **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Clr. Thompson informed the Council of the Churchville Hall Fall Market to be held on September 10.

Clr. Thompson informed the Council of an Engage Nova Scotia Session to be held on September 14 to review Quality of Life Initiatives.

Clr. Boyles informed the of a Trivia Night to be held at the Hillside Hall on September 10 and a Country Jam on September 16<sup>th</sup>

Clr. Turner informed the Council that the Abercrombie Fire Department will be hosting a funday on September 10.

Clr. D. Parker stated that yesterday was Labour Day and our labour force is changing and in particular the people who work in health care facilities. Clr. Parker asked that a letter be send to the Nova Scotia Nurses Union and CUPE thanking them for all their efforts over the past year. The Council agreed to send the correspondence.

Clr. D. Parker informed the Council that he recently took part in a Blanket Ceremony and suggested that the Council and staff should partake in the ceremony. The ceremony

was enlightening and brings to light the issues that are facing our native communities.

Warden Parker stated that on September 16<sup>th</sup> he will again partake in the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope.

Clr. Wadden reminded Council members of the special board meeting of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities tomorrow night September 7, 2022.

Clr. Butler informed the Council of the Lismore Murder Mystery Night on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

Clr. Palmer thanked the Council for their support of the Thorburn 150 Kiosk and Celebration.

Clr. MacKeil reminded the Council that the Exhibition is this week in Pictou.

Clr. Thompson informed the Committee that Terry Fox Marathon of Hope will be held in Bridgeville on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

Clr. Boyles informed Council that the first cruise ship will arrive in Pictou on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

The CAO reminded Council members of the upcoming Municipal Boundary Review Sessions. The first one was held virtually this evening, with just the members of the press present.

Clr. Thompson informed Council members of an advertisement that the Town of Trenton had posted for a water rate increase. The CAO stated that the administration was aware of the application and would be reviewing the rate study.

Mr. Hale informed the Committee that the Junior Firefighter Program is now up and running with various departments in the County.

## **EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS**

There were no emergency resolutions.

## **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the meeting the Deputy Warden declared the meeting adjourned (9:35 pm).