

Mayor Blair Addresses Jordanian Municipal Officials

Colchester County Mayor Christine Blair has just returned from the country of Jordan where she delivered a keynote address was on the importance of opportunities for women in municipal government. Her talk was enthusiastically received by a gathering of about a hundred state and municipal officials. Colchester is a partner in the Canadian Government's Jordan Municipal Support Project.

"It was truly an honour to share my own experiences with Jordanian women who have so much to offer their communities, but who are facing many barriers." Mayor Blair has nearly three decades of involvement in municipal government as an elected

representative. "Local governments in rural areas of both Jordan and in Nova Scotia can't afford to overlook half their human resources while tackling challenges such as service delivery and economic development."

The Mayor's presentation also covered topics such as municipal structure and working collaboratively within the municipal unit and with other municipalities and First Nations.

There are no female mayors in Jordan currently. In fact, only one woman has ever served in the role. In an effort to increase opportunities for women, Jordan has introduced a requirement for twenty-five percent of municipal council seats are filled by

women. When the quota is not met through election results, appointments are made based on most votes received among otherwise unsuccessful candidates.

"There are many Jordanian women who are highly educated and capable. My goal was to inspire them to assert themselves into leadership roles. It's not lost on me that Colchester could also improve on this" said Mayor Blair.

The Jordan Municipal Support Project mobilizes the Canadian municipal sector to assist rural and small-town municipalities in Jordan through a peer approach, with elected representatives and staff meeting their Jordanian counterparts. Jordan has welcomed large numbers of refugees from around the region, especially from Syria, and communities are facing many

challenges of capacity.

This five-year Project is funded by Global Affairs Canada and implemented by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in collaboration with Jordan's Ministry of Municipal Affairs. All expenses relating to the County's role in the Project are covered by Global Affairs Canada.

Through this project,

local governments in Central and Southern Jordan work with Canadian municipal experts to strengthen municipal services, improve solid waste management, and ensure all citizens, including women and youth, engage in shaping their community's future.

Colchester County was selected to participate for its achievement in solid waste management, including diversion, recycling,

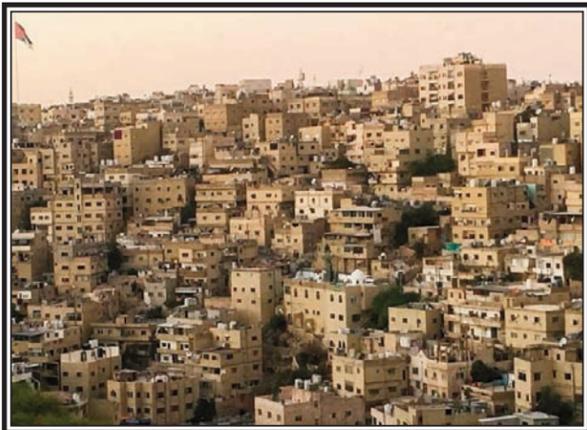
and public education initiatives. Mayor Christine Blair's visit aligned with International Women's Day celebrations.

"This was a whirlwind trip that I am grateful to be able to volunteer for" said Mayor Blair "Jordan is a fascinating and friendly country. I'm proud of the work that Colchester has been doing there."

(Press release supplied by Mark Austin, County of Colchester)



Mayor Blair's trip to Jordan was part of a 5 year initiative by Global Affairs Canada and Federation of Canadian Municipalities, of which Colchester is a municipal participant. (Submitted)



An overview photo of City of Ammon, Jordan, which Mayor Blair visiting week of March 20th as a headline speaker on International Women's Day. (Submitted)



A large group of women in Ammon, Jordan. Mayor Blair delivered keynote speech to municipal officials. (Submitted)

Snowbirds to Perform in Debert – June 19TH



Photo courtesy RCAF

By Maurice Rees

The Truro Flying Club will host a military air show featuring the Snowbirds on June 19, 2019. The show will be produced by the Nova Scotia International Air Show Association (NSIASA). The show has been made possible because the Snowbirds needed a "stop-over" mid-week location while it is enroute from a show the previous weekend, and another venue.

It will be the first ever performance by the Snowbirds at the Debert Airport, a former British Commonwealth Air Training Plan Base from World War Two and the centre of general aviation flying training in Nova Scotia today.

The County of Colchester

is supporting the Event and expects a good return on investment in economic impact and the quality of life experience for the residents and visitors. "It's so wonderful to have Canada's iconic Snowbirds perform in Debert. Our Airport is a real gem that's become a centre for flight training and community events," says Mayor Christine Blair.

"Truro Flying Club is 'over the moon' excited to have the CF Snowbirds perform in Debert. This is a great opportunity to showcase a spectacular aerial performance and put the Debert airport on the map. It's a first and with the fan support, I'm sure it won't be the last," says Airport Manager Denyse Sibley.

The NSIASA will produce the event, the 9th different location for the group since 2008. "Our Air Show organizing team has gained valuable expertise in producing shows at different locations and we are confident that the Truro Flying Club and host community will be excellent partners," says Colin Stephenson, Executive Director. The event will be designed by the Air Show Atlantic team and promoted through the Air Show Atlantic web site when additional participants are confirmed and ticket prices determined.

The Snowbirds will be able to operate from the 5000 foot runway and additional aircraft will be invited to attend as static and flying displays. "The Snowbirds are very excited to return to Nova Scotia! We always enjoy outstanding Maritime hospitality when we're there. We hope to see everyone out at Debert Airport on June 19," says Snowbird Team Lead Denis Bandet.

The web site launch and ticket sales will be announced in the coming weeks. Be sure to check www.airshowatlantic.ca or Air Show Atlantic on Facebook for more information.

Support for LGBTQ2+ Students

By Maurice Rees

Government and the Youth Project are teaming up to create safe, inclusive and welcoming school environments for LGBTQ2+ students across the province. The three-year, \$750,000 investment will support the Youth Project - an LGBTQ2+ advocacy group - to deliver programs, training and workshops for youth, teachers and staff.

In 2017-18, the Youth Project provided workshops that reached more than 13,000 students and

worked with teachers, so they are better able to support LGBTQ2+ students. The Youth Project has also provided feedback on school curriculum and resource development.

"Our work in schools aims to start a conversation around sexual orientation and gender identity, reduce stigma and normalize differences, while also ensuring LGBTQ2+ students are validated and see themselves reflected within the school environment and curriculum," said Kate She-

wan, executive director of the Youth Project.

"Every student should feel safe, valued and welcomed at school," said Zach Churchill, minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. "The Youth Project have been providing excellent support to LGBTQ2+ students for a number of years and this funding will help them expand those positive and inclusive experiences to more LGBTQ2+ students in more schools across the province, particularly in rural areas."

For more information about The Youth Project, go to: <https://youthproject.ns.ca/>.

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