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Automatic enrolment: To improve services for seniors and reduce administrative costs, the Government of Canada has started an automatic enrolment process that will remove the need for many seniors to apply for the OAS pension.

Automatic enrolment is being phased in over the coming years. People who are eligible for automatic enrolment will be notified personally by mail. Seniors who are not notified need to apply. Service Canada will continue to send applications to those who cannot be automatically enrolled. Applications are also available on the Service Canada website.

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This is not the first time the Dexter government has turned its back on small business. In 2011, when the Regional Development Authority in South West Nova Scotia was shut down, the Royal Bank of Canada and 50 small businesses were left on the hook for hundreds of thousands of dollars. The NDP ensured that the Royal Bank of Canada receive what it was owed, yet did nothing for the 50 small businesses.

This NDP government fails to recognize that investment in small business is critical to the growth of our economy. Rather, they brag about

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we should explore other opportunities.

The mayor, on three occasions, wrote the other three partners involved in CoRDA, towns of Stewiacke and Truro as well as Millbrook first nation asking for a meeting. The only response he got was from Stewiacke.

On April 25 Council voted to discontinue our funding of CoRDA. As one would expect they were disappointed and asked for a meeting of council and their board. We met and discussed, later that night at a council meeting it was decided that our original decision would stand.

At some point later the Chamber of Commerce called the Mayor to voice their concern re future economic development, and their desire to have a meeting. The Mayor advised that he would be on vacation the following week.

The Chamber called their EMERGENCY ECONOMIC SUMMIT. (I need to note, I was at that meeting and they formed a committee to go forward, but I guess the EMERGENCY must have been over, because they said that given the summer/vacation schedule of the committee members they would not hold their next SUMMIT until September).

As I said, I attended the meeting and there would not have been 10 people there who were not either elected officials, current or former employees, or current or former board members of CoRDA. The mayor did not attend, possibly because he was on vacation and our council had on two occasions made a decision on this. As a result of this the Chamber decided they could get the most mileage out of this and chose to slam the mayor. Once again council made the decision.

Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition: I cannot really say a lot about this as at this point as most all to date has been in closed session due to legal and financial matters. I will say there has been some very heated debate.

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The odors, depending on where you live, seem to be coming from two different sources. The first one and certainly the most manageable one is the County owned Sewer Treatment Plant in Lower Truro. The staff at the Treatment facility has been extremely cooperative and is working diligently in resolving this matter. It is very important that staff know the exact time and date when these odors occur. Please continue to call me and report the time of these incidents. Working together with the cooperation of the staff at the treatment facility we will discover the solution to eliminating this odor. If there is a good side to this issue it's the fact that when it does occur it is usually for a relatively short time. I know on the few occasions this odor was present in my yard it had dissipated in less than 15 minutes.

Unfortunately for some residents living in the Debert, Belmont and Crowes Mills areas when a foul sulphur odor arrives in your yard depending on the wind shifts this smell may linger for days. This odor originates from the Atlantic Industrial Systems facility (AIS) in Debert.

In correspondence with AIS General Manager Andre Lachevrotiere on July 8th about a strong sulphur smell in the Belmont, Crowes Mills area that had been present off and on since Friday July 5th I was told that AIS employees had been working all weekend to mitigate the odor. It was explained to me that the odor has nothing to do with fracking waste being held at the facility. I was informed by Mr. Lachevrotiere that the odor issues exist whenever biological wastewater treatment exists and

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As always, if you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact my office toll - free at 1-888-752-0552; visit my website at www.scottarmstrongmp.ca; add me as a friend on Facebook; or follow me on Twitter @Armstrong_MP.

Scott Armstrong, MP Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley

providing "a new free tool to help small business to become more productive". This is a lame attempt by the NDP to show support and Nova Scotians and small business owners know the difference.

What we need in this province is leadership, a leader that treats all business partners fairly, regardless of their size. We need a leader who puts Nova Scotians first. That leader is Stephen McNeil.

Karen Casey, MLA, Colchester North Ph: 902-893-2180

This would be understandable given the significance of the outcome.

But for a bit of history, almost one year ago the board of the NSPE came to council asking for financial assistance. Council advised they could not commit any funding without financial information. This information was not available.

We then asked if staff could work with them to gain this information. Staff did work with the NSPE staff to attempt to satisfy council's questions and were not successful. Council then decided to hire a professional auditing firm to look at the books for us. In the meantime the situation has become very bleak.

Once again the county is at the center of this and seem to be taking all the criticism. We are just doing what was requested of us by the NSPE board. That board is the group that is ultimately responsible for what is happening at the NSPE.

I do apologize for this rant but I want to make a couple of points. Do not always form an opinion based on what you read or hear as often only a part of the situation is stated. Many times there are things happening that cannot be stated publically.

However, the most important issue and what I wanted to say from the beginning was all these issues are important. Our council and staff are a very committed group. I can tell there has been over the past six months some very passionate and possibly divisive debate. (We probably would not be very effective if we all just sat around and agreed on everything).

In closing I would like to assure you every member of council is committed and passionate and doing this for the right reason. I do believe that in some cases the mayor has borne the brunt of our decisions, but keep in mind that decisions of council are by majority vote.

Tom Taggart, Councillor District 10, Colchester County

their balance can be upset due to heat and humidity changes. He assured me that his company will continue to manage their lagoons, as best they can, to account for spikes in weather conditions and continue to try to minimize odors affecting the community. In another email from Mr. Lachevrotiere dated July 9th, 2013 sent to the Department of Environment which I was copied on, he stated, "that AIS was implementing a weekly pH monitoring program that MAY help them predict when a lagoon is starting to turn septic, so that they can react before nuisance odors are experienced".

In my own opinion not being able to go outside and enjoy your property or even open a window in a home that you pay taxes on annually and most likely a monthly mortgage on, is a heck of a lot more than a nuisance. Furthermore when a resident is forced to hold up in their home with the windows shut on a humid 30 plus degree day so that a privately owned company can show a profit at the end of the next quarter is wrong and we all know it is wrong.

I ask all residents of District 9 to please take note of the time and date when you experience these odors and contact me with this information. Working together we will continue to make District 9 a safe and prosperous place to live and most importantly play.

You can contact me at 895-2242 or email councillordistrict9@colchester.ca

Doug MacInnes, Councillor District 9, Colchester County

Material Sector Down

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Canadian index ETFs. Rather, they should be more cognizant of the products they are purchasing and realize that more diversification may be warranted. To diversify Canadian equity portfolios, investors should consider ETFs that provide exposure to other areas of the index; creating a much more balanced approach.

Investors could purchase the First Asset Morningstar Canada Momentum ETF (TSX: WXM) and the First Asset Morningstar Canada Value Index ETF (TSX: FXM). The former uses price momentum as a core component of its screening process while the latter screens for price-to-earnings ratios, cash flow ratio, price-to-book value and sales, and earnings estimate revisions. A combination of the two has provided a better risk-adjusted return with reduced volatility, and has outperformed the benchmark every year since 2001.

The BMO Low Volatility Canadian Equity ETF (TSX: ZLB) is another interesting product. As the name implies, the ETF has been designed to

provide exposure to a low beta weighted portfolio of Canadian stocks. This ETF's sector allocation has a much heavier weighting in the more defensive sectors such as consumer staples and utilities.

Investors without the time or inclination to "do the homework" for proper diversification can opt for a professionally managed ETF portfolio, either through Separately Managed Accounts or with wraps. In the former, investors have direct ownership of the individual ETFs but institutional-caliber managers handle the investing and ongoing rebalancing. The latter are similar to mutual fund wraps, except that the underlying investments are generally much more cost effective.

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