



MUNICIPALITY *of the*
COUNTY *of* KINGS

June 9, 2026

To: Mayor
Deputy Mayor
Councillors

Dear Members of Council,

Attached please find the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.** in the Council Chambers, 181 Coldbrook Village Park Drive, Coldbrook.

Members of the public can attend or watch live on YouTube: visit www.countyofkings.ca and click the "Watch Live" link.

Accommodations are available for this meeting: please submit your request at www.countyofkings.ca/accommodationsrequest.

Sincerely,

Haley Hutt
Administrative Assistant
Municipality of the County of Kings



MUNICIPALITY of the
COUNTY of KINGS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, June 16, 2026
9:00 a.m.
AGENDA

1. Roll Call & Land Acknowledgement
2. Approval of Agenda Page 2
3. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest Issues
4. Approval of Minutes Page 3
 - a. May 19, 2026
5. Business Arising from Minutes Page 3
 - a. May 19, 2026
6. Administration Page 12
 - a. Final What We Heard Report on 2025-2026 District Meetings
7. Community Development Page 25
 - a. Summer Programming & Events in Community Development
8. Financial Services Page 27
 - a. Approval of 2026/27 Hantsport Volunteer Fire Department Capital Budget Page 27
 - b. 2026/27 Area Rate Levies for Fire and Recreation Page 31
9. Board and Committee Reports Page 36
 - a. Audit & Finance Committee Report Page 36
 - b. Committees of Council Page 37
 - c. External Boards and Committees Page 38
10. Other Business
11. Comments from the Public
12. Adjournment

Accommodations are available for this meeting: please submit your request at
www.countyofkings.ca/accommodationsrequest.

Land Acknowledgement

The Municipality of the County of Kings is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral, unceded, and current territory of the Mi'kmaq Peoples. The Municipality of the County of Kings is a neighbour to Annapolis Valley First Nation and Glooscap First Nation, as well as a diverse urban and rural Indigenous population. We are all treaty people and commit to upholding the Peace and Friendship Treaties and working towards reconciliation in all areas of the Municipality.

**THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF KINGS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, May 19, 2026
DRAFT MINUTES**

Meeting Date and Time

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers, Municipal Complex, Coldbrook, Nova Scotia.

1. Attendance

All Members of Council were in attendance, with the exception of Deputy Mayor MacPherson, Councillor Hiltz, and Councillor Best with notice.

Results for Roll Call

For 7
Against 0

District	Name	Results
Mayor	Dave Corkum	For
District 1	Everett MacPherson	-
District 2	Doug Gates	For
District 3	Robbie Hiltz	-
District 4	Riley Peckford	For
District 5	Tim Harding	For
District 6	Bob Best	-
District 7	Emily Lutz	For
District 8	Christina Sappington	For
District 9	Peter Allen	For

Also in attendance were:

- Scott Conrod, Chief Administrative Officer
- Andrea Hyslop, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
- Brad Carrigan, Director, Engineering & Public Works
- Trish Javorek, Director, Planning & Inspections
- Terry Kelly, In-house Solicitor
- Mike Livingstone, Director, Finance & IT
- Tyler Honeywood, Manager, Financial Reporting
- Scott MacKay, Manager, Revenue
- Louanne Comeau, GIS Technician, Civic Address Coordinator
- Craig Gibson, Kings County Regional Emergency Management Coordinator
- Charissa Kleine Deters, Diversity Specialist
- Graysen Parker, Diversity Specialist
- Sruthika Saravanan, Inclusive Communities Intern
- Haley Hutt, Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary

Land Acknowledgement

Mayor Corkum read the Land Acknowledgement per Policy [ADMIN-01-025: Land Acknowledgement](#).

Excuse Absence

On motion of Councillor Harding and Councillor Lutz, that Deputy Mayor MacPherson’s absence from the May 19, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting be excused.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 7
Against 0

District	Name	Results
Mayor	Dave Corkum	For
District 1	Everett MacPherson	-
District 2	Doug Gates	For

District 3	Robbie Hiltz	-
District 4	Riley Peckford	For
District 5	Tim Harding	For
District 6	Bob Best	-
District 7	Emily Lutz	For
District 8	Christina Sappington	For
District 9	Peter Allen	For

On motion of Councillor Allen and Councillor Sappington, that Councillor Hiltz’s absence from the May 19, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting be excused.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 7
Against 0

District	Name	Results
Mayor	Dave Corkum	For
District 1	Everett MacPherson	-
District 2	Doug Gates	For
District 3	Robbie Hiltz	-
District 4	Riley Peckford	For
District 5	Tim Harding	For
District 6	Bob Best	-
District 7	Emily Lutz	For
District 8	Christina Sappington	For
District 9	Peter Allen	For

On motion of Councillor Peckford and Councillor Gates, that Councillor Best’s absence from the May 19, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting be excused.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 7
Against 0

District	Name	Results
Mayor	Dave Corkum	For
District 1	Everett MacPherson	-
District 2	Doug Gates	For
District 3	Robbie Hiltz	-
District 4	Riley Peckford	For
District 5	Tim Harding	For
District 6	Bob Best	-
District 7	Emily Lutz	For
District 8	Christina Sappington	For
District 9	Peter Allen	For

2. [Approval of Agenda](#)

On motion of Councillor Lutz and Councillor Harding, that Committee of the Whole approve the May 19, 2026 agenda as circulated.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 7
Against 0

District	Name	Results
Mayor	Dave Corkum	For
District 1	Everett MacPherson	-

District 2	Doug Gates	For
District 3	Robbie Hiltz	-
District 4	Riley Peckford	For
District 5	Tim Harding	For
District 6	Bob Best	-
District 7	Emily Lutz	For
District 8	Christina Sappington	For
District 9	Peter Allen	For

3. **Disclosure of Conflict of Interest Issues** No Conflict of Interest issues were declared.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

4a. [April 21, 2026](#) On motion of Councillor Sappington and Councillor Allen, that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on April 21, 2026 be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 7
Against 0

District	Name	Results
Mayor	Dave Corkum	For
District 1	Everett MacPherson	-
District 2	Doug Gates	For
District 3	Robbie Hiltz	-
District 4	Riley Peckford	For
District 5	Tim Harding	For
District 6	Bob Best	-
District 7	Emily Lutz	For
District 8	Christina Sappington	For
District 9	Peter Allen	For

5. **Business Arising from Minutes**

5a. [April 21, 2026](#) There was no business arising from the April 21, 2026 minutes.

6. **Community Development**

6a. [Proclamation Requests for June 2026](#) Sruthika Saravanan, Inclusive Communities Intern, presented the Request for Decision as attached to the May 19, 2026 agenda and provided a [presentation](#).

On motion of Councillor Gates and Councillor Harding, that Committee of the Whole recommend Municipal Council proclaim June 2026 as National Indigenous History Month in the Municipality of the County of Kings.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 7
Against 0

District	Name	Results
Mayor	Dave Corkum	For
District 1	Everett MacPherson	-
District 2	Doug Gates	For
District 3	Robbie Hiltz	-
District 4	Riley Peckford	For

District 5	Tim Harding	For
District 6	Bob Best	-
District 7	Emily Lutz	For
District 8	Christina Sappington	For
District 9	Peter Allen	For

On motion of Councillor Allen and Councillor Sappington, that Committee of the Whole recommend Municipal Council proclaim June 21, 2026 as National Indigenous Peoples Day in the Municipality of the County of Kings.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 7
Against 0

District	Name	Results
Mayor	Dave Corkum	For
District 1	Everett MacPherson	-
District 2	Doug Gates	For
District 3	Robbie Hiltz	-
District 4	Riley Peckford	For
District 5	Tim Harding	For
District 6	Bob Best	-
District 7	Emily Lutz	For
District 8	Christina Sappington	For
District 9	Peter Allen	For

On motion of Councillor Sappington and Councillor Allen, that Committee of the Whole recommend Municipal Council proclaim June 30, 2026 as Indigenous Survivors Day, also known as National Blanket Ceremony Day, in the Municipality of the County of Kings.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 7
Against 0

District	Name	Results
Mayor	Dave Corkum	For
District 1	Everett MacPherson	-
District 2	Doug Gates	For
District 3	Robbie Hiltz	-
District 4	Riley Peckford	For
District 5	Tim Harding	For
District 6	Bob Best	-
District 7	Emily Lutz	For
District 8	Christina Sappington	For
District 9	Peter Allen	For

On motion of Councillor Sappington and Councillor Harding, that Committee of the Whole recommend Municipal Council proclaim June 2026 as Pride Month in the Municipality of the County of Kings.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 7
Against 0

District	Name	Results
Mayor	Dave Corkum	For

District 1	Everett MacPherson	-
District 2	Doug Gates	For
District 3	Robbie Hiltz	-
District 4	Riley Peckford	For
District 5	Tim Harding	For
District 6	Bob Best	-
District 7	Emily Lutz	For
District 8	Christina Sappington	For
District 9	Peter Allen	For

6b. [Diversity Programming and Services Update](#)

Charissa Kleine Deters and Graysen Parker, Diversity Specialists, presented the Briefing as attached to the May 19, 2026 agenda and provided a [presentation](#).

On motion of Councillor Gates and Councillor Sappington, that Committee of the Whole receive the May 19, 2026 Diversity Programming and Services Update Briefing as information.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 7
Against 0

District	Name	Results
Mayor	Dave Corkum	For
District 1	Everett MacPherson	-
District 2	Doug Gates	For
District 3	Robbie Hiltz	-
District 4	Riley Peckford	For
District 5	Tim Harding	For
District 6	Bob Best	-
District 7	Emily Lutz	For
District 8	Christina Sappington	For
District 9	Peter Allen	For

7. **Financial Services**

7a. [Amendments to By-law 98: Wastewater Sewer](#)

Scott MacKay, Manager of Revenue, presented the Request for Decision as attached to the May 19, 2026 agenda and provided a [presentation](#).

On motion of Councillor Gates and Councillor Harding, that Committee of the Whole recommend Municipal Council give first reading to amend By-law 98, the Wastewater Sewer By-law, as detailed in the May 19, 2026 Request for Decision.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 7
Against 0

District	Name	Results
Mayor	Dave Corkum	For
District 1	Everett MacPherson	-
District 2	Doug Gates	For
District 3	Robbie Hiltz	-
District 4	Riley Peckford	For
District 5	Tim Harding	For
District 6	Bob Best	-
District 7	Emily Lutz	For
District 8	Christina Sappington	For

District 9	Peter Allen	For
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7b. [Guarantee Resolution: Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management](#)

Tyler Honeywood, Manager of Financial Reporting, presented the Request for Decision as attached to the May 19, 2026 agenda and provided a [presentation](#).

On motion of Councillor Allen and Councillor Lutz, that Committee of the Whole recommend Municipal Council approve the Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority Municipal Partner Guarantee Resolution, as detailed in the Request for Decision dated May 19, 2026, in the amount of \$1,401,001.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 7
Against 0

District	Name	Results
Mayor	Dave Corkum	For
District 1	Everett MacPherson	-
District 2	Doug Gates	For
District 3	Robbie Hiltz	-
District 4	Riley Peckford	For
District 5	Tim Harding	For
District 6	Bob Best	-
District 7	Emily Lutz	For
District 8	Christina Sappington	For
District 9	Peter Allen	For

8. Information Technology

8a. [Renaming a section of Jake Reid Road South to Wildflower Lane](#)

Louanne Comeau, GIS Technician and Civic Address Coordinator, presented the Request for Decision as attached to the May 19, 2026 agenda and provided a [presentation](#).

On motion of Councillor Harding and Councillor Lutz, that Committee of the Whole recommend Municipal Council approve renaming Jake Reid Road South, road authority #K11374-001, to Wildflower Lane as described in the Request for Decision dated May 19, 2026.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 7
Against 0

District	Name	Results
Mayor	Dave Corkum	For
District 1	Everett MacPherson	-
District 2	Doug Gates	For
District 3	Robbie Hiltz	-
District 4	Riley Peckford	For
District 5	Tim Harding	For
District 6	Bob Best	-
District 7	Emily Lutz	For
District 8	Christina Sappington	For
District 9	Peter Allen	For

9. Inspections and Enforcement Services

9a. [After-Action Report and Improvement Plan for 2025 Lake George Wildfire](#)

Craig Gibson, Kings County Regional Emergency Management Coordinator, presented the Briefing as attached to the May 19, 2026 agenda and provided a [presentation](#).

On motion of Councillor Peckford and Councillor Harding, that Committee of the Whole receive the Lake George Wildfire After-Action Report and Improvement Plan as found in Appendix A of the May 19, 2026 Briefing for information.

Motion Carried.

For 7
Against 0

Results

District	Name	Results
Mayor	Dave Corkum	For
District 1	Everett MacPherson	-
District 2	Doug Gates	For
District 3	Robbie Hiltz	-
District 4	Riley Peckford	For
District 5	Tim Harding	For
District 6	Bob Best	-
District 7	Emily Lutz	For
District 8	Christina Sappington	For
District 9	Peter Allen	For

10. **Board and Committee Reports**

10a. [Diversity Kings County](#)

Councillor Sappington presented the report as attached to the May 19, 2026 Committee of the Whole agenda.

10b. [Kings County Homelessness Advisory Committee](#)

Submitted by Deputy Mayor MacPherson.

10c. [Police Advisory Board](#)

Councillor Sappington presented the report as attached to the May 19, 2026 Committee of the Whole agenda.

10d. [Committees of Council](#)

For information.

10e. [External Boards and Committees](#)

For information.

On motion of Councillor Allen and Councillor Sappington, that Committee of the Whole receive the Board and Committee Reports as attached to the May 19, 2026 agenda for information.

Motion Carried.

For 7
Against 0

Results

District	Name	Results
Mayor	Dave Corkum	For
District 1	Everett MacPherson	-
District 2	Doug Gates	For
District 3	Robbie Hiltz	-
District 4	Riley Peckford	For
District 5	Tim Harding	For
District 6	Bob Best	-

District 7	Emily Lutz	For
District 8	Christina Sappington	For
District 9	Peter Allen	For

11. **Correspondence**

Mayor Corkum presented the correspondence as attached to May 19, 2026 Committee of the Whole agenda.

On motion of Councillor Harding and Councillor Allen, that Committee of the Whole receive the correspondence as attached to the May 19, 2026 agenda for information.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 7
Against 0

District	Name	Results
Mayor	Dave Corkum	For
District 1	Everett MacPherson	-
District 2	Doug Gates	For
District 3	Robbie Hiltz	-
District 4	Riley Peckford	For
District 5	Tim Harding	For
District 6	Bob Best	-
District 7	Emily Lutz	For
District 8	Christina Sappington	For
District 9	Peter Allen	For

11a. [Courageous Companions 2026 Sponsorship Advertising Request](#)

For information.

12. **Other Business**

Councillor Sappington noted there would be upcoming training for Council on Rules of Order and Meeting Processes.

13. **Comments from the Public**

No members of the public were present.

14. **Adjournment**

On motion of Councillor Gates and Councillor Peckford, there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 7
Against 0

District	Name	Results
Mayor	Dave Corkum	For
District 1	Everett MacPherson	-
District 2	Doug Gates	For
District 3	Robbie Hiltz	-
District 4	Riley Peckford	For
District 5	Tim Harding	For
District 6	Bob Best	-
District 7	Emily Lutz	For
District 8	Christina Sappington	For
District 9	Peter Allen	For

Approved by:

Dave Corkum
Mayor

Haley Hutt
Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary

Results Legend	
For	Absent
COI	Conflict of interest
For	A vote in favour
Against	A vote in the negative or any Councillor who fails or refuses to vote and who is required to vote by the preceding subsection, shall be deemed as voting in the negative.

DRAFT

TO	Committee of the Whole
PREPARED BY	Lindsey Halliday, Community Engagement Specialist
MEETING DATE	June 16, 2026
SUBJECT	Final What We Heard Report on 2025-2026 District Meetings

ORIGIN

- [July 22, 2025](#) – Committee of the Whole District Meetings 2025-2026 Request for Decision

RECOMMENDATION

That Committee of the Whole receive for information the 2025-2026 District Meetings final What We Heard Report, as attached to the June 16, 2026 Briefing.

INTENT

To inform Committee of the Whole about the key findings, priorities and actionable opportunities based on feedback received during the 2025-2026 District Meet & Greet sessions and how this feedback will be used to inform the development of a Community Engagement Strategy.

DISCUSSION

During 2025 and early 2026 the Municipality conducted nine District Meetings, which provided residents an opportunity to engage directly with the Mayor, their Councillor and Municipal staff, and share feedback on issues important to their community. This feedback was collected and recorded through facilitated discussions and reviewed to identify common themes, priorities, and opportunities for consideration.

What We Heard reports were published for each District Meeting and can be found on the [Municipal website](#). The final What We Heard report (Appendix A) summarizes the feedback received across all Districts and will be used to support the development of the Municipality's Community Engagement Strategy - anticipated for Council's review in winter 2026.

Several ideas emerged across the District Meetings, which staff have grouped into the following themes:

- Infrastructure, roads, and transportation;
- Accessibility and support for aging in place;
- Targeted communication and information sharing;
- Clearer understanding of Municipal roles and responsibilities; and
- Leadership, transparency and follow through.

The final What We Heard report provides actionable opportunities that will be explored or completed. Some of the opportunities identified throughout the engagement process can be implemented in the short term, while others may require further analysis, partnership development, or long-term planning. Examples of actionable opportunities include promotion of the Municipality's road ownership map, development of a reference guide for the responsibilities at each level of government, and sharing feedback with committees of Council and Villages.

While the final What We Heard report captures the overall themes, there were several items that came up at District Meetings that Municipal staff addressed directly with residents following the meeting.

2025-2026 DISTRICT MEET & GREET

WHAT WE HEARD



CONTENTS

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2025-2026 District Meet & Greet What We Heard Report.

Throughout the 2025-2026 District Meet & Greet series, hosted by the Municipality of the County of Kings, residents from across the Municipality came together to share their experiences, priorities, and hopes for the future of their communities.

These sessions were designed in direct response to the 2024 District Meeting series. Feedback from 2024 indicated that residents wanted an open, welcoming space where meaningful conversations could take place between residents, staff, and elected officials.

To ensure all Municipal service areas were represented, Municipal staff gave their time to facilitate tables that covered Planning & Development, Finance, Engineering & Public Works, Community, Recreation and Safety, Communications, and a special table where Community member concerns could be heard directly by the Mayor, their Councillor, and the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Residents rotated through these tables and provided feedback, asked questions and made suggestions to improve Municipal operations.

What emerged from these conversations was a clear and consistent message: residents in the Municipality of the County of Kings care deeply about the communities they live in and want to play a larger role in shaping the future of our region. While each District had its own unique perspective, many themes were universal across communities highlighting both common challenges and collective opportunities. This report captures those themes and identifies actionable opportunities for the Municipality to consider.



Listening with **Intention.**



Acting With **Integrity.**



Building **Together.**



MEETING ATTENDANCE

The 2025 -2026 District Meet & Greets were held September 2025 – March 2026.

The meetings were advertised on the Municipality’s website, Municipal social media channels, radio, and print media.

In total 201 people attended from across all Districts. There was variability in the number of attendees across Districts. The Municipality will be looking at ways to increase attendance in its forthcoming Community Engagement Strategy.

DISTRICT WHAT WE HEARD REPORTS

The District What We Heard Reports are now available on the Municipal website at:

<https://www.countyofkings.ca/engage/district-meetings>. This page provides a detailed summary of the feedback received from residents in each District.

THEMES & ACTIONABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Communication and Transparency

Across every District the Municipality surveyed attendees on communication preferences. Residents expressed a desire for targeted communications or the opportunity to opt-in to specific updates. Many participants shared they were unsure where to find information or if they were accessing the most recent update, and expressed desire for continued opportunities to engage in the decision-making process. Others noted information can be difficult to navigate when trying to understand the government responsible for specific services and the various policies/legislation.

What we heard:

- Sometimes information on the website is hard to find or understand
- Residents want proactive and targeted communication
- Confusion exists around roles and responsibilities of the various levels of government
- Not all residents use the same communication channels

What this means:

- Residents are not just asking for more information - they are asking for clarity, consistency, and most of all connection to the decision-making process

Actionable opportunities:

- Develop a centralized hub that houses key topics, FAQ's and updates
- Create a plain-language resource library that addresses common questions like road ownership, planning & development processes, taxes, and available services
- Expand communication channels to ensure inclusivity (e.g. print, email, in-person opportunities, digital advertisements)

Infrastructure, Roads, and Transportation

Infrastructure was one of the most frequently discussed topics across all Districts. Residents shared concerns and frustrations related to road conditions, and who to contact about road issues and maintenance timelines. A recurring theme was confusion around J-Class (Subdivision) Roads with many expressing uncertainties about who is responsible for maintenance and repair.

What we heard:

- Road maintenance and repairs are a priority for residents
- Residents want improved road safety particularly in areas affected by speed or high traffic volumes
- Continue to look at improvements to sidewalk connectivity and pedestrian safety
- Communities are looking for more active transportation options, including trails and multi-use pathways
- Access to public transportation remains limited in some areas

What this means:

- Residents view safe, reliable and well-maintained transportation infrastructure as essential to supporting quality of life, community connectivity, and growth across the Municipality

Actionable opportunities:

- Share public feedback with Tidal Transit to identify opportunities for improvement
- Support work being done at the Provincial level relating to J-Class (Subdivision) Road improvements
- Promote the Municipal roads finder to help Community members know who owns their road
- Identify gaps in active transportation networks and opportunities for future expansion
- Share public feedback with Villages to identify opportunities for improvement

Accessibility and Aging in Place

Support to seniors, particularly around aging in place, including improved accessibility, transportation and community services in rural areas emerged as a theme during the District Meet & Greets.

What we heard:

- Residents want communities that are accessible, inclusive and welcoming for people of all ages and abilities
- Residents highlighted the need for accessible public spaces, building, sidewalks, and community infrastructure
- Accessibility considerations were identified as an important factor in future community planning and development

What this means:

- Residents want communities that are accessible, connected, and support their ability to live independently and remain active in their communities as they age

Actionable opportunities:

- Sharing residents concerns with the Planning Advisory Committee and the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Explore Municipal programming and initiatives that foster social connection and reduce isolation
- Work with community partners to identify and address barriers to aging in place

Various Governments Roles and Responsibilities

Across multiple Districts Community members expressed a desire to learn about levels of government and the role each plays in their daily lives.

What we heard:

- Residents want a clearer understanding of the roles and responsibilities of municipal, provincial, and federal governments
- It is not clear to residents which level of government is responsible for what services, programs, and infrastructure
- Residents expressed interest in learning more about how municipal decisions are made and how local government operates
- Community members want greater awareness of the services and responsibilities provided by the Municipality

What this means:

- Residents want to learn more about the role of municipal government and how it differs from the responsibilities of provincial and federal governments

Actionable opportunities:

- Use this feedback to inform both a Municipal Community Engagement Strategy and Municipal Communications Strategy that meets residents desire to learn more about the municipal structure
- Explore developing public learning sessions to educate on municipal services
- Where appropriate, share resident feedback with local provincial and federal representatives

Leadership & Follow Through

Residents expressed that transparency, timelines, and follow through are key to building trust with municipal government. They appreciated seeing elected officials and staff leadership at engagement events and want ongoing opportunities to stay informed.

What we heard:

- Residents want transparency regarding municipal projects, priorities and the decision-making process
- Following through on commitments was identified as an important factor in building trust and confidence in municipal government
- Residents appreciate opportunities to interact directly with elected officials and staff during engagement activities
- Residents expressed a desire to see how public feedback influences decisions and outcomes
- Community members want more opportunities to provide input on municipal initiatives

What this means:

- Residents want transparent communication, and ongoing opportunities for residents to engage with their local government

Actionable opportunities:

- Develop and implement a Municipal Community Engagement Strategy that meets the needs of its residents by incorporating feedback from the District reports
- Update the Municipal Communications Strategy
- Increase opportunities for residents to engage with Council and staff through the year
- Clearly communicate timelines, milestones and expected outcomes of programs that are important to the community

CONCLUSION

The 2025-2026 District Meet & Greet series demonstrated the value of bringing conversations directly into communities and creating meaningful opportunities for Council, residents, and staff to connect face-to-face.

Across every District the message was clear: Residents care about their communities and want to be active participants in shaping the future of the Municipality of the County of Kings. While concerns and priorities varied, the meetings revealed a shared commitment to improving communication, strengthening infrastructure, and supporting a Municipality that is vibrant and accessible to all residents.

These meetings highlighted the strength that exists within our communities. Residents came forward not only with concerns, but with ideas, solutions, and a genuine desire to work collaboratively toward positive change.

This report represents more than just a summary of conversations; it reflects the voices and experiences of residents.

Every comment, suggestion, and concern shared through this engagement process has been reviewed and is being carefully considered. While some opportunities identified can be acted upon in the short term, others will require additional research, planning, partnerships, funding, and resources before they can be considered. The Municipality remains committed to evaluating all feedback and evaluating how it can inform future decision making, strategic priorities, service delivery improvements, and policy review and development.

The themes and priorities identified in this report will play an important role in informing the Municipality's Community Engagement Strategy, which is anticipated to be presented in winter 2026. The strategy will provide a roadmap for engagement with residents moving forward, and will include detailed actions, timelines, and implementation priorities, all informed by the feedback received through this progress.

Engagement does not end with these meetings. The Municipality is committed to continuing the conversation, providing updates on progress, and ensuring that residents have ongoing opportunities to contribute to the future of the region.

Thank you to everyone who participated, shared feedback, asked questions and helped make these meetings meaningful.

Together, we are building stronger, more connected communities for the future.

TO	Committee of the Whole
PREPARED BY	Myla Marcoux, Recreation Intern, Sruthika Saravanan, Inclusive Communities Intern, Hyland Weber, Program Accessibility & Inclusion Facilitator, Madeline Umlah, Lead Play Specialist, and Alec Corbett, Team Lead – Paddle Program
MEETING DATE	June 16, 2026
SUBJECT	Summer Programming & Events in Community Development

ORIGIN

- First introduction to Committee of the Whole

RECOMMENDATION

That Committee of the Whole receive the June 16, 2026, Briefing on Summer Programming and Events in Community Development as information.

INTENT

For Committee of the Whole to receive information on planned summer activities, events and programming throughout the Municipality.

DISCUSSION

Community Development staff have been planning events, programs, and services for residents throughout the Municipality, ensuring equitable access to recreation opportunities for all people.

Acting in congruence with Council’s expressed commitments through the Municipality’s [Strategy for Belonging](#) and [Our Joint Accessibility Plan](#), staff look to maximize impact through partnerships with local organizations and service providers who offer diverse, unique, and innovative options for recreation. Staff not only endeavour to be cognizant of the range of barriers experienced by people attempting to access recreation opportunities, but intentionally reduce barriers including, without limitation, financial burdens, and increasingly focus on enhancing emotional, functional and technical accessibility.

With the mission of quality of life for all through the provision of Municipal services in an inclusive, effective, and collaborative manner, programming efforts focus on sport, active living, arts and more across four main categories: youth, family, 55+, and events.

Highlights of youth opportunities include day, multisport, paddle and mini camps throughout the region. Day camps offer programming built around fun for all and include structured and unstructured indoor and outdoor play, a visit each week to some form of water, equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging-focused activities, arts, local field trips, and special guest visitors. Mini camps feature a unique theme and include a mix of indoor and outdoor activities, creative projects, and inclusive programming focused on fun, belonging, and exploration. Finally, paddle camp participants will learn the basics of water safety and paddling through hands on instruction for both kayak and paddle boards this summer. Campers will also participate in on shore camp activities and exploring at Aylesford Lake Beach.

Family programming focuses on creating opportunities for multi-generational engagement encouraging families to enjoy the natural world, try new things and most importantly, have fun together. Initiatives include pop-up play, tennis instruction, paddle loans, and trail-based activities.

The Municipality offers targeted programming for residents aged 55+ inclusive of the ever-popular monthly bingo socials at the Coldbrook Lions Hall on the third Tuesday of the month. Before games begin, staff lead participants through low impact movements to start this event to help build knowledge of and comfort with at home activities intended to preserve and/or build strength and mobility.

The Municipality also holds a series of events for the 55+ games which encourages socialization and some opportunity for friendly competition in card games, field games, a garden tea, aquafit and more!

Taking place annually in August at the Waterville Recreation Park, Party in the Park is a free, family-oriented event aimed at celebrating diversity, fostering belonging, and promoting community connection. Programming includes a foam party, face painting, chalk art, field games, LEGO and Big Blue Block building, and other inclusive recreational activities for all ages. Food will be available for purchase from local food vendors. The event will also feature the 5th Annual Seasonal Agricultural Workers Soccer Tournament, where teams representing local farms compete in a friendly competition celebrating cultural diversity and contributions to the region’s agricultural sector. This event showcases the Municipality’s commitment to inclusive, accessible, and engaging programming welcoming of all people.

To further our commitment to inclusive and accessible summer programming, the Community Development division has added a Program Accessibility and Inclusion Facilitator to the summer intern staff. This position aims to ensure that all programs and activities are accessible and inclusive for participants with diverse abilities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- Programming costs approved in 2026/27 Operating Budget.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

	Strong Communities	
	Environmental Stewardship	
	Economic Development	
	Good Governance	
	Financial Sustainability	
✓	Other	Annual update on summer season activities

APPENDICES

- None

APPROVALS

Brittany Traynor, Manager, Community Development	June 4, 2026
Andrea Hyslop, Deputy CAO	June 8, 2026
Scott Conrod, Chief Administrative Officer	June 8, 2026

TO	Committee of the Whole
PREPARED BY	Scott MacKay, Manager of Revenue
MEETING DATE	June 16, 2026
SUBJECT	Approval of 2026/27 Hantsport Volunteer Fire Department Capital Budget

ORIGIN

- First introduction to Committee of the Whole

RECOMMENDATION

That Committee of the Whole recommend Municipal Council approve the Capital Budget of the Hantsport Volunteer Fire Department for the fiscal year 2026/27, attached as Appendix A to the June 16, 2026 Request for Decision.

INTENT

For Municipal Council to provide approval of the Hantsport Volunteer Fire Department Capital Budget for fiscal 2026/27 as required by the Fire Services Agreement.

DISCUSSION

Based upon the Fire Services Agreement between the Municipality of the County of Kings (Municipality) and West Hants Regional Municipality (WHRM), staff have received a request from WHRM that the Municipality consider the submitted budget for the Hantsport Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD). HVFD’s Operating Budget was approved by Municipal Council on April 21, 2026.

The Municipality’s contribution to HVFD’s Capital Budget is generated through an area rate paid by ratepayers serviced by HVFD in the Municipality. The Municipality’s share of the total Capital Budget is determined by a rolling three-year average of the percentage of calls from HVFD into the Municipality. In 2026/27, the Municipality is responsible for 47.2% of the Capital Budget, an amount which will be recovered through the fire area rate for the Hants Border area.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- The Capital Budget for the HVFD is used to establish the fire area rate for area residents, annually. Based on this year’s budget and as shown in Appendix B, the rate proposed for these ratepayers will be 11.84 cents per \$100 of assessment (2025/26: 10.85 cents per \$100 of assessment). All fire area rates are presented to Municipal Council annually for approval.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

	Strong Communities	
	Environmental Stewardship	
	Economic Development	
✓	Good Governance	The Budget review and approval process provides an opportunity to evaluate capital spending, and the contribution of area ratepayers.
	Financial Sustainability	
	Other	

Request for Decision

ALTERNATIVES

- No alternatives are being presented.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Notification of Council's decision will be provided to the Hantsport Fire Department and the West Hants Regional Municipality.

ENGAGEMENT

- Municipal staff will hold a meeting on June 15, 2026 with residents of the Hants Border area to discuss the Capital Budget of the Hantsport Volunteer Fire Department and the proposed area rate for ratepayers served by the Hantsport Fire Department.

APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Hantsport Volunteer Fire Department Budget for 2026/27
- Appendix B: 2026/27 Hants Border Area Rate Calculation

APPROVALS

Mike Livingstone, Director of Finance & IT June 5, 2026

Scott Conrod, Chief Administrative Officer June 8, 2026

Appendix A: Hantsport Volunteer Fire Department Capital Budget 2026/27

Capital Item	Principal	Interest	Total Expense
Hantsport Pumper	\$24,921	\$2,391	\$27,312
Fire Truck Chassis	\$17,500	\$2,507	\$20,007
Command Scene Lighting	\$2,751	\$360	\$3,111
Maxi Force Air Bag	\$803	\$212	\$1,015
SCUBA Equipment	\$5,000	\$498	\$5,498
100' Quint Fire Truck	\$86,485	\$51,827	\$138,312
Thermal Cameras	\$3,003	\$300	\$3,303
Master Intake Valve Repair (21)	\$1,300	\$129	\$1,429
Highway Stabilization Kit	\$3,515	\$228	\$3,743
Voice Amplifiers	\$2,065	\$134	\$2,199
Thermal Imaging Cameras	\$1,538	\$100	\$1,638
Light Rescue	\$32,235	\$2,095	\$34,330
Voice Amplifiers	\$2,065	\$134	\$2,199
Thermal; Imaging Cameras	\$3,101	\$202	\$3,303
Engine 12 Upgrades	\$5,162	\$336	\$5,498
Hydraulic Jaws	\$8,919	\$580	\$9,499
5 VFD Radios	\$9,292	\$604	\$9,896
SCBA Masks	\$10,000	\$635	\$10,635
25 New Pagers	\$500	\$212	\$712
Unit 52 Brush Truck Wildland Lift Kit	\$2,000	\$439	\$2,439
			\$286,078

Appendix B:

Hants Border Fire Area Rate Calculation 2026/27

TOTAL CAPITAL COSTS	\$286,078
MOK PORTION (47.2%)	\$135,029
Fire Hall Phase Principal	\$42,224
Fire Hall Interest	\$0
TOTAL CAPITAL COSTS	\$177,253
ADMIN	\$5,401
HST ON ADMIN	\$756
TOTAL	\$183,410
ASSESSMENT BASE FOR KINGS COUNTY SERVICE AREA	\$154,927,300
AREA RATE FOR 2026-27	\$0.1184

TO	Committee of the Whole
PREPARED BY	Scott MacKay, Manager of Revenue
DATE	June 16, 2026
SUBJECT	2026/27 Area Rate Levies for Fire and Recreation

ORIGIN

- First introduction to Committee of the Whole

RECOMMENDATION

That Committee of the Whole recommend Municipal Council approve the levying, collection and remittance of the Area Rates as shown in Appendix A: Area Rates 2026/27 and approve the 4% administration fee charged against the Area Rates collected in Appendix B: Area Rates for Fire Commissions 2025/26 as attached to the June 16, 2026 Request for Decision.

INTENT

To provide Municipal Council with the necessary information to make an informed decision regarding the setting of 2026/27 Fire and Recreation Area Rates.

DISCUSSION

Annually, staff present a recommendation to Municipal Council to approve Area Rates for:

- Fire Departments,
- Hydrant Rates (otherwise known as Fire Protection Rates) for water utilities, and
- charges for recreation.

These rates are set in accordance with either [Policy FIN-05-007 Fire and Recreation Area Rates](#), or Nova Scotia Regulatory and Appeals Board (NSRAB) orders related to Annual Fire Protection Rates.

The rates will be used for the final tax billing process in September 2026. Area Rates do not continue automatically from year to year. Fire Departments, and incorporated Recreation Organizations who provide services to residents, must submit a request each year. Fire Protection Rates (hydrant rates) are set by the NSRAB.

There are several requirements that Fire Departments and Recreation Organizations must meet:

- A properly advertised public meeting must be convened to seek support for the proposed Area Rate, determined by majority vote of the ratepayers present and voting at the meeting,
- The proposed area to be charged must be clearly defined,
- Each organization must provide proof of incorporation and good standing under the *Societies Act*, and
- A budget must be provided in support of the Area Rate.

Fire Area Rates are used to meet only the capital needs of fire departments and commissions. Operational costs are covered by the Municipality's general tax rate through an operations grant.

Request for Decision

Water Utilities must provide a copy of the latest NSRAB order identifying the amount of Fire Protection to be paid, together with the allocation method or percentage, if applicable. The Municipality levies the Area Rate charge on all properties located within 1,000 feet of a hydrant.

For Fire Commissions, the process is different. The Municipality takes direction from the Commissions to collect a fire rate on their behalf and remit the collected funds to the respective Commissions, less an administration fee as approved by Municipal Council.

Finance staff have received applications from each Fire Department and Recreation Organization, identified in Appendix A. The applicants have complied with the requirements of the Fire and Recreation Area Rates Policy FIN-05-007. The Water Utilities identified in Appendix A have provided their required information. All Fire Commissions listed in Appendix B have also notified staff of the Area Rate to be collected on their behalf.

Recreation rates are levied on a per dwelling unit basis. Fire and Hydrant rates are charged at a rate per \$100 of property assessment. For example, a \$250,000 property with a \$0.07 fire rate would pay \$175 for the tax year $[(\$250,000/\$100) * \$0.07 = \$175]$.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- Per Policy FIN 05-007, the Municipality charges a 4% administration fee to offset the costs associated with billing, collecting, and remitting of the various Area Rate funds to Fire Departments, Fire Commissions and Recreation Associations.
- There is no additional impact on the Municipality’s operating budget.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

	Strong Communities	
	Environmental Stewardship	
	Economic Development	
	Good Governance	
	Financial Sustainability	
✓	Other	Annual review of Area Rate Levies covered by Policy FIN 05-007

ALTERNATIVES

- No alternatives are recommended.

IMPLEMENTATION

- All approved Area Rates will be levied on the 2026 final property tax bills, and the collected funds will be remitted to the various Area Rate organizations in two payments – the first one in July and the final payment after the September tax bill is released.
- The 2026/27 Area Rates will be posted on the Municipality’s website.

ENGAGEMENT

- The NSRAB sets Fire Protection Rates by Order, following their prescribed Rate Application and Rate Hearing process.
- Staff coordinated a meeting for the ratepayers of Hants Border area in an effort to gauge the support of the proposed Area Rate. This service area is unique in that the servicing fire department is located outside of Kings County.
- Each requesting organization must provide evidence that they have complied with the Fire and Recreation Area Rates Policy FIN-05-007, sections 4.2 through 4.5, which prescribes the level of public participation required.

APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Area Rates for Fire Departments, Recreation and Fire Protection 2026/27
- Appendix B: Area Rates for Fire Commissions 2026/27

APPROVALS

Mike Livingstone, Director of Finance & IT	June 5, 2026
Scott Conrod, Chief Administrative Officer	June 8, 2026

Appendix A: Area Rates 2026/27

Recreation Rates

Approve the levying, collection and remittance of a uniform charge for the year ending March 31, 2027, on each dwelling unit assessed on the Assessment Roll in the said area.

AREA	2025/26 RATE / DWELLING	PROPOSED 2026/27 RATE / DWELLING
Canning Recreation	\$32.00	\$32.00
Greenwich Recreation	\$25.00	\$25.00
Fox Hill Recreation	\$75.00	\$75.00
Coldbrook Recreation	\$30.00	\$30.00
Canaan Heights Recreation	\$75.00	\$75.00
Centreville Recreation	\$28.00	\$28.00

Fire Area Rates

Approve the levying, collection and remittance of an Area Rate for the year ending March 31, 2027, on each \$100 of the assessed value of commercial, resource, residential property assessed on the Assessment Roll in the said area.

AREA	2025/26 RATE / \$100 ASSESSMENT	PROPOSED 2026/27 RATE
Aylesford Outside	\$0.0500	\$0.0600
Kentville Fire	\$0.0450	\$0.0450
New Minas Fire	\$0.0500	\$0.0500
Wolfville Fire	\$0.0765	\$0.0540
Greenwich	\$0.0700	\$0.0985
Halls Harbour	\$0.0500	\$0.0500
Hants Border	\$0.1085	\$0.1184
Waterville Outside	\$0.0650	\$0.0650

Fire Protection Rates (Hydrant) Area Rate

Approve the levying, collection and remittance of an Area Rate for the year ending March 31, 2027, on each \$100 of the assessed value on all assessable property within or a portion of which is within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant that is property of a Water Utility.

AREA	2025/26 RATE / \$100 ASSESSMENT	PROPOSED 2026/27 RATE
Greenwood	\$0.1010	\$0.0916
North Kentville	\$0.0641	\$0.0563
Hants Border	\$0.0227	\$0.0661
Greenwich	\$0.0874	\$0.0822
Canning	\$0.0827	\$0.0871

Appendix B: Area Rates for Fire Commissions 2026/27

Approve the 4% administration fee charged against the Area Rates collected for the following Fire Commissions.

AREA	2025/26 RATE / \$100 ASSESSMENT	2026/27 RATE
Aylesford Inside	\$0.050	\$0.060
Berwick	\$0.080	\$0.080
Canning	\$0.090	\$0.090
Kingston	\$0.055	\$0.055

TO	Committee of the Whole
FROM	Deputy Mayor MacPherson
COMMITTEE	Audit and Finance Committee
COMMITTEE MEETING DATE	June 2, 2026
COTW MEETING DATE	June 16, 2026

Present: Susan Gray, Tyler Honeywood, Mike Livingstone, Citizen Member Crabb, Citizen Member Morse, Mayor Corkum, Councillor Lutz, Councillor Gates, Deputy Mayor MacPherson

Jessica Clahane and Aaron Kelly from Doane Grant Thornton presented the Audit Planning and Strategy Report.

- They outlined the risk-management and fraud-mitigation strategies currently in place to reduce and prevent potential fraud within financial services and financial processes.
- Audited financial statements will be completed on schedule and ready for the September 30 deadline.
- All accounting practices continue to follow Canadian Auditing Standards.
- The firm is in the early stages of integrating AI-supported procedures into the auditing process to further enhance service quality.

Mike Livingstone presented the 2023–24 Financial Indicators. There are 12 indicators used to assess the overall financial health of the Municipality of the County of Kings. Due to the time required to obtain audited statements and supporting data, these indicators naturally report on a lag. All 12 provincial indicators are in the green, reflecting strong financial health and no areas of concern. While there are no current warning signs, it was noted that conditions can shift over time depending on emerging issues (e.g., sewer-related pressures).

Tyler Honeywood provided a Budget Debrief. Municipal tax rates were held without increase again this fiscal year. However, residents will see an inflationary increase in assessments through Valuation Services. Staffing levels remain unchanged, and there are no indications of budgetary stress at this time.

Mr. Honeywood also delivered an update on the Financial Services Work Plan. He reviewed all legislated processes and statutory responsibilities. The Municipality is now fully back on track with required financial processes, including audit timelines, following several challenging years. He also reviewed Financial Policies, with particular emphasis on Risk Assessment and Fraud Prevention. Due to limited resources, the department continues to triage and prioritize the most critical items.

Chair’s Remarks: Based on the presentations received, I continue to have the utmost confidence in our Financial Services team. While workload pressures remain, we are supported by strong leadership, sound policies, and a disciplined approach to financial management. All indicators point to a healthy and stable financial position for the Municipality of the County of Kings.

Respectfully submitted,

Everett MacPherson, Deputy Mayor

Committee of Council Reports - June 16, 2026

Board/Committee	Chair/Reporting Councillor/ Members	Last/Next Meeting	Report
Asset Management Committee	Peter Allen, Doug Gates, Tim Harding	October 7, 2025 Next: April 9, September 1, 2026	
Audit & Finance Committee	Dave Corkum, Everett MacPherson (Chair), Doug Gates, Emily Lutz	June 2, 2026 Next: TBD	Written report provided June 16, 2026
Diversity Kings County	Everett MacPherson, Christina Sappington	May 4, 2026 Next: June 1, July 6, 2026	Written report provided May 19, 2026
Fences Arbitration Committee	Bob Best Alternate: Tim Harding	No meetings	
Fire Services Advisory Committee	Peter Allen, Robbie Hiltz, Riley Peckford	September 18, 2025 Next: November 24, 2025, February 12, June 18, 2026	Written report provided November 3, 2025
Greenwood Water Utility Source Water Protection Committee	Riley Peckford	September 11, 2025 Next: TBD	Written report provided October 7, 2025
Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee	Bob Best	September 10, 2025 Next: December 10, 2025, March 11, June 10, 2026	Written report provided October 7, 2025
Lake Monitoring Committee	Emily Lutz Alternate: Tim Harding	No recent meetings	
Nominating Committee	Dave Corkum (Chair), Peter Allen, Everett MacPherson, Riley Peckford	April 21, 2026 Next: TBD	Recommendations provided May 5, 2026
Planning Advisory Committee	Emily Lutz, Riley Peckford, Doug Gates, Everett MacPherson	May 12, 2026 Next: June 9, 2026	Recommendations provided June 2, 2026
Police Advisory Board	Bob Best, Robbie Hiltz, Christina Sappington (Chair)	May 20, 2026 Next: Joint Meeting with Kentville Police Commission TBD; Regular Meeting September 16, 2026	Written report provided June 2, 2026
Regional Sewer Committee	Tim Harding Alternate: Everett MacPherson	January 15, 2026 Next: March 12, June 11, 2026	Verbal report provided February 3, 2026
Sandy Court Source Water Protection Committee	Tim Harding	Next: TBD	Written report provided March 18, 2025

External Board and Committee Reports - June 16, 2026

Board/Committee	Reporting Councillor	Last / Next Meeting	Report
Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board	Emily Lutz Alternate: Christina Sappington	May 2, 2026 Next: TBD	Verbal report provided May 5, 2026
Annapolis Valley Trails Coalition Board	Robbie Hiltz Alternate: Tim Harding	February 26, 2026	Written report provided February 3, 2026
Canning Source Water Protection Committee	Everett MacPherson		
Kentville Joint Fire Services Committee	Bob Best, Tim Harding, Christina Sappington	March 20, 2025 Next: October 23, 2025	Written report provided April 1, 2025
Kentville Source Water Protection Advisory Group	Doug Gates	March 26, 2025	
Kentville Water Commission	Doug Gates	March 26, 2025	
Kings County Homelessness Advisory Committee	Everett MacPherson	May 11, 2026 Next: TBD	Written report provided May 19, 2026
Kings Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee	Dave Corkum, Riley Peckford	October 20, 2025 Next: January 19, 2026	Written report provided November 3, 2025
Landscape of Grand Pré Inc. Member	Peter Allen Alternate: Christina Sappington	September 23, 2025	Written report provided December 2, 2025
Landscape of Grand Pré Incorporated Board	Doug Gates	May 6, 2026 Next: TBD	Written report provided June 2, 2026
New Minas Source Water Protection Committee	Christina Sappington		
Nova Scotia Solid Waste-Resource Regional Chairs Committee	Dave Corkum (Vice-Chair)	February 3, 2026	Written report provided March 3, 2026
Port Williams Source Water Protection Committee	Doug Gates	March 18, 2026 Next: March 18, 2027	Verbal report provided April 7, 2026; Written report provided April 21, 2026
Valley Community Fibre Network (Authority) Board	Robbie Hiltz	September 11, 2025 Next: December 4, 2025, May 22, 2026	Verbal report provided October 7, 2025
Valley Regional Enterprise Network Liaison & Oversight Committee	Dave Corkum Alternate: Christina Sappington	May 28, 2026 Next: TBD	Written report provided June 2, 2026
Valley Regional Services Board (Kings Transit & Valley Waste)	Dave Corkum Alternate: Emily Lutz	May 20, 2026 Next: June 17, 2026	Written report provided June 2, 2026
Western Regional Housing Authority Board	Citizen Member only		
Wolfville Source Water Protection Advisory Committee	Peter Allen	March 11, 2026 Next: June 10, 2026	Written report provided April 7, 2026