

March 1, 2021

The Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou met in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building and by video-conference on Monday, March 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Dist.	1	Clr. Don Butler
	2	Clr. Deborah Wadden (by video-conference)
	3	Clr. Darla MacKeil
	4	Clr. Mary Elliott
	5	Deputy Warden Wayne Murray
	6	Warden Robert Parker
	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

Donn Fraser, Solicitor, Mac Mac & Mac (by video-conference)
Brian Cullen, CAO, Municipal Clerk-Treasurer
Karen Cornish, Deputy Municipal Treasurer (by video-conference)
Carolyn MacIntosh, Deputy Municipal Clerk (by video-conference)
Sueann Musick, Communications Officer (by video-conference)
Jane Johnson, Recording Secretary

BY APPOINTMENT

Deborah Searle, Pictou County Solid Waste, Waste Reduction & Safety Coordinator
Nova Scotia Forestry Contractors, Ryan Scott and David MacMillan

CALL TO ORDER

Warden R. Parker 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.

AGENDA

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. D. Parker that the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

PROCLAMATION – PURPLE DAY FOR EPILEPSY AWARENESS

Warden R. Parker presented a resolution to Council as follows:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS Purple Day is a global effort dedicated to promoting epilepsy awareness in countries around the world, and

WHEREAS epilepsy is one of the most common neurological conditions, estimated to affect over 50 million people worldwide and 42 people in Canada are diagnosed every day, and
WHEREAS one in 10 person will have at least one seizure during his or her lifetime, and

WHEREAS the public is often unable to recognize common seizure types, or how to respond with appropriate first aid, and

WHEREAS Purple Day will be celebrated on March 26 annually to increase understanding, reduce stigma and improve the quality of life for people with epilepsy throughout the country and globally.

THEREFORE, I do hereby proclaim March 26, 2021 Purple Day in an effort to raise awareness of epilepsy in Canada.

DATED at Pictou, N.S. the 1st day of March, 2021.

Robert Parker
Warden

MINUTES

It was moved by Clr. MacKeil and seconded by Clr. Butler that the minutes of February 1, 2021 be approved as circulated.

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received and acknowledged from the following:

- (a) Thank-you notes for grant funding (uncirculated) have been received from Pictou Academy, Trenton Middle School, McCulloch Education Centre, & Scotsburn Elementary

PRESENTATION – PC SOLID WASTE, DEBORAH SEARLE (7:05 P.M.)

Ms. Searle met with Council and made a Power Point Presentation on Pictou County Solid Waste as follows:



What we
used to do...



What we do now...

- We sort our garbage, recyclables and organics to be picked up curbside or by private haulers.
- Material is kept separate throughout the process and handled in various ways.



Solid Waste
Management
Facility

Mount William NS

Garbage is tipped and sorted.



Garbage is loaded into a trailer.



Garbage is transferred to the Guysborough Landfill



Transfer Station & Recycling Building



Recyclables are sent to the Colchester Materials Recovery Facility



Recyclables are
hand sorted

Recyclables
are baled and
shipped to
market



Compost
Facility



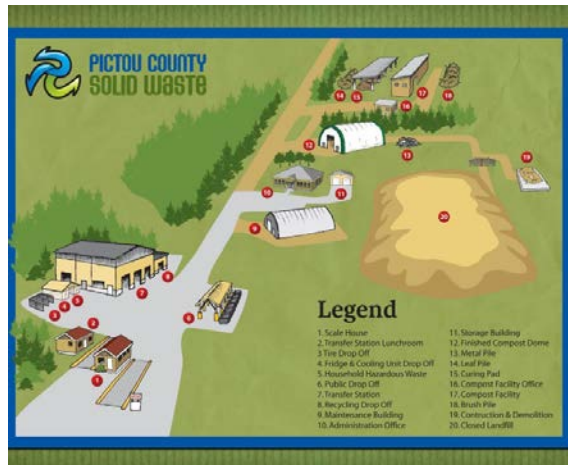
Finished
Compost
Dome





Last year the facility received:

- Organics – 6,500 T
- Recyclables – 2,700 T
- Garbage – 10,000 T
- Construction & Demolition Debris – 3,300 T



What changed?



- More concern for the environment.
- In 1989, the CCME set a target to decrease the amount of waste sent to landfills by 50%.
- In 1995, the Government of Nova Scotia passed legislation.
- We were the first and only province to reach this goal by the year 2000!
- Over 100 dumps to 7 second generation landfills by the end of 2005.



What's the problem with producing so much waste?

- Space
- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Wildlife
- Litter
- Money
 - \$140 million per year in NS
 - 68% paid for by municipal taxes
 - Averages 11% of municipal budgets




What's on the horizon?


- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Printed Paper and Packaging (PPP)
 - One of NSFMs's current resolutions
 - NS municipalities are currently paying over \$25 million per year to manage these blue bag items.
 - Shifts costs from the consumer to the producer.
 - 80% of Canadian consumers live in areas with an EPR program for PPP
 - We're already paying, but not receiving any benefits.
 - Potential of up to \$16 million per year for NS.

There's an app for that!


Download our mobile app
'Pictou County Solid Waste'





See your
waste collection
schedule




Receive
reminders about
your collection day



Learn if
materials can
be recycled

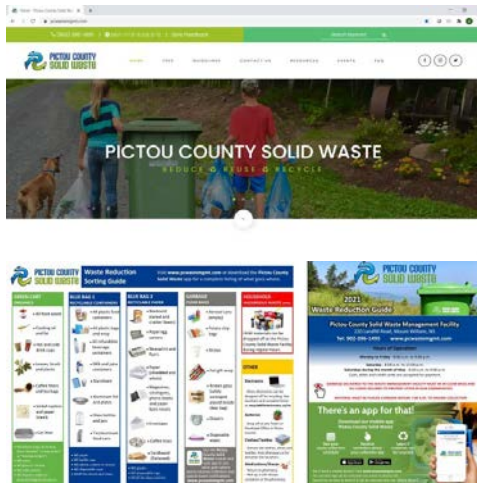
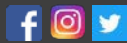
Don't have a mobile device? Visit www.pcwastemgmt.com.
You can also sign up for reminders by email or phone call.
Search for an item to learn if it can be recycled with the 'Waste Wizard'.



Educational Resources

We're Social Too!

Check us out on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter.



Community Outreach



Household Hazardous Waste Facility & Mobile Events

PICTOU COUNTY
**GO CLEAN
GET GREEN**

Litter Initiatives – Get Involved!



- Pictou County's Go Clean Get Green
 - April 19 – 24, 2021
- Great Nova Scotia Pick-Me-Up
- Nova Scotia Adopt-A-Highway Program



Enforcement



We all play an important role

- Practice the 3 'R's.
- Take the time to sort it out.
- Making a few small, simple changes each day causes a big impact.



Warden R. Parker commented that the landfill site is very well run and staff is very helpful.

Clr. Turner reported that he represents District 8 and there has been questions on monitoring the leachate.

Deborah Searle replied that they did a capping and every 3 months an independent contractor comes in to do testing and then a report is sent to the landfill.

Clr. Turner commented on the strides that have been made to incineration and asked if that disposal method had been given any consideration.

Ms. Searle replied that they have looked at different technologies but their material is not a good fit for incineration.

Clr. Boyles asked how the RCMP works with the landfill on illegal dump sites and Ms. Searle explained that most sites are construction debris so you need witnesses the illegal dumping taking place and that has been difficult to do as most sites are reported after the fact.

Clr. Boyles referred to a site in Linacy and asked if cameras could be installed and Ms. Searle replied that they do have several cameras that can be installed.

Clr. D. Parker commented that Solid Waste is well run. He asked about the C & D site and Ms. Searle replied they put in a clay liner and it is covered as well.

Clr. MacKeil suggested that there needs to be more education on garbage along the highways. She asked how long the landfill in Guysborough will be viable.

Ms. Searle replied that the Guysborough facility operates on quite a massive piece of land so viability is not an issue. She noted that our disposal contract with Guysborough will be up for renegotiations and discussions have begun on that process.

Clr. MacKeil asked where the recyclables are going and what is happening when they get there.

Ms. Searle explained that the materials are trucked to Truro and the end destination depends on the type of material and the markets that are available. For example, styrofoam gets sent away and made into picture frames. Paper products are turned into take-out trays but there are different buyers as well as prices.

Clr. Palmer asked how other areas collect from producers and Deborah Searle replied it gets distributed from the larger companies.

Clr. Wadden reported the EPR is one resolution that they are hopeful about at NSFM.

Warden R. Parker thanked Deborah Searle for the presentation and excused her from the balance of the meeting. (7:50 p.m.)

PRESENTATION – FORESTRY SECTOR (7:50 P.M.)

Warden R. Parker reported the forestry sector has been working through the REN since March 2020 along with the Canadian Woodlands forum. A survey was done on the effects from the closure of

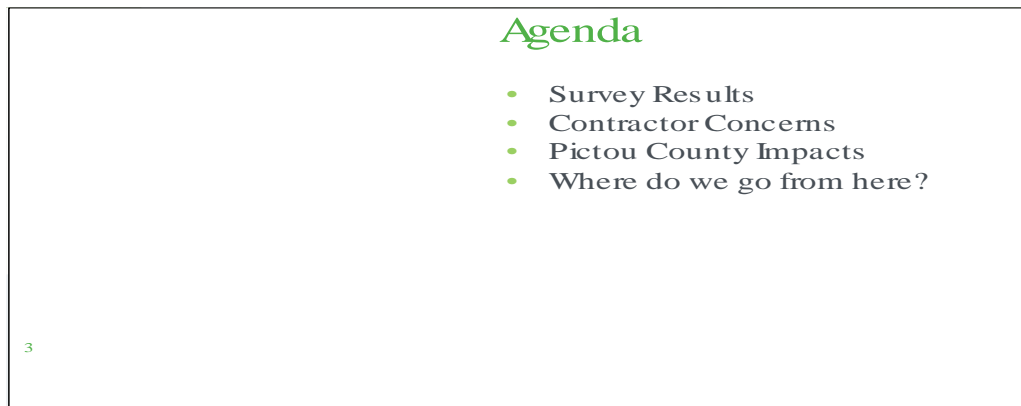
Northern Pulp closure. The forestry industry was supplying wood to the mill but the environmental issues had to be addressed but they still need a market for the low grade wood.

Mr. Scott and Mr. MacMillan made a presentation to Council as follows:

2021 -03-02



2021 -03-02



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Introduction

Speakers
David MacMilln
Ryan Scott
Harves ting, Trucking, Road Construction, and
SiVICulture Contractors from Pictou County
Canadian Woodlands Forum

With the closure of Northern Pulp in January 2020 a survey was completed by Canadian Woodlands Forum in June/July 2020 to better understand the impacts on our Forest industry

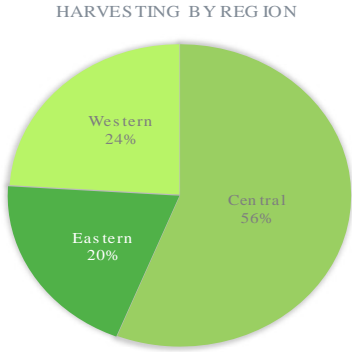
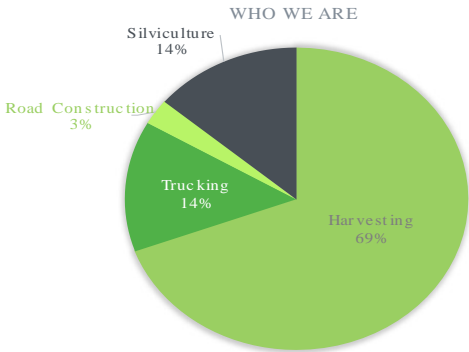
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Survey Results

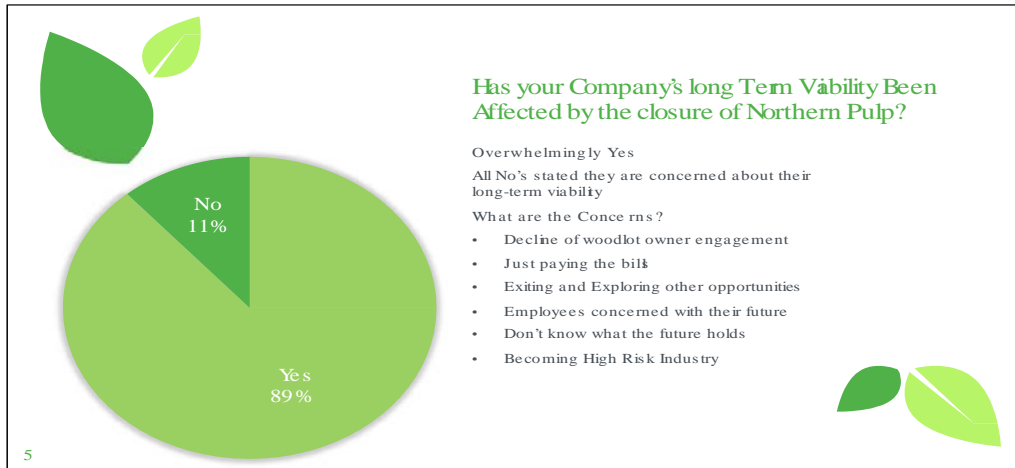
Total Respon dents from across industry (70% Respo nse Rate)



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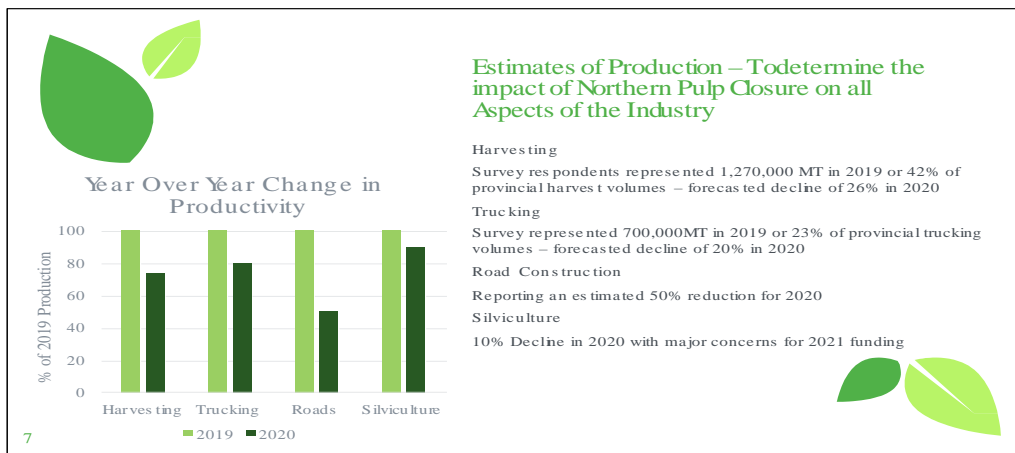
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Impact on Prices from Northern Pulp Closure

Closure had immediate impact of roadside wood prices

Significant issue with lack of pulpwood market for low grade and off species.

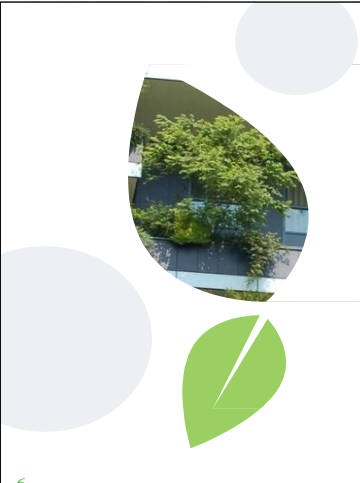
Impacts ability to harvest economically, engage woodlot owners, and practice commercial thinning, selection harvesting, and other forms of Ecological Forestry

Stud Wood / Saw Logs	Pulpwood and Off Species
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It took until October 2020 and a 3X increase in softwood lumber markets to rebound to 2019 levels• These are still holding – but contractors are concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contractors are leaving in the woods and roadside• Unable to move in some areas of the province

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Decline of 22% Employees vs 2019

Revenue Drop 33%

Average – respondents stated 10 – 50%
Gross Operating Revenue Decline vs 2019


35% Loss

Estimate of value change of company assets and equipment

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Impact on Prices from Northern Pulp Closure

Impact on Roadside Prices

2019 Kraft Market	\$ 38/MT Roadside
2020 Biomass Market	\$ 13/MT Roadside
Harvesting Cost	\$ 25/MT Roadside

Contribution to Silviculture

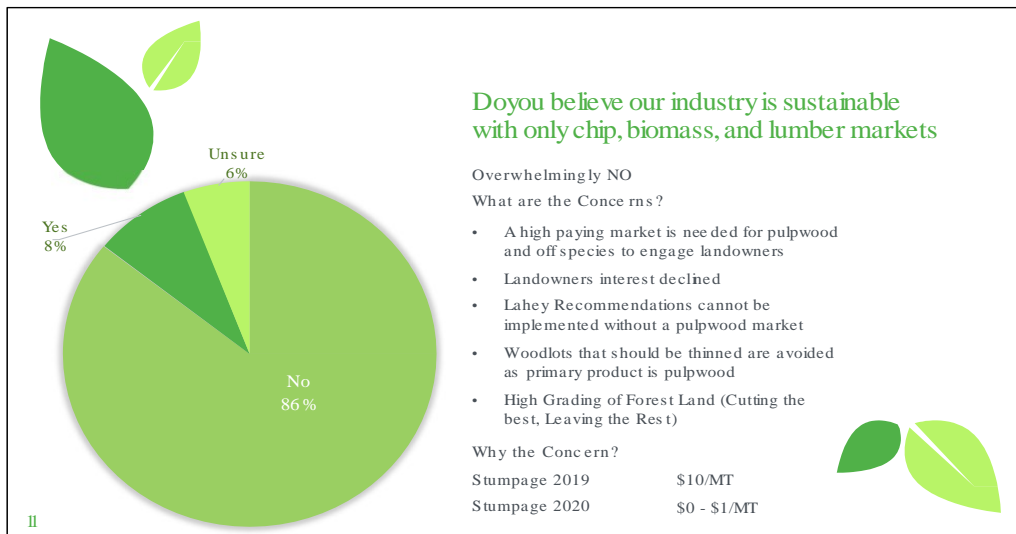
Northern Pulp invested over \$4 Million annually to silviculture in Nova Scotia which has not been replaced by biomass producers

Biomass does not support the supply chain

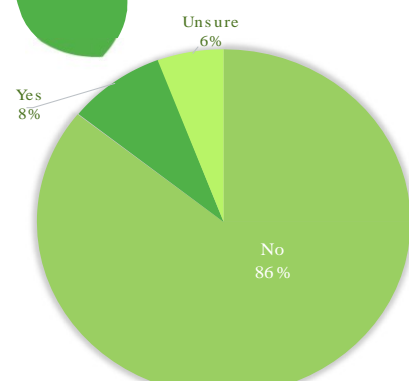
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Do you believe our industry is sustainable with only chip, biomass, and lumber markets



Yes	8%
No	86%
Unsure	6%

Overwhelmingly NO

What are the Concerns?

- A high paying market is needed for pulpwood and off-species to engage landowners
- Landowners interest declined
- Lahey Recommendations cannot be implemented without a pulpwood market
- Woodlots that should be thinned are avoided as primary product is pulpwood
- High Grading of Forest Land (Cutting the best, Leaving the Rest)


Why the Concern?

Stumpage 2019	\$10/MT
Stumpage 2020	\$0 - \$1/MT

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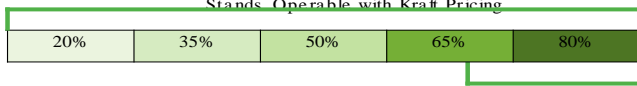
What is High Grading?

“Taking the Best and Leaving the Rest”

With the loss of the high end market for low grade wood contractors are forced to choose woodlots with higher percentage of sawables and promotes clear cutting

Treatment	Sawables	Low Grade Wood
Over Story Removal (Clear Cut)	70%	30%
Selective Harvesting	50%	50%

Forest Cover by Percentage of Sawables



Stands Operable without a Kraft Pricing

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Motivation to Stay in Forestry

Majority of Contractors at an all time low

Only 4 indicated they were still motivated, but they are concerned for the outlook for the sector.

- Hard to keep Morale Up – staff asking about future
- No desire to continue
- More Skeptical
- Totally Gone
- Will downsize as the opportunity presents itself through equipment sales and employee attrition
- Lost my motivation; my two sons were inspired prior to closure of Northern Pulp but have lost a lot of that young enthusiasm
- Totally frustrated – new normal of leaving so much wood is wasteful

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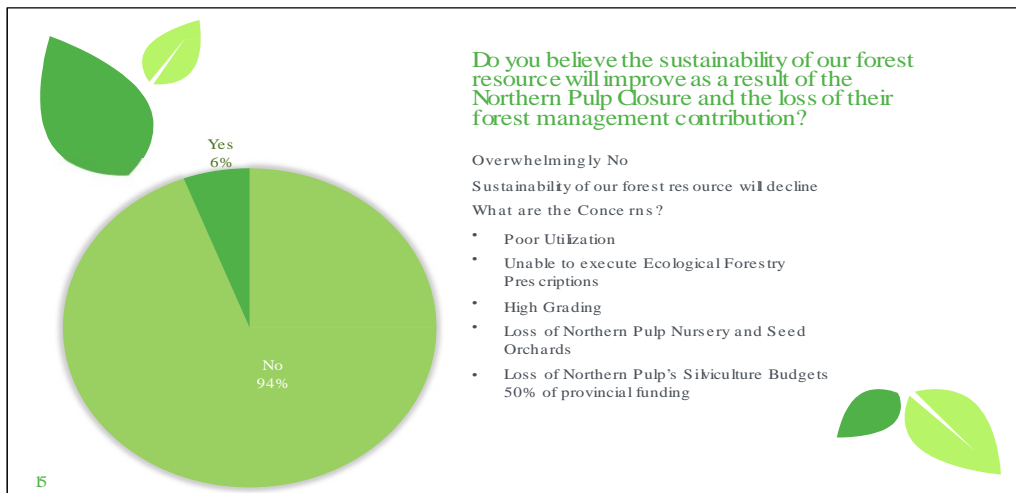
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What are we seeing now?

1. **Operators are Leaving – Difficult to Recruit the next generation**
Contractors are finding it difficult to replace operators in the forest sector. It appears that more and more employees are choosing to take on work in other sectors due to the uncertainty in the province
2. **High Grading of Nova Scotia Forests**
With lack of a pulp market contractors are forced to clear cut high quality stands for high percentage of sawable logs to offset revenue drop caused by lacking pulp market
3. **Roundwood Mill Inventory Uncertainty**
Despite high lumber prices Nova Scotia's sawable markets are struggling to keep up with necessary inventories
4. **CEWS Allowed some Contractors to Survive**
Harvesting Contractors used the wage subsidy to support employees through 2020. With this program slowly reducing assistance many contractors will not be able to carry on

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What is being Overlooked?

Contractors Feel as though Government is Missing the Big Picture

1. **Nova Scotia Missing a Market for Low Grade Wood**
Without a high end market for low grade wood Nova Scotia's forest sector is unsustainable.
2. **Contractor Supply Chain Won't Easily Recover**
Each day Nova Scotia's Forest Supply Chain is shrinking. Without a new market or continued wage subsidies more contractors will leave Nova Scotia Forest Sector
3. **Ecological Forestry Cannot Happen without a Market for Low Quality Wood**
Around the world high functioning forest economies center around a kraft mill for the low end product. In the contractors opinion it is the only option on the table to support the type of forestry Nova Scotians say they want.
4. **Global Kraft Pulp Markets Projections are Strong**
Nova Scotia is missing a major market potential with Kraft Pulp. As we look for the next saving product supply chains are struggling. Many contractors believe Nova Scotia should be pursuing this option

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Economic Outlook

Farming, Fishing, Forestry, Construction

During the COVID-19 crisis forestry operators were able to sustain the workforce in light of the significant restrictions and economic gap for production.

Evans Report from 2014 stated the importance of the Forest sector to Nova Scotia's rural economy

"Rural economies have been built on resource extraction and the capacities of the land and sea to support agriculture, fisheries, mining and forestry production."

Forestry can help lead our province through the upcoming economic crisis – with support for High End Environmentally Friendly markets for our products

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Pictou County Impacts

\$241 Million of Exports lost from the Kraft Market

This represented 38% of the export of Forest Products in 2019 (\$631 Million Total)

With Pictou county benefitting from the spin offs, and value added services in their area

Reduced Stumpage for Landowners

Due to the lack of a Kraft Market landowners are taking the hit by reduced stumpage for their low grade wood.

Reduction of Silviculture funding for landowners

Northern represented 50% of the silviculture investments in the province. More difficult for landowners to access programs.

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Where do we go from here?

Missing a High End Market for 1,000,000 MT of Sustainably Harvested Low Grade Wood in Nova Scotia

These are the market proposals from the Forestry Contractors

Interim Markets

1. **Wood-Energy (Some Success – does not meet demand)**
Increase in use of locally produced biomass to achieve energy targets for 2020.
2. **Pulpwood Yard Strategy (Contractors understand this is off table)**
Strategy proposed to consume 550,000 GMT for the short term.

New Emergency Proposal



BC / France / Germany Pulpwood Export

Paper Excellence proposal to export pulp chips to BC, France, or Germany to support the current supply chain in the interim.



Contractor sustainable solutions which can support forestry in the province at the required scale

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Where do we go from here?

Long Term Markets for 1,000,000 MT of Sustainably Harvested Low Grade Wood in Nova Scotia

3. **Freeman/GNT Pellet Mill**
Continuing Construction to consume 250,000 GMT of sawmill residuals
4. **Pulpwood Export Strategy to Germany**
LinksEdge to export 750,000 MT of fibre to European Pulp and Paper customer delayed due to COVID-19
5. **Support for a World Class Kraft Mill (Environmental Liaison Committee Investigating Path Forward)**
The Logistical support provided by a large Nova Scotia Forestry operator increases the effectiveness silviculture, wood procurement, and land management.



Contractors view of markets which can support Forestry in the province at the required scale

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Additional Resources

<https://cwfc.org/NS-Forestry-Contractors>

Updates from the NS Forestry Contractor Group

Position Papers

Call for Action

Survey Results

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Contractors Tending Away from Forestry Today

As of September 2020

29 Contractors have downsized, sold equipment, left the province, or stopped operating all together

These contractors represented over 50 pieces of equipment no longer in Nova Scotia

“Workers and their families, please don't despair, our government will help and support you in this transition.”

We need Government's support to bring back a market as good as the kraft mill was

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Clr. Boyles asked why foresters are cutting trees that are so small and Ryan Scott explained that it is just an example of really good utilization. You want to maximize the amount of saw logs so what you are actually seeing is what is going for pulp.

Clr. Palmer asked if Northern Pulp had a replanting program and Mr. Scott replied it would be on their own land and on Crown land.

Clr. Palmer referred to the \$50 million that was to help the forestry sector and Mr. Scott replied they received very little from that fund.

Clr. D. Parker asked if (outside of Northern Pulp) there are any other destinations for the wood and Mr. Scott replied that there is the Port Hawkesbury pulp mill but the market for the product made at that mill is declining.

Clr. D. Parker referred to the Lahey Report and asked if it was impossible to implement it without a decent market and Mr. Scott replied it was not possible.

Clr. Dewar asked if we could sell chipboard and plywood then we should be able to make it here because that is a highly sought-after product.

Mr. Scott reported that there is a chipboard mill in the Miramichi area but trucking costs to that location are cost-prohibitive to Nova Scotia foresters. He added that there was negativity around Northern Pulp and no one wants to do business in Nova Scotia.

Clr. Wadden asked if there were any solutions and Mr. Scott replied that there were suggestions of biomass, export markets and restarting the pulp mill. There has been a fair amount of work done on restarting Northern Pulp.

Clr. Thompson asked what would happen if the supply chain collapsed and Mr. Scott responded that there has been some talk about the demographics of the forestry group. The average age is 60 and for a young person to get involved in the industry now would be extremely expensive.

Clr. Thompson asked how the downturn of pulp wood affected the owner of the woodlot and Mr. Scott replied that all the owners were over 80 years of age and use that income. He also reported that they are using the income from those harvests as a bank account but he has to cut double the amount of wood for the same amount of money.

Clr. Elliott asked if we have seen the full impact of the Northern Pulp closure and if the survey was public knowledge.

Mr. Scott replied that COVID has helped their industry in the short term and the Federal money to help with subsidies has helped. They were actually able to get back to work because they were considered an essential service.

Mr. MacMillan pointed out that their survey results are public and they have given presentations to different levels of government.

Clr. MacKeil asked how much wood was exported last year and Mr. MacMillan replied that in 2019 there was \$205 million in exports and \$185 million in pellets. Mr. Scott reported that very little soft wood was exported.

Clr. MacKeil asked the amount that is clear cut vs. select cut and Mr. Scott explained that 2 years ago 70% of the wood was clear cut and now it is probably 50/50%. He added that there are trees that have a lot of rot or are deformed and are very old but they just call it junk wood.

Clr. MacKeil asked if a large percentage of Crown land has been cut lately and Mr. Scott replied it is just the opposite because of regulations.

Warden R. Parker thanked the gentlemen for the presentation and excused them from the balance of the meeting. (8:50 p.m.).

RESOLUTION – MUNICIPAL GRANT EXTENSIONS

Clr. Dewar presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve the extension and repurposing of the following Municipal Grants:

Municipal Services:

D03	Seaboard Cemetery	\$ 600.00	Extension of time to Jan. 31/22 for Operating Expenses
D03	Sunrise Trail 4-H Club	2,600.00	Extension of time to Jan. 31/22 for Equipment & Cattle Shute
D06	Salem Presbyterian Church	2,600.00	Extension of time to Jan. 31/22 for Oil Tank Replacement
D07	Mill Brook & Area Comm. Assoc.	327.94	Extension of time to Jan. 31/22 for Operating Expenses
D12	MacLeod Cemetery	1,000.00	Extension of time to Jan. 31/22 for Operating Expenses

Council

D13	Rec. & Planning Commission	\$ 2,300.00	Extension of time to Jan. 31/22 for Community Coordinator
	East Riv. Valley Com. Dev. Assoc.	7,451.27	Extension of time to Jan 31/22 for Community Coordinator
	Northumberland Fish. Mus. & Htg. Assoc.	4,000.00	Repurposing of funds from Capital Repairs to Operating Expenses

DATED at Pictou, NS this 1st day of March, 2021.

(Sgd.) Chester Dewar
Wayne Murray

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Deputy Warden Murray that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented.
Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – MUNICIPAL GRANT APPROVALS

Clr. D. Parker presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve the payment of the following Municipal Grants:

Municipal Services:

D05	Scotsburn Recreation Club	<u>\$ 1,500.00</u>	New Heating System
		\$ 1,500.00	

Recreation:

Union Presbyterian Church	\$ 150.00	Clr. Allotment – Sunday School Pgm.
Union Centre Community Centre	150.00	Clr. Allotment – Operating Expenses
Kelly Chisholm	<u>100.00</u>	Leadership Gt. – Girls on Bd. Licensing
	\$ 400.00	

GRAND TOTAL \$ 1,900.00

DATED at Pictou, NS this 1st day of March, 2021.

(Sgd.) David Parker
Mary Elliott

MOTION

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – TAX WRITE-OFFS

Clr. Wadden presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council approve the following write-off on taxes, the same having been reviewed and approved by the Financial Services Committee:

INACTIVE ACCOUNTS NO LONGER ASSESSED

<u>ACCOUNT #</u>	<u>ACCOUNT NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
00486329	George & Mary Brooks	\$ 132.35
01448862	Walter O. Newton	1.88
01591355	Robert S. Fraser	71.66
02804336	Mary Katherine MacKinnon	10.67
03660648	Kenneth & Mary Parker	529.02
04099745	PCV Investments Limited	1,955.32
04099753	PCV Investments Limited	2,954.01
05192005	Larry & Susan Peckham	1,094.13
05432243	Brian S. Boomer	3.76
05630703	Chris Johnson	48.95
05630711	Alvin MacLean	164.73
05915384	Chris Langille	254.36
05915392	Glenn McNiven	231.49
07415095	H. Angus Swanson	308.22
08275467	Geneva Grover	3,722.03
08834822	Terry Marks & Randy Hatt	1,126.33
08838003	Giles MacDonald	266.34
09221301	Est. Vernon N. Smith	2,878.92
09354298	Peter Griffon	953.63
09464433	Roger Langille	4.76

09464999	James Welch	44.22
09465839	Marlene Christa Hamel	2,460.70
09761772	PCV Investments Limited	8.11
10478863	Jon Royakkers	423.00
10512476	Rita Jones	56.79
10583454	Owners Unknown	1,030.70
10851424	Clifford Paul MacDonald	<u>0.42</u>
		\$20,736.50

ACCOUNTS NOW ASSESSED AS EXEMPT PROVINCIAL PROPERTIES

00336572	NS Department Natural Resources	\$ 1.22
00747122	Her Majesty The Queen	44.18
02716461	Her Majesty The Queen	1.07
02807157	Her Majesty The Queen	0.02
02877791	NS Department Natural Resources	1.07
02900327	NS Department Natural Resources	27.04
02911442	Her Majesty The Queen	67.77
04201523	Her Majesty The Queen	43.87
06348149	Her Majesty The Queen	73.93
08252823	NS Department Natural Resources	0.79
08845522	NS Department Natural Resources	0.99
10070112	Her Majesty The Queen	218.22
10070120	Her Majesty The Queen	523.29
10239151	Her Majesty The Queen	15.90
10858267	Her Majesty The Queen	<u>4.33</u>
		\$ 1,023.69

EXEMPT COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

03388069	Harbour Authority of Pictou Landing	\$ 462.44
09097201	Harbour Authority of Pictou Landing	294.86
08273111	Harbour Authority of Pictou Landing	<u>267.90</u>
		\$ 1,025.20

GRAND TOTAL \$22,785.39

DATED at Little Harbour, N.S. this 1st day of March, 2021.

(Sgd.) Deborah Wadden
Larry Turner

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Wadden and seconded by Clr. Turner that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented.

Clr. Boyles asked about the accounts no longer assessed and the CAO replied that they could be duplicate properties and some are government properties.

The Deputy Treasurer advised that the summary presented as part of the meeting package for the Financial Services Committee included additional detail on individual accounts.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION – COVID-19 POLICY EXTENSION

Deputy Warden Murray presented a resolution to Council as follows:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou that Council adopt the following policy with respect to COVID-19:



POLICY #2021-03-54

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF PICTOU COVID-19 POLICY

1) Purpose

- a) To provide direction and alter administrative provisions of certain municipal policies enacted by the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the County of Pictou.

2) Policy statements

- a) The following changes to policy are hereby enacted in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic:
 - i) **POLICY #2001-07-08 MUNICIPAL VEHICLES:** All sections pertaining to staff use of vehicles are hereby suspended, until otherwise directed by the Chief Administrative Officer.
 - ii) **POLICY #2019-05-52 MUNICIPAL SERVICES GRANT POLICY:**

Section 6 (a) – (d) Ratepayer Meeting Requirements are hereby suspended for the duration of Order of the Chief Medical Officer for Nova Scotia, as amended, limiting gathering numbers;

Section 7 (a) Financial Statements shall be amended in accordance with the following policy statements;

- (1) The following terms shall now be applied to the Municipal Services Grant Policy:
 - (a) A Councillor may receive applications via email at any point from qualified applicants.
 - (b) The Councillor shall make a recommendation to a Committee of the Whole for the Municipal Council the amount of grant that an organization shall receive.
 - (c) The Municipality shall advertise on its website the new process for approval of Municipal Services Grants.
 - (d) A Municipal Councillor may contact any group to determine if they have any requirements for a Municipal Services Grant.
 - (e) Prior to payment of a municipal services grant a copy of the most recent financial statements of the organization shall be provided to the Administration of the Municipality.

- d) The aforementioned policy amendments shall remain in effect until July 5, 2021 unless repealed by Municipal Council at an earlier date.
- e) This policy may be extended and or amended by the Municipal Council at a duly called meeting of the Municipal Council.

3) Repeal

All former policies with respect to COVID-19 are hereby repealed.

DATED at Pictou, NS this 1st day of March, 2021.

(Sgd.) Wayne Murray
Randy Palmer

MOTION

It was moved by Deputy Warden Murray and seconded by Clr. Palmer that the preceding resolution be adopted as presented.

Motion carried.

RIVERVIEW ADULT RES. CTR. BD. REPORT – CLR. D. PARKER

On behalf of the Board of Directors for the Riverview Home Corporation Clr. D. Parker reported that they had about 70,000 COVID days since COVID began and they have not had a COVID outbreak as yet. The ARC does house some of the frailest citizens at its facility which creates anxiety among staff. They are doing well financially because of the move to more community homes. They have an independent living support youth home in Truro but it is not working out as well as we thought because it is an hour away. When their contract expires it may be turned over to another public sector operator. There are no new admissions into the home but they did contract to operate a home for 2 young men with significant support.

Clr. MacKeil asked why the Province is moving forward this way and Clr. D. Parker replied that it is more expensive to house them in the community with support. The goal is to allow people with mental challenges to live their lives to the fullest with the challenges they have. We are not allowed to admit anyone into the home at present and in 2025 there will be no more admissions at all.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no community announcements.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

There were no emergency resolutions.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES & COUNCIL

Clr. Boyles reported that he was asked by citizens in his district about the COVID vaccine and why they have to travel to another area to receive the vaccine.

MOTION

It was moved by Clr. Boyles and seconded by Clr. Turner that Council send a letter to the Premier with copies to the Department of Health, Department of Public Health, MP Sean Fraser and the 3 local MLAs asking why seniors over 80 have to travel to other areas of the province to receive the COVID vaccine.

Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

Council met in closed session at 9:15 p.m. to discuss matters relating to contract negotiations and the acquisition/sale/lease & security of municipal property.

OPEN SESSION

Council resumed in open session at 10:15 p.m.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Clr. Dewar and seconded by Clr. MacKeil that the meeting adjourn.
Motion carried.

WARDEN

MUNICIPAL CLERK