

31-year-old Barrett Charged with Murder

The Northeast Nova RCMP Major Crime Unit (NEN MCU) has charged 31-year-old Richard Craig Barrett with Murder associated to a death that occurred in September 2023.

On September 17, 2023, Colchester County District RCMP responded to a report of a sudden death at a home on Wild Chance Drive in Bible Hill. The victim was identified as a 32-year-old woman of Bible Hill, and her death was believed to be suspicious. That morning, a Bible Hill man who was known to the victim was safely arrested at the Bible Hill RCMP Detachment and later released without charges.

On March 17, 2025, the same man, 31-year-old Richard Craig Barrett, was



charged with Murder (first degree) and investigators can confirm the homicide was an incident of intimate partner violence.

“Over the course of this complex investigation, officers collected a significant amount of forensic evidence and spoke with many witnesses who shared valuable information,” says Cpl. Sandy Matharu of the Northeast Nova Major Crime Unit. “We

appreciated the patience of the victim’s loved ones as investigators conducted a thorough examination and evaluation of the evidence, enabling us to put together a comprehensive investigation that supports this murder charge.”

Barrett appeared in Truro Provincial Court on March 18 and was remanded in custody pending future court appearances. The investigation is ongoing and is being

led by the NEN MCU with assistance from the Nova Scotia Medical Examiner Service and RCMP Forensic Identification Section.

Nova Scotia RCMP encourages anyone experiencing, or at risk of, intimate partner violence to reach out. Support is available across Nova Scotia and can be accessed by dialing 211, calling the provincial toll-free line at 1-855-225-0220, or visiting Nova Scotia 211 online. You can access support anonymously.

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New Setbacks for Wind Turbines
 The Province is amending the Minimum Planning Requirements Regulations to establish maximum allowable setbacks for wind turbines for Nova Scotia municipalities. “Our government is making it easier for wind energy projects to move forward while ensuring that our communities and the environment are respected and protected,” said John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs. “These amendments will provide municipalities with clear, consistent standards for setbacks for wind turbines.”

Under the amended regulations, the setback for wind turbines cannot be more than four times the turbine height, unless a greater distance is required to ensure that sound levels do not exceed 40 decibels at the exterior of a dwelling and that shadow flicker on nearby residential dwellings does not exceed limits identified in the amendments.

The amendments also remove the ability for a municipality to influence wind turbine placement based on visual impact on the landscape. These amendments align with goals identified in Nova Scotia’s Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth, the 2030 Clean Power Plan, the Green Hydrogen Action Plan and legislated goals in the Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act.

Addressing Intimate Partner Violence
 The government is taking action to address the epidemic of intimate partner violence with a new \$23.7-million funding commitment to transition houses. “An epidemic-level response means working together to support victims, survivors, families and communities, and no one understands how best to do that than the organizations on the front lines,” said Premier Tim Houston. “The critical and often life-saving work led by our community-based partners has never been more urgent or more important. This new funding helps ensure these services and supports continue to be available to Nova Scotians when they need it.”

This investment includes \$17.9 million over four years to stabilize operations at 10 transition houses. The Province worked with the Transition House Association of Nova Scotia to ensure this new funding commitment would meet the needs of its members over the next several years. The government is providing an additional \$1.9 million in project-based funding to association members to advance initiatives that prevent or address gender-based violence. This is part of \$5.8 million in new project-based funding for the sector. More details will be announced in the coming weeks.

Province to Adopt 2020 National Fire Code
 Nova Scotia will adopt the National Fire Code of Canada 2020 effective April 1, along with recommendations from the Office of the Fire Marshal to address local requirements and improvements.

“Fire codes, along with building codes, set the rules for homes and commercial buildings that help keep all Nova Scotians safe,” said John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Minister responsible for the Office of the Fire Marshal. “Adoption of the 2020 national fire code is an important step for promoting fire safety in the province, and for clarifying responsibilities for inspection and enforcement.”

The code will ensure that new and existing homes, apartments and commercial buildings are held to modern safety standards.

Important changes include: Consolidating fire safety plan requirements to ensure better compliance and enforcement; Establishing classifications for widely used water-mixable liquids to ensure that appropriate fire safety measures are used for their storage, handling and processing and introducing new measures for the construction of mass timber buildings.

The National Fire Code of Canada 2020 aligns with the 2020 National Building Codes to provide guidance on provincial construction standards. The new fire safety regulations are available at: <https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/rxaa-1.htm#firesafety>

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