



Lands and Forestry Minister Iain Rankin, Chief Roderick Googoo, forestry lead for the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs, and Chief Terrance Paul of Membertou and co-chair of the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs announce Nova Scotia's Mi'kmaq Forestry Initiative. (Submitted)

Three Year Forestry Initiative for 20,000 hectares

A three year initiative for a forestry pilot project that will create opportunities for jobs, training and Mi'kmaq businesses in silviculture and harvesting on 20,000 hectares of crown land has been announced by provincial of Nova Scotia and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.

The initiative, announced on March 15, gives the Mi'kmaq forest planning and management responsibility on two blocks of Crown land - one in the St. Croix area of Hants County, and another in Digby and Annapolis counties. The experience gained

during this time is intended to help with the development of a longer-term agreement.

"This initiative increases Mi'kmaq involvement in the forest sector using their philosophies on how forestry is conducted," said Lands and Forestry Minister Iain Rankin. "We share a common goal of ecological forestry and it makes sense that the Mi'kmaq should have a greater role in the health of our forests."

"The Mi'kmaq Forestry Initiative will see the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia be architects of a system to develop their own expertise in forestry and

land management, while still being mindful of our traditionally held values of resource management and protection," said Chief Rod Googoo, forestry lead for the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs. "We are happy to partner with the province on this important and culturally significant project."

Professor Bill Lahey recommended the province support a Mi'kmaq Forestry Initiative in his Independent Review of Forest Practices.

The province will contribute \$600,000 to the initiative over three years. The Mi'kmaq have secured \$873,600 from the Government of Canada to support forest planning for the initiative.



Lands and Forestry Minister Iain Rankin announces Nova Scotia's Mi'kmaq Forestry Initiative with Chief Roderick Googoo, forestry lead for the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs. (Submitted)

Within six hours he responded saying the gross remuneration should be adjusted to: Councillors, \$29,005; Deputy Mayor, \$35,050 and Mayor, \$58,420. Based on his calculations for 10 councillors, Deputy Mayor and Mayor the remuneration budget would increase by \$53,802 per year.

(Thompson's calculations to determine a "revised" gross pay are contained in the spreadsheet adjacent to this story) Also, see story on page 9.

of figures. Realizing a significant amount of money had been expended on the report, the Shoreline wanted to find out what results would be available from a phone call or buying a local accountant a cup of coffee. Maurice Rees, publisher, decided to call Roy Thompson, owner of Thompson's Accounting Service, Arthur Street Truro.

Mr. Thompson expressed a keen interest in assisting. In fact he responded within six hours with the answers and didn't need a coffee. He was aware of CRA's change disallowing the "tax-free" allowance. He was asked to come up with a gross remuneration figure so all elected officials received the same take-home pay.

As background information he was provided with the following: Colchester councillors were getting total of \$25,006, of which 2/3 (\$16,671) was taxable income, while the remaining 1/3 (\$8,335) was a tax-free allowance. For Deputy Mayor the figures were \$30,598, \$20,399 taxable and \$10,199, tax-free, while the Mayor's remuneration was \$49,060, with \$32,707 taxable and tax-free as \$16,353.

50TH Anniversary Reunion Class of '69

By Maurice Rees

If you are a member of the West Colchester High School who was scheduled to graduate in 1969, you are being on the "Wanted" list. Even though WCHS closed and students were bussed to Central Colchester High School (CCHS) would present is requested on June 29, 2019.

Some students of the Central Colchester High School Graduating class of 1969 are planning a 50 year celebration on June 29, 2019. When West Colchester High School closed, the WCHS students were bussed to CCHS, along with their

teacher Mr. W. Byers and were a great addition to the school.

Gail Fielding Brown says, "The hardest part in organizing a reunion is reconnecting with people after 50 years. We hope readers of the Shoreline Journal where they be parents, relatives and friends will reach out to our WCHS fellow students to make them aware of the union".

For more information a Facebook page has been developed: CCHS 1969 Onslow, N.S. or emails can be sent to: cchs50years@gmail.com

New Gross Pay Scale for Colchester's Elected

The following calculations were provided by Roy Thompson, Thompson's Accounting Services, Arthur Street, Truro

Amounts with tax-Free Allowance

	Councillor	Deputy Mayor	Mayor
Gross	\$25,006.00	\$30,598.00	\$49,060.00
Exemption	\$(8,335.00)	\$(10,199.00)	\$(16,353.00)
Taxable	\$16,671.00	\$20,399.00	\$32,707.00
CP	\$651.96	\$836.50	\$1,445.75
EI	Exempt	Exempt	Exempt
Tax Payable	\$273.95	\$1,664.08	\$4,709.97
Net	\$24,080.09	\$28,097.42	\$42,904.28

Amounts without Tax-Free Allowance

	Councillor	D Mayor	Mayor
New Gross	\$29,005.00	\$35,050.00	\$58,420.00
Exemption	\$-	\$-	\$-
Taxable	\$29,000.00	\$35,050.00	\$58,420.00
CP	\$1,262.50	\$1,561.73	\$2,593.80
EI	Exempt	Exempt	Exempt
Tax Payable	\$3,661.28	\$5,396.46	\$12,923.57
Net	\$24,081.22	\$28,091.81	\$42,902.63

New Pay Scale after adopting CRA's new rules

	Councillor	D Mayor	Mayor
Differences			
Previous Gross	\$25,006.00	\$30,598.00	\$49,060.00
Increase	\$3,999.00	\$4,452.00	\$9,360.00
New Gross	\$29,005.00	\$35,050.00	\$58,420.00

Roy Thompson Helps for Free

By Maurice Rees

Changes by Canada Revenue Agency by disallowing 1/3 of their remuneration as a "tax-free" allowance has been on the minds of Colchester Councillors since CRA's announcement in mid-2018. The only thing on their mind was to seek an adjustment, so they were getting the "same take-home".

Before Christmas, council asked staff to engage a consultation to determine to what level their remuneration should be adjusted so they took home the same amount of money and to review overall salaries, as it was not completed prior to the last municipal election.

The result of the report was given to Councillors at the January meeting, by Scott Fraser, Director Corporate Services. However, councillor requested the consultant, Gerald Walsh Associates appear before council at the February meeting with a fuller explanation.

After listening for upwards of 40 minutes to Walsh's presentation, councillor's questioning and still a lack of confidence in the results of the report, the Shoreline Journal set out to get another set

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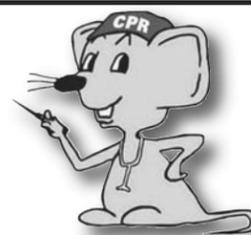
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