

**News from our Federal Capital**  
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economy still struggles to gain traction in the ongoing transition to sustained, private-sector-driven growth.

In uncertain times like these, our Conservative government believes that Canada's Finance Ministers have a responsibility to, above all, protect the programs and services that Canadians rely on such as education and healthcare by ensuring they are effective and affordable, today and for the future. I look forward to continuing to work cooperatively and constructively with the provinces and territories on behalf of the people of Cumberland - Colchester - Musquodoboit Valley as together we secure Canada's long-term prosperity. (See chart below Transfers Payments to Provinces and Territories for 2014-15)

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](http://www.scottarmstrongmp.ca); add me as a friend on Facebook; or follow me on Twitter @Armstrong MP.

**Scott Armstrong, Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Social Development is MP for Cumberland - Colchester - Musquodoboit Valley.**

**Transfer Payments to Provinces and Territories for 2014-15 (\$ millions)**

	2013-14 <sup>2</sup>	2014-15 <sup>3</sup>
Newfoundland and Labrador	673	676
Prince Edward Island	518	542
Nova Scotia	2,615	2,798
New Brunswick	2,492	2,616
Quebec	17,851	19,623
Ontario	19,799	19,158
Manitoba	3,353	3,360
Saskatchewan	1,361	1,419
Alberta	4,119	5,221
British Columbia	5,747	5,804
Nunavut	1,396	1,456
Northwest Territories	1,163	1,263
Yukon	860	898
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>61,948</b>	<b>64,834</b>

<sup>1</sup> Totals may not add due to rounding.

<sup>2</sup> Figures for 2013-14 reflect the second estimate for the CHT and CST and transfer protection payments totaling \$56 million provided to New Brunswick and Manitoba.

<sup>3</sup> Figures for 2014-15 include CHT protection payments to Newfoundland and Labrador and Nunavut.

**News from our Provincial Council**

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a class cap in the Elementary grades and we will be looking to redirect more money into the classrooms to support all students at all grades.

Efficiencies can always be found and it is our intent to make better use of the funds within the Education Department. It will be difficult to recover and repair the damage done during the last

four years, however, I am optimistic that a new attitude and appreciation for learning, a focus on math and literacy skills at all grade levels and the support from my Government to identify education as a priority will move us toward a better education system where no student is left behind.

**Karen Casey, MLA, Colchester North**

**News from our Municipal Council - District 10**

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If they are going to assess properties they may as well do it right. For this reason I am going to appeal my assessment and if your market value increased this year I would encourage you to as well. It is very simple, and I believe it is important they use accurate information.

I can hear the criticism already. What's a councillor doing telling people to appeal their assessment? Mainly, this has absolutely nothing to do with the Municipality, and as I said this will eventually come back to bite us and we should deal with it now.

Trust me. In the next couple of months as council prepares next year's budget, I will likely be here crying about all the pressures the Municipality is up against in setting and trying to justify our tax rate. Whatever it may be.

Now in my case. Most of you will know I live in a 100 year old home. I have made no improvements in the past year. My market

assessment increased by 6%.

The Nova Scotia Association of Realtors, of which I am a member, tracks all the home listings and sales in Nova Scotia has determined in the Northern Region which includes all properties from Brookfield to Amherst the value of homes has decreased by 4.1%.

Therefore in my case my market assessment is off by 10% just this year. Appealing may be a waste of time, but it is very simple, quick and will cost only the price of a stamp.

On the bottom of your assessment is a tear off appeal form. In my case I am simply going to state, I am appealing based on the FACT my market assessment increased by 6% when statistics made public by Nova Scotia Association of Realtors indicate actual prices have decreased by 4.1% across the board.

Now to anyone who thinks I am out of line on this I do apologize. Stay warm and I will be back next month.

**Tom Taggart, Councillor District 10, Colchester County**

**News from our Municipal Council - District 9**

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I can honestly tell you that there is not one Councillor sitting on Council today that believes this.

I believe my fellow Councillor's have the same mind set as I do on this subject. We can accomplish anything we set our minds to in this County. With the natural resources, our work force and the hundreds of strong viable companies already in place, throughout this County, to build on our future is very bright. Yes you can certainly call me an optimist and why not, there is so much to celebrate in this County and there is always a good side to everything if you look hard enough. I read a poem lately that went like this.

**Twixt optimist and pessimist  
 The difference is droll:  
 The former sees the donut  
 While the latter see the hole.**

An example to this would be the topic of out migration of our work force to the west. This is a very serious issue with over 3500 people leaving Nova Scotia last year to seek employment elsewhere. This is not something new for us; it has been going on for decades.

So what do you do about it? Well you can't stop it because there is no way we can ever compete with the wages being offered in other regions of the Country. So you take an optimistic view of the situation and try and find a solution. In this case you really don't have to look that far.

We just happen to be fortunate enough in this County to have an Airport. There has already been one major player in the Fort McMurray Oil Sands project expressing an interest in talking about flying small commercial flights out of the Debert Airport. This would see workers commuting from our region to Alberta on a regular base.

This would mean those families would not have to pack up and leave a province they love. They could still live here and

spend their wages here and build new homes here. All I'm saying is there is always a positive side to every issue, if you're willing to be optimistic and keep a positive attitude.

Several areas Council will be focusing on at the Strategic Planning meeting include: business retention and expansion; business succession; local ownership; entrepreneurship; immigration; out migration and equalization. If any of you would like to discuss Rural Economic Development with myself or with any area Councillor please don't hesitate to pick the phone up and give us a call.

On another subject I have had many inquiries on what is going on next to the Salmon River on the 102 highway. There is currently a sewer line running under the bridge on the 102 going over the Salmon River. This line has deteriorated over the years and is in need of replacement. Also there will be a new sewer line installed running from Grandville Drive to the 102 increasing the amount of volume running through this line.

County staff had recommended replacing the existing line with a larger one and also placing it below the river to eliminate any corrosion issue in the future. The temporary huts you see in place along with other equipment on site are being used to drill a hole under the river to run the line through to the Water Treatment Facility in Lower Truro. This is another sign of the growth happening within Colchester County. Along with the new sewer line from Grandville Drive to the 102 there is also a new privately owned commercial park opened, a new subdivision next door to Grandville Drive and another subdivision in the makings behind the Onslow Junior High School. To complement all this new development the County is constructing a new sidewalk in the area running from the Junior High towards the McWilliams Rd. "Here we grow again".

**Doug MacInnes, Councillor District 9, Colchester County**

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**February 6**

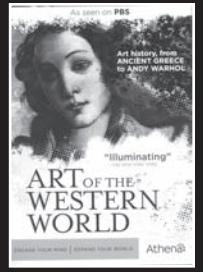


**Shirley Jackson**

**and her Good Rockin' Daddys**

**February 8**

**Marigold Art Film Series:  
 Art of the Western World**



**Episodes 3 & 4  
 February 12**



**Sons of Maxwell**

**February 21**

**Donna Washington**  
 (Children's Storyteller)



**March 6**



**Splash N' Boots**

**March 9**

**Evans & Doherty**



**March 16**

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