



MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

MONDAY, January 6, 2025 @ 7 p.m.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS/YOUTUBE STREAMING CHANNEL

1. Call to Order
2. Moment of Silence
3. Land Acknowledgement
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Emergency Resolutions
6. **Errors and Omissions/Corrections to Minutes**
 - a. Council Meeting December 2, 2024
7. **Correspondence**
 - a. Nova Scotia Association of Realtors letter congratulating council on election.
8. **Presentation** - Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia
 - a. The RCFNS is a federally registered charity and is an active member of the non-profit and charitable-giving communities in Nova Scotia. For over 20 years, the RCFNS has been providing fundraising and granting programs throughout Nova Scotia to support sustainability of rural communities. You can view our programs at <https://rcfofns.com/>
9. **Business Items Not Requiring Action**
 - a. Climate Change Advisory Committee Community Meetings – Clr. Turner
10. **Business Items or Items Requiring Action**
 - a. RESOLUTION – Municipal Service Grant – Clr. Dewar
 - b. RESOLUTION - Appointment to Anti-Litter Awareness Committee- Clr. Wadden
 - c. RESOLUTION – Appointment to the MOPC Grants Review Comm – DW Murray
 - d. RESOLUTION - Affordable Access Plan Policy – Clr. Turner
 - c. ISED Funding – Clr. Wadden

- d. Letter to Pictou County Health Authority regarding need for increased security at the Aberdeen Hospital – Clr. Boyles
- e. **Consideration of Deferred Business**
- f. Community Announcements
- g. Motions of Reconsideration
- h. Adjournment



December 19, 2024

Council members
Municipality of Pictou 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 Municipality of Pictou!

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



Learn. Share. Advance.

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nsrealtors.ca

From: Hugh MacKay <fund@rcfofns.com>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2024 4:09 PM
To: Brian Cullen <Brian.Cullen@munpict.ca>
Subject: Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia

WARNING:
This email originated from a sender outside of your organization.

Brian Cullen
Chief Administrative Officer
Municipality of the County of Pictou

Dear Mr. Cullen:

I represent the Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia. The RCFNS is a federally registered charity and is an active member of the non-profit and charitable-giving communities in Nova Scotia.

For over 20 years, the RCFNS has been providing fundraising and granting programs throughout Nova Scotia to support sustainability of rural communities. As an example, this December we will be distributing \$100,000 in grants to support 'Free Stores' in schools throughout the province.

You can view our programs at <https://rcfofns.com/>

We would like to make a short presentation regarding our activities to the Pictou County municipal council. We would appreciate your direction on how to arrange this.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Hugh MacKay
Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia
902-818-2016
fund@rcfofns.com
<https://rcfofns.com/>



HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD ON CLIMATE ACTION IN PICTOU COUNTY!

Did you know that Pictou County is expected to be one of the most vulnerable Nova Scotia counties to coastal and river flooding in the 2030s?

Did you know that Pictou County is highly vulnerable to wildfires since the damage from Hurricane Fiona has made this risk even greater?

Did you know that sea levels in our area are predicted to rise by over 30 inches higher than now by 2100?

To learn more about climate impacts and the action plans that are being developed by the MOPC, and to have your input, participate in one of the following townhall meetings:

- 7 p.m. Jan. 7, 2025 - River John Legion, 2506 River John Station Rd., River John
- 7 p.m. Jan. 9, 2025 - Caribou Fire Hall, 512 Three Brooks Rd., Caribou
- 7 p.m. Jan. 14, 2025 - Merigomish School House Community Centre, 1682 Shore Rd.
- 7 p.m. Jan. 16, 2025 - Eureka Fire Hall, 5222 Stellarton Trafalgar Rd., Eureka
- 7 p.m. Jan. 21, 2025 - Durham Community Centre, 1679 Greenhill Rd., Durham
- 7 p.m. Jan. 23, 2025 - Hillside Community Hall, 27 Chance Harbour Road, Hillside
- 7 p.m. Jan. 28, 2025 - Little Harbour Community Centre, 4892, Little Harbour Rd.
- 7 p.m. Jan. 30, 2025 - Abercrombie Fire Hall, 2030 Granton Abercrombie Rd.

In addition to contributing to the Climate Action Plan, you will enjoy light refreshments and be eligible to win several door prizes, including priority access to free maple and oak seedlings MOPC distributes to homeowners each fall, tee shirts, and keychain flashlights.



RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipality of the County of Pictou that the following Municipal Service Grant be approved:

1. District 12 Eureka Fire Department - \$3000.00 – Ongoing projects at the fire hall.

DATED at Pictou NS this 6th day of January 2025.

Sgd



RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipality of the County of Pictou that it approve the following citizen appointments to the Ad-Hoc Anti-Litter Awareness Committee:

Monica Rivers, Abercrombie

Larry Tyldsley, Plymouth Park

DATED at Pictou NS this 6th day of January 2025.

Sgd



RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipality of the County of Pictou that it approve the following appointment to its Grants Review Committee:

Clr. Larry Turner

DATED at Pictou NS this 6th day of January 2024

Sgd



BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipality of the County of Pictou that it adopt the following policy:

Affordable Access Plan Policy

Policy # 2025-01-06

1. Purpose

2. Benefits of an Affordable Access Plan

- **Bridging the Digital Divide:** Increases internet access for low-income communities, improving opportunities for education, employment, and healthcare.
- **Enhanced Quality of Life:** Provides access to essential services such as telehealth, e-learning, and e-commerce.
- **Economic Mobility:** Promotes equal access to economic opportunities, including job searching, remote work, and small business development.

3. Eligibility Criteria

- Must reside within an area served by an MOPC Network service
- Have a gross household income per the attached table each year
- Property must be your primary residence and property taxes are paid in full at time of application
- Must be the registered owner or co-owner of the property
- The Affordable Access Plan does not reimburse individuals who have already paid for service
- MOPC reserves the right to limit access when deemed necessary

4. Required Documentation

- Completed AAP application annually
- Valid personal identification (NS Provincial ID or Driver's License)
- Notice of Assessment showing total income on line 15000 for all adult members of the household over 18 years of age & Canadian Child Benefit for children and youth under 18 years showing the named children if applicable

5. Service Package & Pricing

- Free Standard Installation as per policy
- Speed: Up to 1Gbps for fibre-served areas
- Speed: Up to 25 Mbps for wireless served areas
- Price: \$34.99/month
- Additional WIFI mesh units available at regular price if required

6. Important Information

1. Once an application has been approved, the Affordable Access Plan is applied to the customer account for one calendar year from the approval date.
2. Application to the program can be made anytime and must be completed on an annual basis.
3. Customers must comply with all other applicable MOPC policies and terms of service.
4. MOPC commits to providing a minimum 6-month notice before any significant modifications or termination of this policy.
5. Incomplete applications will be automatically denied.

7. Program Evaluation and Feedback

- MOPC will conduct annual surveys of program participants to gather feedback and assess the program's effectiveness.
- Key performance indicators (KPIs) will be established to measure the program's success, including:
 - Number of households served
 - Internet usage patterns
 - Customer satisfaction rates
 - Impact on educational and employment outcomes
- An annual report on the program's performance will be published and made available to the public.
- A feedback mechanism will be implemented to allow participants to provide ongoing input and suggestions for improvement.

8. Implementation and Outreach

- A dedicated support team will be available to help applicants navigate the application process and answer questions.
- This policy is effective immediately and will be reviewed annually or as needed.

For further information or clarification, please contact MOPC Customer Service.

Table A: Income Eligibility Thresholds

MOPC Network - Affordable Access Plan				
Table A	Income Threshold	Qualifying AAP Plan		
Program Year	Per Household	Fibre	Wireless	AAP Price
2024-25	\$30,000	1Gbps	25Mbps	\$34.99/mth

1) REPEAL

All former policies and or practices of Council with respect to the Affordable Access Plan are repealed.

DATED at Pictou NS this 6th day of January 2025.

Sgd _____

January 2, 2025

RE: Increased security at Aberdeen Hospital during shift changes.

Clr. Peter Boyles said he is concerned about staff having to walk to their vehicles at the rear of the building after their shifts at the Aberdeen Hospital.

He is asking that Council write a letter to the Pictou County Health Authority requesting more security staff be placed at the Aberdeen Hospital, particularly during the time of shift changes, so staff feel safe walking to their vehicles.

Re: Jan. 6 Pre-agenda deadline reminder

From Deborah Wadden <Deborah.Wadden@munpict.ca>

Date Thu 1/2/2025 2:04 PM

To Sueann Musick <Sueann.Musick@munpict.ca>

Cc Andy Thompson <Andy.Thompson@munpict.ca>; Brian Cullen <Brian.Cullen@munpict.ca>; Chester Dewar <Chester.Dewar@munpict.ca>; Darla MacKeil <Darla.MacKeil@munpict.ca>; Donald Parker <Donald.Parker@munpict.ca>; Joe MacDonald <Joe.MacDonald@munpict.ca>; Larry Turner <Larry.Turner@munpict.ca>; Peter Boyles <Peter.Boyles@munpict.ca>; Randy Palmer <Randy.Palmer@munpict.ca>; Robert Parker <Robert.Parker@munpict.ca>; Ronald Baillie <Ronald.Baillie@munpict.ca>; Wayne Murray <wayne.murray@munpict.ca>

Sueann if I could add the concerns with the ISED funded mapping and the flaws with this part of our internet project. I was just made aware on Dec 19 that the majority of District 2 which includes Pictou Landing and Pictou Landing First Nations are totally left out of our Phase 1 because of a fibre line that runs through these communities to only feed the water tower in PLFN. No residences are serviced by this fibre but because it was filed by Bell my district is being very adversely impacted. I would like to have the discussion about what all the problems were involved with ISED and send a letter to Sean Fraser, Tim Houston and any other depts especially Federally who need to understand the impact these problems had on our project.

Thanks

Debi

Deborah Wadden

Councillor D2

(902)752-1303

Deborah.wadden@munpict.ca

On Jan 2, 2025, at 11:08 AM, Sueann Musick <Sueann.Musick@munpict.ca> wrote:

Hi Everyone, this is a reminder that if you have any additions to the agenda for the Jan. 6 meeting, I will need them by tonight at the latest.

Sueann Musick

Director of Corporate Services
The Municipality of Pictou County

46 Municipal Drive,
Pictou, NS
B0K 1H0