

## Mi'kmawey Project Receives \$20-Million

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past 30 years, since he was 18 years old. "One of the most joyous honours of my life, to work not only with Don but alongside Don and to carry his visions through to reality."

Both Don and Tim welcomed Cumberland-Colchester MP, Alana Hirtle, who said, "The federal government has made infrastructure investment a key priority, because these investments

matter. They change lives. They create community centres with shared activities enable neighbours to become friends and friends to become support systems. They create green buildings that reduce pollution, while saving families money."

Alana Hirtle said she was absolutely thrilled, on behalf of Minister of Housing and Infrastructure, Gregor Robertson to announce the

Government of Canada's investment of \$9 million under the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program to the Mi'kmaw Culture Centre in Debert. The Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre is contributing \$10.2 million. The funding announcement builds on the federal government's work through the Atlantic Growth Strategy to create well-paying jobs and strengthen local economies.

Tim Bernard said this announcement of support brings them one step closer to realizing the Mi'kmawey Cultural Centre, "A project more than about just building a centre- it is about creating a place where Mi'kmaw people can share stories, language, and knowledge with everyone. Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre will be a place to learn, to heal and to connect with the land and the deep history we've carried here for thousands of years."

## RECC Deficit \$91,000; Debt \$1.3-Million

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pay Canada Revenue Agency is on top of the \$1.5-million operating grant the society received from Truro and Colchester in 2025. Not included in the list of money spent annually is the \$750,000 annual mortgage paid by each of Town of Truro and County of Colchester.

The Municipality of Colchester is investigating possible insurance alternatives for the Rath Eastlink Community Centre as an interim board managing the facility promises to address a number of concerns.

The 12-year-old centre is owned by the Town of Truro and Municipality of Colchester but operated by the Central Nova Scotia Civic Centre Society. The society also operates the provincially owned Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds and organizes the Nova Scotia Stampede.

This month, Colchester council voted unanimously to have staff bring back a report on insurance alternatives for the facility. "This is probably our biggest insured asset in the county dollar-wise. The insurance is being held by a volunteer board," said Coun. Nigel Leggett at the committee of the whole meeting on Oct. 16.

"It was readily acknowledged that they were woefully underinsured," he added. Leggett suggested the county explore the possibility of holding the insurance policy for the building.

Colchester Mayor Christine Blair said the concern is specific to replacement of the building.

Stephanie Jones, the interim chair of the society board, is among eight volunteer interim directors after the previous society board was dismissed by the municipalities in May. In recent past some facility users have praised the interim board and

expressed hope that ongoing concerns would be addressed. A list of repairs needed including to change room showers, exercise equipment and the pool score clock.

The building's heating and cooling system also needs to be replaced. Blair said about \$650,000 is budgeted by both municipalities for the capital project. She said staff have been keeping "temperamen-

tal" equipment operating. "It will probably take, I would say, two to three months to get that installed. So we're hoping that that will be at a time when you have less use of the ice, facility," she said.

Matt Moore, executive director of the society, said the building's roof is also in need of further inspection "to address troubling leaks and ongoing water issues."

"These proposed life cycle recommendations will continue to be provided to the municipal building owners on an annual basis," he added at the annual general meeting.

"We're proud that the municipal operating grant represents only 17 per cent of our overall revenue streams that's being generated by the society. When I arrived in Truro with my family back in 2015, over 10 years ago, the initial operating grant represented 50 per cent of the society's

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Tuesday, December 2 @ 6pm

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**Presentations Meeting**  
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