MUNICIPALITY of the COUNTY of KINGS

November 10, 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, October 20, 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,

Suzanne Selwood
Administrative Assistant
Municipality of the County of Kings

MUNICIPALITY of the COUNTY of KINGS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, November 17, 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
   a. October 20, 2026 — Page 3
5. Business Arising from Minutes
   a. October 20, 2026 — Page 3
6. Presentations
   a. 9:05am: Housing Trust of Nova Scotia — Page 11
   b. 9:25am: Safe Haven Animal Rescue — Page 12
7. Administration
   a. Community Engagement Strategy — Page 13
8. Board and Committee Reports
   a. New Minas Source Water Protection Committee — Page 27
   b. Committees of Council — Page 28
   c. External Boards and Committees — Page 29
9. Other Business
10. Comments from the Public
11. 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 Jijiktukwej L'nue'kati 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, October 20, 2026
DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting Date and Time

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held on Tuesday, October 20, 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 Councillor Harding with notice. Councillor Hiltz arrived shortly after Roll Call at 9:02 a.m.

Results for Roll Call

For 8
Against 0

District	Name	Results
Mayor	Dave Corkum	For
District 1	Everett MacPherson	For
District 2	Doug Gates	For
District 3	Robbie Hiltz	-
District 4	Riley Peckford	For
District 5	Tim Harding	-
District 6	Bob Best	For
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
- Jordan Matheson, Manager, Engineering Services
- Maria Lahoud, Recreation Coordinator
- Graysen Parker, Diversity Specialist
- Suzanne Selwood, Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was held for the tragedy at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright.

Land Acknowledgement

Mayor Corkum read the Land Acknowledgement per Policy ADMIN-01-025: Land Acknowledgement.

Excuse Absence

On motion of Councillor Gates and Deputy Mayor MacPherson, that Councillor Harding's absence from the October 20, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting be excused.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 9
Against 0

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

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 Sappington, that Committee of the Whole approve the October 20, 2026 agenda as circulated.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 9
Against 0

District	Name	Results
Mayor	Dave Corkum	For
District 1	Everett MacPherson	For
District 2	Doug Gates	For
District 3	Robbie Hiltz	For
District 4	Riley Peckford	For
District 5	Tim Harding	-
District 6	Bob Best	For
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. September 15, 2026

On motion of Councillor Allen and Councillor Lutz, that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on September 15, 2026 be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 9
Against 0

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

5. **Business Arising from Minutes**

5a. September 15, 2026

There was no business arising from the September 15, 2026 minutes.

6. **Presentations**

6a. Doane Grant Thornton - 2025/26 Consolidated Financial Statements

Aaron Kelly from Doane Grant Thornton presented the 2025/2026 Consolidated Financial Statements.

On motion of Councillor Hiltz and Deputy Mayor MacPherson, that Committee of the Whole receive for information the presentation of the

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2025/2026 Consolidated Financial Statements as provided on October 20, 2026.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 9
Against 0

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

6b. **Valley REN - Restructuring Process Update**

Emily Boucher, CEO, provided a presentation.

On motion of Councillor Peckford and Councillor Hiltz, that Committee of the Whole receive for information the Valley REN - Restructuring Process Update presentation as provided on October 20, 2026.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 9
Against 0

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

6c. **Jijuktu'kwejk Watershed Alliance - E. coli Monitoring in Kings County**

Sinead Addis, Operations Manager, provided a presentation.

On motion of Councillor Sappington and Councillor Allen, that Committee of the Whole receive for information the Jijuktu'kwejk Watershed Alliance - E. coli Monitoring in Kings County presentation as provided on October 20, 2026.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 9
Against 0

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

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District 6	Bob Best	For
District 7	Emily Lutz	For
District 8	Christina Sappington	For
District 9	Peter Allen	For

7. **Administration**

7a. **Flag Raising & Proclamation: MADD Canada's Project Red Ribbon Day**

On motion of Deputy Mayor MacPherson and Councillor Sappington, that Committee of the Whole recommend Municipal Council receive for information the MADD Project Red Ribbon Day community flag raising notification as provided on October 20, 2026 and proclaim November 1, 2026 "Project Red Ribbon Day" in the Municipality of the County of Kings.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 9
Against 0

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

7b. **2026 Volunteer Recognition Event & Awards**

Maria Lahoud, Recreation Coordinator, presented the Briefing as attached to the October 20, 2026 agenda and provided a presentation.

On motion of Councillor Gates and Councillor Hiltz, that Committee of the Whole receive the October 20, 2026 Briefing regarding the 2026 Volunteer Celebration Event & Awards as information.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 9
Against 0

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

7c. **Amendments to Diversity Kings County Committee Terms of Reference**

Graysen Parker, Diversity Specialist, presented the Request for Decision as attached to the October 20, 2026 agenda and provided a presentation.

On motion of Councillor Sappington and Councillor Allen, that Committee of the Whole recommend Municipal Council approve the

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amended Terms of Reference for the Diversity Kings County Committee, as detailed in the October 20, 2026, Request for Decision.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 9
Against 0

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

7d. **Amendment to Policy ADMIN-01-025: Land Acknowledgement**

Grayson Parker, Diversity Specialist, presented the Request for Decision as attached to the October 20, 2026 agenda and provided a presentation.

On motion of Deputy Mayor MacPherson and Councillor Best, that Committee of the Whole recommend Municipal Council provide seven days' notice, per s.48(1) *Municipal Government Act*, to amend Policy ADMIN-01-025: Land Acknowledgement as outlined in the October 20, 2026 Request for Decision.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 9
Against 0

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

7e. **Western Kings Rink Association Emergency Funding Request**

Andrea Hyslop, Deputy CAO, presented the Request for Decision as attached to the October 20, 2026 agenda and provided a presentation.

On motion of Councillor Lutz and Deputy Mayor MacPherson, that Committee of the Whole recommend Municipal Council provide the Western Kings Rink Association emergency funding support of $10,000 to replace one failed dehumidifier at the Credit Union Centre in Kingston, as outlined in the October 20, 2026 Request for Decision.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 9
Against 0

District	Name	Results
Mayor	Dave Corkum	For

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

8. **Engineering & Public Works**

8a. **2027-2028 Cost Shared Program for Paving of Subdivision Streets**

Jordan Matheson, Manager of Engineering Services, presented the Request for Decision as attached to the October 20, 2026 agenda and provided a presentation.

On motion of Councillor Allen and Councillor Lutz, that Committee of the Whole recommend Municipal Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to submit the list of recommended Subdivision Roads for paving contained in the October 13, 2026 Request for Decision to the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works under Cost Sharing Agreement No. 2023-014 for the 2027-2028 fiscal year.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 9
Against 0

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

9. **Councillor Item**

9a. **Review of Nova Scotia Capped Assessment Program (CAP)**

Councillor Peckford presented the Councillor agenda item as attached to the October 20, 2026 agenda.

On motion of Councillor Peckford and Councillor Best, that Committee of the Whole recommend Municipal Council direct the CAO to prepare a report examining the impacts of Nova Scotia's Capped Assessment Program (CAP) on the Municipality of the County of Kings, including its effects on property tax fairness, municipal revenues, and opportunities to adjust residential tax rates to better benefit residents.

Motion Defeated.

Results

For 2
Against 7

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

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

Council took a short break from 11:03 to 11:14 a.m.

10. **Board and Committee Reports**

10a. **Audit & Finance Committee**

Deputy Mayor MacPherson presented the report as attached to the October 20, 2026 agenda

10b. **Diversity Kings County Committee**

Councillor Sappington presented the report as attached to the October 20, 2026 agenda.

10c. **Landscape of Grand Pré Inc. Board**

Councillor Allen presented the report as attached to the October 20, 2026 agenda.

10d. **Committees of Council**

For information.

10e. **External Boards and Committees**

Councillor Sappington provided a verbal update on the Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance Conference.

Deputy Mayor MacPherson provided a verbal update on the Kings County Homelessness Advisory Committee and would provide a written report at the next Council meeting.

On motion of Councillor Best and Councillor Allen, that Committee of the Whole receive the Board and Committee Reports as attached to the October 20, 2026 agenda and as provided verbally for information.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 9
Against 0

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

11. **Other Business**

11a. **Pre-approval of Canada Community-Building Fund for Village of Aylesford**

Mike Livingstone, Director of Finance & IT, presented the Request for Decision as attached to the October 20, 2026 agenda and provided a presentation.

On motion of Councillor Best and Councillor Gates, that Committee of the Whole recommend Municipal Council approve the Village of Aylesford's 2026/27 capital projects and use of Canada Community-

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Building Fund as detailed in the October 20, 2026 Request for Decision.

Motion Carried.

Results

For 9
Against 0

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

12. **Comments from the Public**

No members of the public were in attendance.

13. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Approved by:

_____ _____

Dave Corkum
Mayor

Suzanne Selwood
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.

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Presentation to Committee of the Whole

Subject: Housing for Working Households - Mission and Model

Organization: The Housing Trust of Nova Scotia (HTNS)

Name of Presenter(s): Angela Bishop, Chief Executive Officer

Date: 11/17/26

Organization:

(Who) Summary of the organization you will represent: HTNS is a provider of non-market or non-profit housing - our focus is on providing manageable rents for working households. HTNS operates with a mixed-income model where working households with combined household incomes of between ~$42,500 and ~$85,000 pay rents aligned with those incomes. We are looking to grow across Nova Scotia.

One component of our work is housing for healthcare workers where occupation is the primary resident selection criteria and retention and attraction are foundations. For this program, the rent range is higher - we might house a doctor, for example. We plan on developing 16 units in Hibou Court. Learn more at www.housingtrust.ca

Discussion:

(What) Brief summary of the topic you wish to discuss: See above.

Request:

(Why) Please indicate the purpose of the presentation - is your organization requesting a commitment? (funding, letter of support, etc.) Or providing the presentation for information?

Presentation is for informational purposes, especially that Councillors understand that we do not provide supports and services for folks facing challenges. We aim to make rents manageable.

Presentation to Committee of the Whole

Subject: Introduction of Safe Haven Animal Rescue

Organization: Safe Haven Animal Rescue

Name of Presenter(s): Beth Lenentine, Kathryn Downe

Date: 11/17/26

Organization:

Organization: Safe Haven Animal Rescue Annapolis Valley
What we do:
- Rescue animals from neglect, abandonment, and unsafe situations
- Provide veterinary care, vaccinations, and medical treatment
- Foster animals in safe, home-based environments
- Match animals with carefully screened adoptive families - Support responsible pet ownership through education and outreach
- Assist community members facing challenges caring for their pets
- Supports Kings County families seeking assistance for vulnerable pets
- Engages volunteers from across the municipality
- Hleps reduce animal suffering and pet homelessness in our communities

Discussion:

(What) Brief summary of the topic you wish to discuss:

To provide the municipality with information on Safe Haven Animal Rescue programs and our impact on Kings County. The presentation will include information on the number of animals rescued, the number of successful adoptions, the number of volunteer hours annually, and the partnership with two local veterinary clinics.

Request:

(Why) Please indicate the purpose of the presentation - is your organization requesting a commitment? (funding, letter of support, etc.) Or providing the presentation for information?

Our presentation is intended to introduce Safe Haven as a community partner and help council to gain insight into the value our organization provides to Kings County residents, animals and neighbourhoods.

We are interested in exploring opportunities to partner with the municipality and to determine what community grant programs may be available to support our work.

MUNICIPALITY of the COUNTY of KINGS

Request for Decision

TO	Committee of the Whole
PREPARED BY	Lindsey Halliday, Community Engagement Specialist
MEETING DATE	November 17, 2026
SUBJECT	Community Engagement Strategy

ORIGIN

- Strategic Plan 2025-2029

RECOMMENDATION

That Committee of the Whole recommend Municipal Council approve the Community Engagement Strategy as described in the November 17, 2026, Request for Decision.

INTENT

To provide Committee of the Whole with the proposed Community Engagement Strategy for consideration and recommendation to Municipal Council for approval.

DISCUSSION

The Municipality's Strategic Plan 2025-2029 identifies the development of a Community Engagement Strategy as a priority under the "Good Governance" Key Strategic Priority. The proposed Community Engagement Strategy (see Appendix A) has been created to establish a framework to guide future community engagement practices for the Municipality.

The Community Engagement Strategy was built upon the feedback received from the 2025-2026 District Meet and Greets. Through the District Meet and Greets, residents expressed a strong desire to feel more connected to local government and the decisions being made by Municipal Council. This feedback reinforced the need to review existing engagement practices and identify opportunities for improvement on how the Municipality receives input from its residents.

The proposed Community Engagement Strategy is a two-year plan guided by five principles:

1. Respect;
2. Accessibility;
3. Accountability;
4. Transparency; and
5. Timeliness.

The Strategy focuses on the following four priority areas:

1. Expand initial engagement dataset to further understand community needs and priorities;
2. Standardize internal community engagement tools and practices;
3. Modernize community engagement; and
4. Increase and diversify engagement opportunities.

These four priority areas will provide the Municipality with:

- A broader understanding of community needs and a foundation for measuring changes over time;
- Standardized tools, templates and processes that will help staff determine when engagement is appropriate and clearly communicate how public feedback influences decisions;
- Additional avenues for residents to provide input and understand the results of Municipal engagements; and

- A variety of engagement opportunities to help ensure a broad range of community voices are heard and reduce barriers to participation.

Some examples of projects to meet the above priorities include:

- Develop a "roles and responsibilities" of the different levels of government;
- Create templates for staff to standardize engagement;
- Review and update the Community Engagement Policy;
- Bring engagement opportunities to pre-existing public events.

As part of the Community Engagement Strategy, Council will receive semi-annual updates that summarize the engagement activities undertaken during the reporting period, as well as any upcoming opportunities for public engagement. The Strategy will be implemented over a two-year period.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- There are no additional financial implications associated with this request. Financial considerations associated with the Community Engagement Strategy will be considered during budget deliberations.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

	Strong Communities	
	Environmental Stewardship	
	Economic Development	
✓	Good Governance	Develop and adopt an Engagement Strategy
	Financial Sustainability	
	Other	

ALTERNATIVES

- Municipal Council may choose not to approve the Community Engagement Strategy as presented or provide alternative recommendations on areas of focus for the Community Engagement Strategy.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Upon approval, Municipal Staff will develop and implement a workplan to ensure alignment with the Strategy and make recommendations to Municipal Council as required.

ENGAGEMENT

- Feeback received from the 2025-2026 District Meet and Greets informed the development of the Community Engagement Strategy.

APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Community Engagement Strategy

APPROVALS

Andrea Hyslop, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer — November 2, 2026

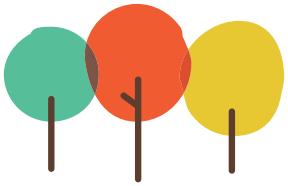
Scott Conrod, Chief Administrative Officer — November 10, 2026

MUNICIPALITY *of the*
COUNTY *of* KINGS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

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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 Municipal of the County of Kings is a neighbour to Jijiktukwej L'nue'kati 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.

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INTRODUCTION

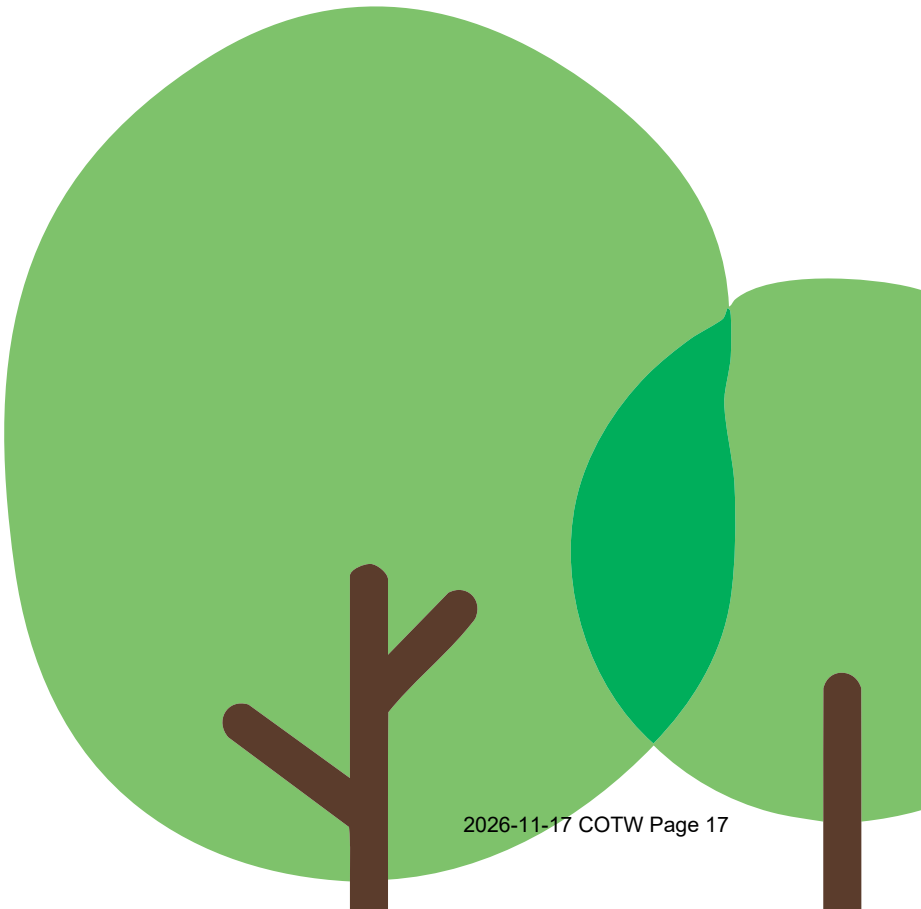
Community engagement is an important part of local government. When undertaken effectively it creates opportunities for community members to better understand municipal issues, and provide input on their needs and concerns.

The Municipality of the County of Kings is committed to strengthening our public engagement efforts by:

- providing meaningful opportunities for residents to participate;
- providing education to improve transparency on how input is considered in municipal decisions; and
- increasing the number of people who participate.

Implementation of this Community Engagement Strategy will occur progressively over two years. It is important to note that there are statutory requirements relative to municipal requirements, and that some municipal decisions are subject to specific legislated requirements, public notices, hearings, or consultation. This strategy is designed to complement those requirements but does not replace them.

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GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following principles will guide the Municipality's approach to community engagement.

RESPECT

Inclusive engagement where all participants can share their views, concerns, and ideas through respectful dialogue.

ACCESSIBILITY

We will identify and reduce barriers to participation by considering accessibility in our engagement methods.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We will report back on what we hear and how/why community input influenced decisions.

TRANSPARENCY

We will communicate clearly about the purpose of our engagement, how the input will be used, and our decision-making process.

TIMELINESS

When possible, engagement will be considered during project planning to help inform decisions.

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OUR COMMITMENT

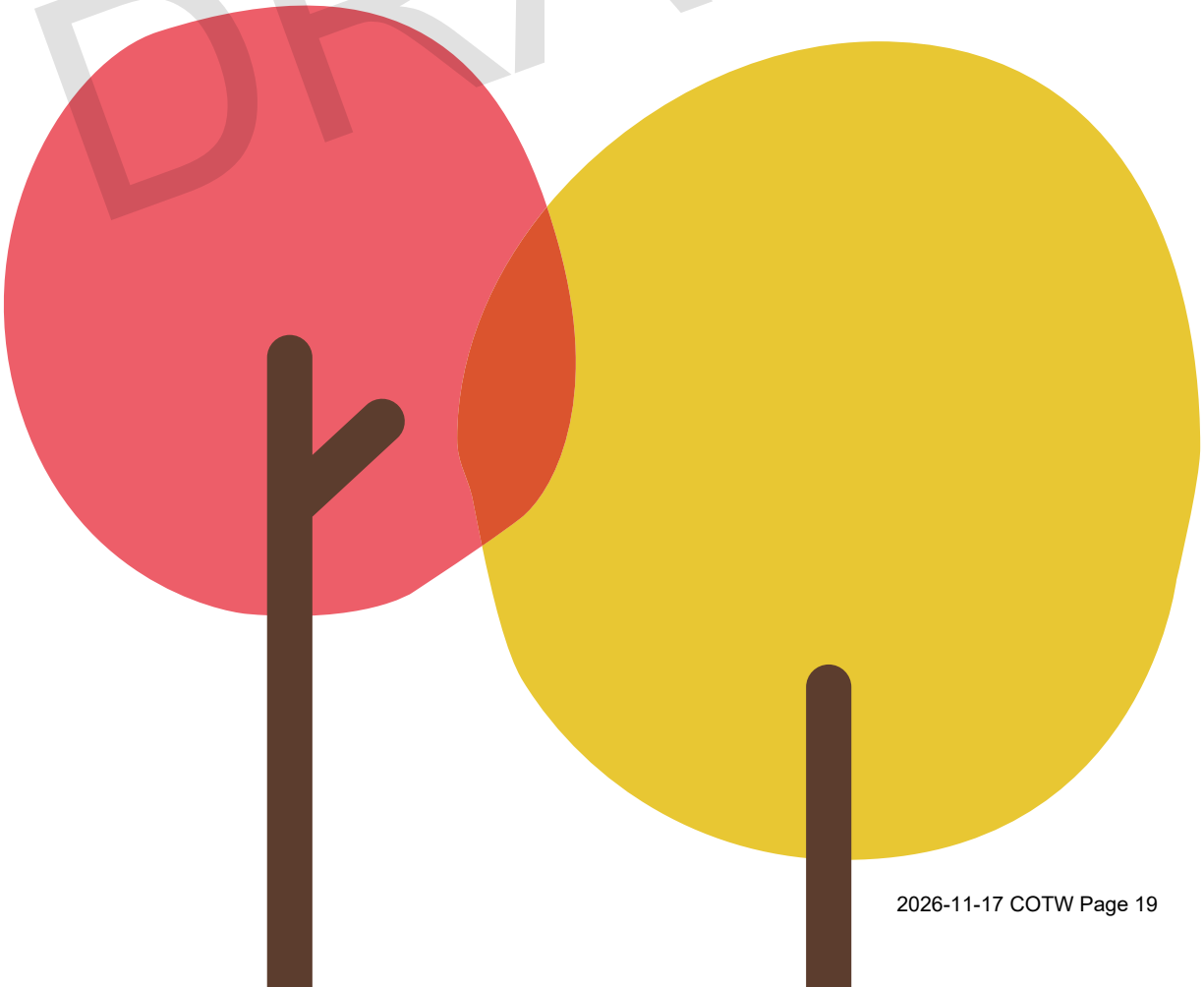
Our community is home to people with different identities, backgrounds, experiences and relationships with local government. The Municipality will aim to consider these perspectives and take reasonable steps to engage individuals from traditional marginalized groups, and will not rely solely on voluntary participation as a representation of the broader community.

WHEN AND HOW WE WILL ENGAGE

The Municipality will engage when:

- It is required by legislation (e.g. *Municipal Government Act*)
- Council or administration request public input on a project
- The matter has potential to significantly impact residents
- Planning major projects, initiatives or programs
- A project may have an impact on a particular community group

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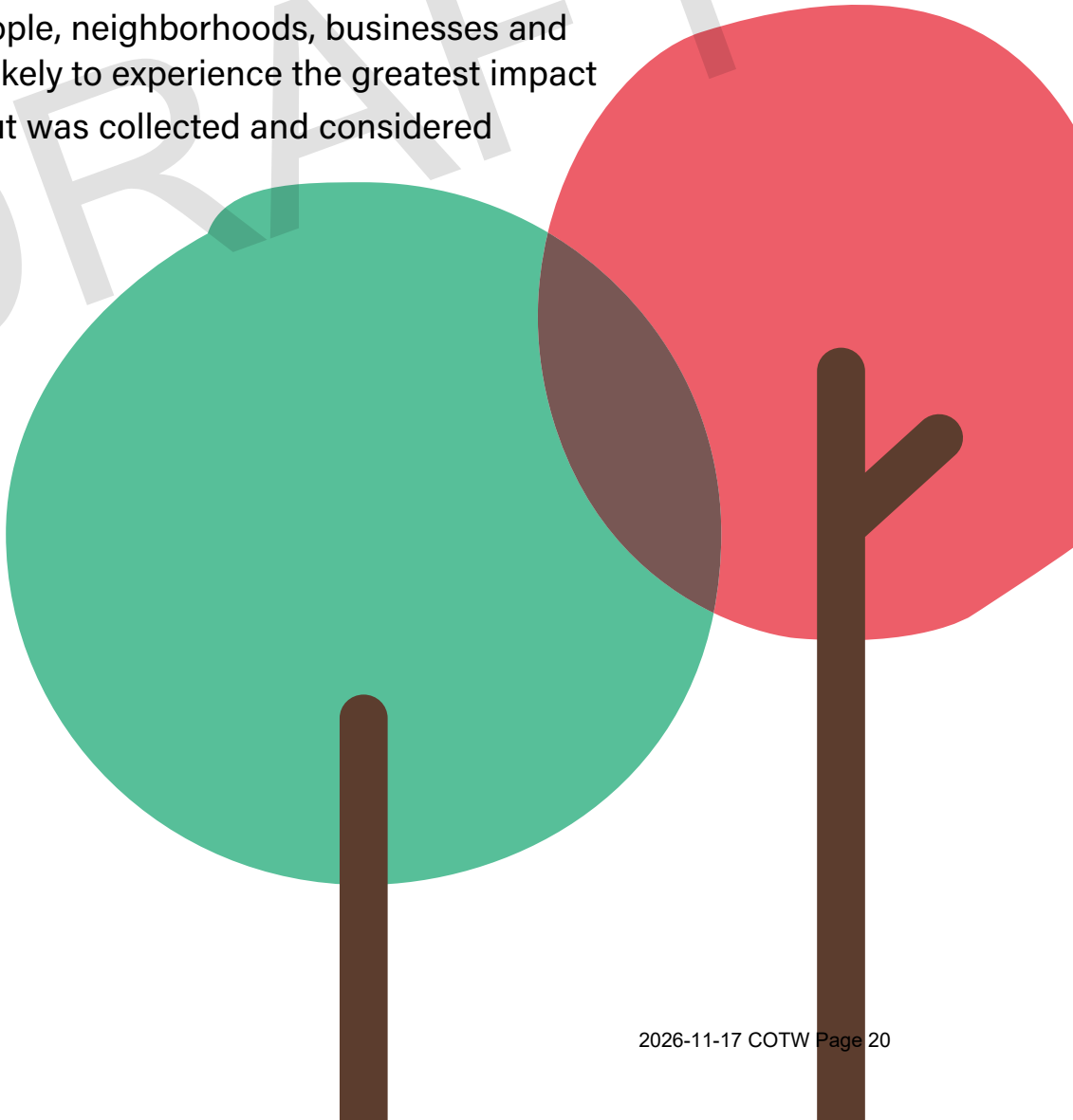


Municipal engagement on projects will vary depending on the complexity, scale, and anticipated impact. The Municipality will use the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum to determine the appropriate level of engagement. The IAP2 provides guidance on developing meaningful public engagement. The system is broken into five levels: Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate, Empower. Each level represents increasing degrees of public influence in the decision-making process.

Municipal engagement efforts will aim to:

- Communicate what spectrum of engagement is taking place
- Allow sufficient time to participate
- Be clear about what can be influenced
- Listen first
- Make it easy to participate
- Reach out directly to those most affected
- Identify the people, neighborhoods, businesses and organizations likely to experience the greatest impact
- Show how input was collected and considered

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OUR PATH FORWARD

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1 EXPAND INITIAL ENGAGEMENT DATASET TO FURTHER UNDERSTAND COMMUNITY NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

The Municipality's District Meet & Greets held in 2025/26 were an important first step in gathering data. Expanding this initial engagement dataset will provide a broader understanding of community needs and provides a foundation for measuring changes over time. This will be established by collecting and analyzing data and feedback to identify key needs, priorities, and emerging trends to help inform municipal programs and investments.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES ALIGNMENT:

Accessibility

- Respect

DELIVERABLES:

- Comprehensive community engagement survey available to all residents in multiple formats and promoted broadly to encourage participation from residents in various districts and demographic groups.
- Summary and analysis of survey findings presented to Council that highlight key community-wide priorities, needs and engagement trends.
- Baseline findings to inform future engagement planning initiatives.

ACTIONS:

- Conduct a comprehensive community engagement survey.
- Compile data from survey, District Meet and Greets 2025/26, and election participation.
- Analyze trends and identify priority issues to develop a broader understanding of community needs.
- Identify baseline metrics that can be consistently tracked for future engagement.

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2 STANDARDIZE INTERNAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TOOLS AND PRACTICES

Establish consistent community engagement standards across Municipal departments. Standardized tools, templates, and processes will help staff determine when engagement is appropriate, which engagement method to use, and clearly communicate how public feedback influences decisions.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES ALIGNMENT:

- Transparency
- Timeliness
- Accountability

DELIVERABLES:

- Develop a community engagement toolkit to support engagement planning and delivery across all departments.
- Develop a community engagement training program.
- Align engagement policy with practice.
- Annual review of engagement practices and outcomes.

ACTIONS:

- Create standardized engagement templates, tools and resources for use across all departments (e.g. “What We Heard” reports, checklists, facilitation guides, etc.)
- Incorporate accessibility, inclusion, communications, facilitation, and reporting considerations into municipal engagement practices.
- Support departments in using the templates for appropriate engagement methods and evaluate effectiveness and consistency of their use.
- Deliver training to Municipal staff on the purpose of engagement, the Municipal Engagement Strategy, use of the community engagement toolkit, and statutory versus discretionary engagement.
- Review the Community Engagement Policy to ensure alignment with the Community Engagement Strategy.

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3 MODERNIZATION OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Modernizing community engagement ensures residents can participate in variety of ways that are convenient, accessible, and reflective of their preferences. Incorporating a digital engagement platform will complement, not replace, in-person engagement providing an additional avenue for residents to provide input and understand the results of municipal engagements.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES ALIGNMENT:

- Accessibility
- Transparency
- Accountability

DELIVERABLES:

- A digital community engagement portal with project-specific engagement pages, and interactive engagement tools like discussion pages.
- An engagement calendar that shares upcoming meetings, open houses, engagement sessions and learning opportunities.
- Improving communication and notification to the public about engagement opportunities.

ACTIONS:

- Review current community engagement practices to identify opportunities for modernization.
- Expand use of digital engagement tools by creating an engagement portal and calendar.
- Develop project pages that provide information about active engagement initiatives and opportunities to participate.
- Monitor participation and review practices to ensure they meet community needs.

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4 INCREASE AND DIVERSIFY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Meaningful community engagement requires more than a single approach or meeting. Providing a variety of engagement opportunities helps ensure a broader range of community voices are heard and is intended to reduce barriers in participation.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES ALIGNMENT:

- Accessibility
- Transparency
- Timeliness
- Respect
- Accountability

DELIVERABLES:

- Targeted engagement workplan for underrepresented community groups.
- Educational engagement opportunities to increase public awareness of municipal government.
- Youth-focused and youth driven engagement initiatives.
- Closing the loop on engagement activities by ensuring information is shared with the public about the findings of all engagement initiatives.

ACTIONS:

- Monitor participation rates and demographic representation to identify gaps and opportunities for improvement.
- Design a quick reference guide explaining the roles of municipal, provincial, and federal government.
- Explore opportunities to educate youth in school about municipal government.
- Provide regular touch point opportunities such as online surveys, quick questions, and pop-up engagement activities.
- On-going review of participation data to identify gaps and continue to inform future engagement activities.

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REVIEW & CONCLUSION

The Community Engagement Strategy will undergo a comprehensive review upon the election of a new council. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the Strategy continues to reflect the needs and expectations of the community. This cycle of engagement, evaluation, and improvement will help ensure that the Strategy remains relevant and that the Municipality's approach to engagement continues to evolve with community needs.

Community engagement is an important part of local government. It provides opportunities for residents to share their knowledge, experiences and priorities with the Municipality, which in turn allows Municipal Council and staff to better understand the communities they serve. When undertaken strategically and thoughtfully, community engagement can lead to stronger relations, a greater understanding of municipal services and responsibilities, increased trust between residents, Council and municipal staff, and informed decision making.

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MUNICIPALITY of the COUNTY of KINGS

Committee Update

TO	Committee of the Whole
FROM	Councillor Sappington
COMMITTEE	New Minas Source Water Protection Committee
COMMITTEE MEETING DATE	October 29, 2026
COTW MEETING DATE	November 17, 2026

New Minas Source Water Protection Committee met on October 29th.

An overview of the 2024 Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) was given. The Committee's mandated responsibilities under the Plan and the Terms of Reference were reaffirmed. An education and engagement strategy is on the way. The Chair mentioned a water utility study is planned for next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Sappington

Committee of Council Reports - November 17, 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 22, 2026, March 23, 2027	
Audit & Finance Committee	Dave Corkum, Everett MacPherson (Chair), Doug Gates, Emily Lutz	October 13, 2026 Next: TBD	Written report provided October 20, 2026
Diversity Kings County Committee	Everett MacPherson, Christina Sappington	October 5, 2026 Next: November 16, 2026	Written report provided October 20, 2026
Fences Arbitration Committee	Bob Best Alternate: Tim Harding	No meetings	
Fire Services Advisory Committee	Peter Allen, Robbie Hiltz, Riley Peckford	September 17 Next: December 17, 2026	Written report provided October 13, 2026
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	June 10, 2026 Next: September 9, December 9, 2026	Recommendations provided July 7, 2026
Nominating Committee	Dave Corkum (Chair), Peter Allen, Everett MacPherson, Riley Peckford	April 21, 2026 Next: November 12, 2026	Recommendations provided May 5, 2026
Planning Advisory Committee	Emily Lutz, Riley Peckford, Doug Gates, Everett MacPherson	October 13, 2026 Next: November 10, 2026	Recommendations provided November 2, 2026
Police Advisory Board	Bob Best, Robbie Hiltz, Christina Sappington (Chair)	September 16, 2026 Next: October 8, December 16, 2026	Written report provided October 13, 2026
Regional Sewer Committee	Tim Harding Alternate: Everett MacPherson	June 11, 2026 Next: TBD	Verbal report provided July 7, 2026

External Board and Committee Reports - November 17, 2026

Board/Committee	Reporting Councillor	Last / Next Meeting	Report
Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board	Emily Lutz Alternate: Christina Sappington	September 17, 2026 Next: AGM June 2027	Verbal & Written report provided October 13, 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 Source Water Protection Advisory Group	Doug Gates	March 26, 2025	
Kentville Water Commission	Doug Gates	July 30, 2026 Next: TBD	Verbal report provided September 1, 2026
Kings County Homelessness Advisory Committee	Everett MacPherson	October 19, 2026 Next: November 16, 2026	Written report provided November 2, 2026
Kings Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee	Dave Corkum, Riley Peckford	July 20, 2026 Next: TBD	Written report provided September 15, 2026
Landscape of Grand Pré Inc. Member	Peter Allen Alternate: Christina Sappington	September 23, 2026 Next: TBD	Written report provided October 20, 2026
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	October 29, 2026 Next: TBD	Written report provided November 17, 2026
Nova Scotia Solid Waste-Resource Regional Chairs Committee	Dave Corkum (Vice-Chair)	September 25, 2026 Next: TBD	Written report provided October 13, 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
Regional Recreation Facility Steering Committee	Dave Corkum (Chair)	October 22, 2026 Next: November 19, 2026	Written report provided November 17, 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 (Tidal Transit & Valley Waste)	Dave Corkum Alternate: Emily Lutz	October 21, 2026 Next: November 18, 2026	Written report provided November 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