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product will drop to zero once the agreement comes into force.

Minister Fast also provided an overview of the government's vigorous trade promotion efforts, noting that historic trade agreements require historic trade promotion. Under GMAP, our Conservative government is supporting workers and businesses in Cumberland - Colchester Musquodoboit Valley and across Nova Scotia and ensuring that SMEs have all the necessary tools to seize new opportunities and realize their full export potential.

Key elements of the trade promotion efforts include:

#### Go Global Export Workshops

A workshop was held in Halifax this past December with more than 75 participants, in collaboration with Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters and all the Government of Canada's export support agencies. Under GMAP, the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service, Export Development Canada, the Business Development Bank of Canada and the Canadian Commercial Corporation have been aligning their activities, facilitating referrals, sharing market intelligence and information, and providing a whole-of-government approach to boost SME exports.

#### Regional Trade Commissioner Service (TCS) Activities

In 2014, the TCS's Atlantic Regional Office, based in Halifax, assisted 299 SMEs, providing them with on-the-ground interna-

tional business support, including 436 targeted services, and connecting them to markets of interest.

Trade commissioners have been embedded with private sector partners across Canada, including with the Aerospace and Defence Industries Association of Nova Scotia and the Association of Seafood Producers, so they may work closely with Nova Scotia businesses to ensure the Government of Canada is responsive to their needs.

#### Export Development Canada (EDC)

EDC helped 155 Nova Scotia companies finance or insure \$836 million worth of international sales and investments. For example, EDC funded Acadian Seaplants Limited's acquisition in Ireland and provided Nautel Limited with financing for foreign buyers, enabling the company to operate in 77 countries.

#### Opening Markets and Supporting Nova Scotia Businesses Abroad

In 2014, Minister Fast led a trade mission to the United Kingdom that included representatives of three Nova Scotia companies: Clearwater Seafoods LP, Louisbourg Seafood Limited and Terra Beata Farms.

Minister Fast also led the Canadian delegation at the Seafood Expo Global 2014 in Brussels, Belgium, to promote fish and seafood exports. He was joined by representatives of 10 Nova Scotia companies: Breakers Fish Company Ltd., Fisher King Seafoods, Clearwater Seafoods LP, Gidney Fisheries Ltd., James L.

Mood Fisheries Ltd., IMO Foods Ltd., I. Deveau Fisheries Ltd., Pearlmark Foods Inc., Zeus Seafood Inc. and Victoria Co-operative Fisheries.

Under GMAP, the Harper government committed to developing comprehensive strategies in key sectors, including the International Education Strategy (IES). In January 2014, the IES was released with the goal of attracting innovative researchers and students to Canada and entrenching ties between Canadian educational institutions and their global counterparts. In 2013 there were 9,920 international students studying in Nova Scotia, delivering economic and social benefits to the province.

Minister Fast has invited businesses in Nova Scotia to accompany him on his first trade mission of 2015. This trade mission to South Korea, which will take place from February 8 to 13, will enable businesses to take full advantage of the Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement and benefit from the on-the-ground support from the Government of Canada.

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

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Unregulated child-care providers can look after up to six children of any age, or eight school-aged children without a licence. Unlicensed child-care arrangements are made privately between the parents and the provider and the department does not regulate these providers. However, it is important for parents to make sure the provider they choose is not exceeding the maximum number of children allowed in the setting.

No matter what type of child care, it is important that parents

contact and visit the child centres or homes they are considering before making a final decision. During the visit, parents can observe the children and staff and how they interact with each other. The visit provides an opportunity to assess the physical setting and gives parents the chance to talk with staff, care providers and the operator of the program.

Parents should have a list of questions ready to ask. The answers will help parents to decide what setting is best for their child. A child-care visit check list to help with assessing centres is available at [www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/families/findchildcare.shtml](http://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/families/findchildcare.shtml).

The safety of children is our highest priority and we expect licensed child-care programs to ensure regulations are followed. Parents can always check to see if their child-care centre has any violations by viewing the online child-care directory. For more information about choosing a child-care centre and other information about child care in Nova Scotia, visit [www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/](http://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/).

**Karen Casey, MLA Colchester North is Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development**

### News from our Municipal Council - District 10 Continued from page 5

arrange to go through the very same public appeals process that we did in 2013. However given the time of year with

budget and the fact we had to have the tax rate set by April and the time required to review appeals and arrange public meetings we had to delay the release date at least April 30 2015.

When the meeting dates are set they will be advertised. In

the meantime we have passed a new policy that will stop any remaining wastewater in Hants County from being transported to Colchester County. I'm looking forward to spring.

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

### News from our Municipal Council - District 9 Continued from page 5

Debert sewer system. Based on the scientific evidence available to the Director of Public Works for the County the permit was approved.

Due to the public's increased concern as to what else may be present in this wastewater, Council decided to move forward with the creation of the County's Sewer Use Appeals Committee. Public hearings were held by this committee at the Debert Legion over a two night period. As a member of this committee, I listened intently as one presenter after another shared their opinion on what may happen if this wastewater containing chemicals from the fracking industry was released into the Bay of Fundy in its current state.

There were very few solutions tabled to resolve this issue and the general public was more focused on the pending disasters that could arise if it were to be released into the bay. The few presenters who did speak of solutions to the issue all spoke of the process of reverse osmosis. The Sewer Use Appeals Committee ultimately reversed the Director of Public Works decision to allow the discharge of the wastewater and made changes to the sewer use policy. These changes would allow the Municipality to regulate the concentration and flow of substances permitted to be discharged into the sewerage system.

After the decision, by the Sewer Use Appeals committee not to allow the discharging, AIS purchased reverse osmosis equipment. It's very important to remember reverse osmosis doesn't clean wastewater it separates it. In this case for instance there is approximately 6 million litres of fracking wastewater left in the holding ponds in Debert. Once it has been processed through reverse osmosis there would be approximately 2 million litres of highly contaminated wastewater containing the chemicals used in the fracking industry.

AIS doesn't have the capability to treat and dispose of this wastewater at their Debert facility. This wastewater will be shipped out of province to a facility capable of handling such material. The other 4 million litres is the reverse osmosis treated wastewater proposed to be discharged into the County sewer system. This water has been tested by AIS and the DOE through four independent laboratories. One set of tests performed in October 2014 was a fish toxicity test, where fish were placed in the treated water for 96 hours. All of the fish survived and showed no ill effects from the test.

Other fracking wastewater has been put through the reverse osmosis process and then disposed of at Lafarge Cement plant in Brookfield through a pilot project approved by the DOE in the spring of 2014. All of this wastewater was tested before being evaporated in Lafarge's kiln to make sure it had been through the reverse osmosis process. There were also exhaust stack tests completed before and after the evaporation process with all results of air quality coming back well within DOE guidelines.

On December 10th, 2014 the Director of Public Works for the County of Colchester issued an approval to AIS to discharge the remaining reverse osmosis treated fracking wastewater being held in Debert into the County Sewer system. This decision automatically triggered an appeals process. The appeals deadline was January 12th, 2015 with 27 appeals being received in all. On January 14th, 2015 the Sewer Use Appeals committee met to review the appeals and the following decisions were made at the meeting.

The decision to allow the discharge by the Director of Public Works would have come into effect February 8th, 2015. The committee has extended this approval date to April 30th, 2015 so AIS cannot discharge any fracking wastewater until after this date.

The committee also agreed a public hearing to discuss the appeals received and to hear from experts on sample

collection, reverse osmosis and the different testing processes needs to be held. The location and time of this hearing will be set in the coming weeks.

We also agreed it's very important if this wastewater is discharged into the County system we as a County need to collect our own samples and have them tested by an independent lab with no past history with any of the entities involved.

The final decision made in this meeting was for the Sewer Use Appeals Committee to recommend to Council changes be made to the sewer use policy.

The change would be an addition to the policy which would state the following: "The Municipality shall not accept any Hydraulic Fracturing Wastewater into any of the municipal wastewater treatment facilities or public sewer systems".

This change in the policy would not have any effect on the application before the committee at this time. This change would only apply to future applications for discharging of such wastewater.

It was very difficult to summarize all of the information necessary to help you make an informed opinion on this subject in one article. This is one of the reasons it is so important to have a public hearing on this issue. I know I have probably raised more questions than answers with this article so please don't hesitate to contact me if you have question on this subject and try to make it out to the public meeting. My home phone number is 902-895-2242.

In closing I would like to say all of this could have been avoided if the Department of Environment who issued the permits to Triangular Petroleum in the first place had of stepped up and taken the lead on this. This issue should have never landed on Colchester County Council's plate, but it has. Now we have to work together to find the best solution possible.

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

## Colchester Trefoil Guild Focusing on "Move More" Challenge

By Goldie Chisholm

The November meeting of Colchester Trefoil Guild was held at Sobey's Community Room November 17th with a good number of members represented, as well as, Carolyn Blair, Colchester District Commissioner, her Deputy, Karen Pratt and Joan Ellis, Provincial Training Adviser. A minute's silence was observed for our recently departed member, Donna Clark.

Christmas cards were circulated, signed and will be sent to our Associate Member, Frances Marsh in Newcastle, England, as well as Kay Mattatall,

Tatamagouche, our member no longer able to attend monthly meetings.

Following the business meeting we were busy working on our "Move More" Challenge which will be our goal for the next year. We are very fortunate having our Commissioner's help in working on this very interesting project.

This being our last meeting for 2014 we had an exchange of Christmas gifts which were all handmade and appreciated by everyone. Our next meeting will be in February when we will be observing thinking Day and continue working on our Challenge.

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