

## PAGE BRIEFS

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ness Inc. (NSBI) has approved a business development incentive in the form of a payroll rebate for REDspace Inc. to expand its operations in Bedford. REDspace Inc. has the potential to create up to 125 jobs under the five-year payroll rebate agreement. Based on the maximum growth forecast of the agreement, NSBI estimates the company could spend \$22,187,500 in salaries. It is also estimated the new employees would contribute provincial tax revenues of \$2,518,000 through their income and consumption taxes. As a result, the company would earn a rebate up to \$1,497,500 over five years.

**More immigrants have** been approved to make Nova Scotia their home in 2018. Government approved 2,272 people to come through immigration programs, up from 1,651 in 2017. Nova Scotia is also on track for a record number of landings in 2018. Between Jan. 1 and Oct. 31, 5,225 newcomers have made Nova Scotia home. With two months of reporting to go, landings will likely surpass the 2016 record year of 5,485. More information on the Office of Immigration can be found at: novascotiainmigration.com.

**Road reclassifications** to allow efficient truck axle configurations will help make the trucking and forestry industries in Nova Scotia more competitive. The change allows B-trains - two trailers linked together by a fifth wheel - to travel on additional roads, enabling the movement of more materials at one time. This configuration reduces damage to roads because the weight is spread out over more axles. This change represents annual savings of \$7 million to the industries. It contributes to government's \$25 million red tape reduction target. Government expects the change to become effective by next fall.

**A projected surplus** of \$27.3 million down \$2.1 million from the budget estimate of \$29.4 million was presented by Minister of Finance and Treasury Board Karen Casey on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Highlights of the forecast update include: total revenue is projected to be up \$51.6 million from budget to \$10.86 billion; prior years' adjustments for provincial rev-

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## The Shoreline Tid-Bits

Journal

### South Shore's Jordan enters cabinet

South Shore-St. Margarets MP Bernadette Jordan, who was first elected in 2015, is taking Nova Scotia's seat in cabinet as minister of rural economic development. The shuffle was announced last week after longtime Kings-Hants MP and former Treasury Board president Scott Brison announced he was leaving his cabinet position and not running for reelection in the fall — a decision he said he made in order to spend more time with his young family. Also shuffled into cabinet Monday was Montreal MP David Lametti as justice minister. Former justice minister Jody Wilson-Raybould was moved to veterans affairs, while former veterans affairs minister Seamus O'Regan was named minister of Indigenous services. Jane Philpott moves from Indigenous services into the Brison's former role as Treasury Board president. The appointment makes Jordan the first female Nova Scotia MP to sit at the federal cabinet table, something she said is overdue.

### Long-term Care Recommendations accepted

Government intends to act on all of the recommendations received from an expert advisory panel tasked with looking at how to improve the quality of care in long-term care facilities in the province. Some of the work already underway includes: actions to address wound care; exploring ways to improve access to allied health providers such as occupational therapists and physiotherapists; working on strategies to increase access to nurse practitioners; working with partners to review the continuing care assistant education and curriculum with focus on placement and quality of experience. Other initiatives include: early work to develop a health workforce plan including a vacancy survey to determine staffing needs and challenges; working with Nova Scotia Health Authority to develop a plan to address responsive behaviours in long-term care; beginning work to require registration for continuing care assistants; exploring primary health care coverage in long-term care and beginning work to implement the interRAI long-term care assessment tool for data collection.

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### News from our Federal Capital

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ernments have offered to subsidize the capital costs of installing the equipment necessary, but even then it is sometimes not worthwhile for the cable/internet companies to offer service. Several approaches have been tried with mixed results.

However both the federal government and the Nova Scotia provincial government are preparing to launch new approaches to attract these services to rural areas. Minister Jordan has only been on the job for seven days and I know she already has had

face-to-face discussions with senior provincial officials from Nova Scotia to explore how the two levels of government might work together to increase the success rate of these two initiatives. This is a considerable challenge but with the appointment of Minister Bernadette Jordan we are now in the best position ever to improve the situation.

**Bill Casey is Member of Parliament for Cumberland-Colchester.**

### News from our Provincial Capital

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lished in Nova Scotia and has been distributed both here and in Boston. I was truly amazed and touched by the excellent work classroom teachers in Matheu Elementary School had done to help educate the students of the history that binds the City of Boston with the Province of Nova Scotia.

My message to the students was simple and it would be the same message for those of us here back home. "We may not re-

member, but we have a responsibility to tell the story so that this great deed is not forgotten". As adults, please take the time to tell your children and grandchildren the story of the Halifax Explosion and the love, warmth and compassion shown to us by the City of Boston is symbolized through the annual gift of this Christmas Tree.

**Karen Casey, MLA, Colchester North**

### News from our Municipal Council - District 10

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these high skilled workers are in such demand, they would set up an office anywhere in Nova Scotia where there was a group or cluster of 4 or 5 people. The only requirement was you have to connect to fibre. What I am doing here is laying the ground work for two reasons. Once again make the case this is a critical need, but also to forewarn that to get this done our municipality will need to invest significant finances to succeed.

I know I am having a lot to say today. Regardless.

If you have not already heard the Provincial Dept of Environment changed the regulations permitting Potential Waste to Energy companies to use materials that are banned from the landfill, namely plastic and paper/ cardboard to be used as a feed stock in a Thermal energy plant used to create a syngas and generate electricity.

You can be sure there will be some push back from this. It has already started with the Ecology Action Center. I personally have a very positive view of this. Case in Point. Many are aware I sit on the board of Divert NS. When this media release went out I received it as an email to Divert Board members at which time I responded "Great News." I was soon challenged by a friend and fellow board member as to how I could possibly consider this to be great news? He considered it a step back in our efforts to divert, reuse and recycle. In an effort to explain my position and to avoid re-writing the whole message, I am attaching my response to him.

Good Evening...I will try to kind of knit together my thoughts

First I am responding both as an elected Councillor who has some understanding and concerns as to the actual cost to the resident and municipal tax payers as we strive to meet the Provincial Solid waste disposal guidelines. Also as a resident, I believe I continue to gain a respect or concern for the environment.

You referred to these products as being burned, I have not read the new regulations in detail, but expect the process they referred to as "Thermal treatment" will be a long way from burning and more along the lines of high intensity heat that will breakdown the feed stock possibly in the absence of oxygen and create a syngas of some kind. I expect this process will produce significantly less emissions and be less harmful to the environment than producing energy from say coal or bunker.

Given that I have been advocating for waste to energy and often very critical of DOE for not being open to considering this type of new technology, it is difficult to not see this as great news.

It is all well and good to talk about and being proud of our recycling efforts to date. However very few actually recognize the tremendous cost associated with being the best in Canada. Municipal taxpayers pay the bill. The only recycling that is truly profitable is aluminum, other metals, and PET plastics. The products that go through the Municipal recycling facilities are marginal at best. They do create employment, but rarely show a profit.

In order to market a profitable recycled product it must be extremely clean uncontaminated material. Once again that process costs money.

For years we sorted at great cost film plastic and shipped to China and made a small profit. Recent history has shown this may have put our film plastic out of sight and out of mind, but it most certainly was not the best thing for the environment. Once again we created employment and without question, benefitted our local rural communities and that is important.

As for newspaper and cardboard you speak about and its value to Thermo cell I cannot speak to that with real knowledge, but suspect that this has to be a premium grade of recycled paper which I believe is a very small percentage of

the paper / cardboard actually recycled. I know, Colchester recycles for 15 different municipalities and the majority is marketed to be recycled as kitty litter and I can say with certainty, having viewed the annual financial statements there is very little actual cash value. However, it may very well be that when speaking about paper and cardboard, there may be very little actual energy in those products. I expect the market will make that determination

Film plastic is a very different story. It is basically produced from natural gas and is high in energy. I am confident in saying this is what is driving this whole waste to energy discussion.

Now all this long tirade speaks only to what is actually materials collected in the recycle stream and make their way thru the process without being contaminated and rejected. The real benefit here will be the opportunity to divert tonnes and tonnes of low grade film plastics and contaminated paper/cardboard that is currently being buried in landfills.

DOE has had this target of 300 Kgs per resident and despite everyone's best effort we have recently started to regress. I expect as time and innovations goes along we will smash that number. Enormous savings when you consider the perpetual care of landfill and the cost of collecting and treating the leachate they produce.

So now we have this new evolving technology with the potential to significantly reduce and very possibly at some point eliminate the need for landfill.

(Proponents claim they can do it now! I am a bit skeptical). Some who promote this technology claim we will eventually mine our current landfills as a fuel source.

I believe as far back as 2010, promoters have been before Colchester County council with this technology. It was going to be the SILVER BULLET.

We sent staff to Germany to view a "working plant". It was a disappointment. In 2014 or 2015 we sent a group, myself included to see an operating plant in India. It worked to some degree, but it too was a disappointment. Then Lockheed Martin Corporation bought the proprietary technology rights from the developer in India and assured Colchester they would have a demonstration plant up and running in Owaga, New York within a year. That was 2016

So after all my long drawn out recitation your question is, Why did I comment that this recent regulatory change was "Great News"?

For me without going in to another long drawn out explanation of the actual process, I believe we are some-time away from the elusive SILVER BULLET. However there is little doubt this technology is improving. There are at least two Companies in Nova Scotia who are prepared to invest millions. I believe, and certainly the lobby effort they are making would indicate, that they need this high energy very low value banned materials to succeed.

Therefore I applaud the DOE for changing this regulation and permitting Nova Scotia entrepreneurs to attempt to move this forward.

As I indicated Colchester recycles for 15 different Municipalities. Too the best of my knowledge we have not sold a single bale of film plastic in the past 12 months. We have not buried a single bale! It is all being stored as we attempt to find a made in NS or made in North America Solution. We will no longer send to China and pretend we are doing the right thing for the environment! We produce an average of 3.5 bales daily. Without some type of new market we will soon have to apply to DOE for permission to move this to the landfill and bury at which time the tax payers of Colchester will be on the hook for all the associated costs.

All the best Tom

**Tom Taggart is Colchester Municipal Councillor for District 10**



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