

# Rural NS Loses 2,700 Jobs

By Maurice Rees

Halifax gained 9,600 jobs in 2018, while the remainder of the province outside HRM lost 2,700 jobs in comparison to 2017. 2018 Annual employment levels showed 455,900 people were employed in Nova Scotia up 6,900 (1.5%) compared to 2017 for an unemployment rate of 7.5%. Comparatively Halifax has 234,200 persons employed for an increase of 9,600, up 4.3% from 2017 for an unemployment rate of 5.9%.

The overall result presents dismal trend for areas outside HRM with a province-wide aggregate loss of 2,700 jobs. The

Healthcare and social assistance category suffered the largest one over year loss with 3,600 less positions. Healthcare and social assistance reached its peak in 2016 with 74,900 positions. The category has had up and down levels in each of the years since 2014 as follows: 2014, 69,200 jobs; 2015, 72,400 jobs; 2016, 74,900 jobs; 2017, down to 72,000 positions and ending 2018 with an employment level of 68,400 jobs.

The accompanying chart shows the employment levels for eighteen job classifications from 2014 to 2018. The updated 2018 Statistics Canada

shows eight of the eighteen employment classifications suffered losses.

If you were among those concerned about rural Nova Scotia, your worries were confirmed by CHMC's Katelyn MacLeod, Senior Analyst, Economics Market Insights during her presentation to Nova Scotia association of realtors in Halifax, in mid-January.

Increases were reported for the following nine sectors: Good-producing sector, up 1,400; Agriculture, up 500; Construction, up 1m500; Manufacturing, up 700; Services - producing sector, up 5,500; Wholesale and retail trade,

3,200; Educational services, up 1,400; Information, culture and recreation, up 2,300 and Accommodation and food services, up 5,000. The Transportation and warehousing sector remained unchanged at 19,400.

The eight employment categories suffering job losses included: Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas, dropped 1,100; Utilities, down 200; Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing, down 700; Professional, scientific and technical services, down 900; Business, building and other support services, down 400; Health care and social assistance, down 3,600; Other services (except public administration), down 100 and Public Administration, down 500.

# Animal Control to Cost \$202,000

By Maurice Rees

Council Committee chooses Option #2 at January 10th meeting. During Council's initial 2018 discussions on the Animal Control service, staff presented four options for review with the objective of assisting Council to understand the variety of methods that the animal control service could be offered.

Based on direction from the previous meeting, staff narrowed their evaluation two service options of which council chose Option 2 at \$202,000, a saving of nearly \$50,000 over Option 1.

Option 2, which council chose included: Projected Costs for 8:30 am to 10:00 pm (County Staffed- No Pound Services Provided); Saturday, Sunday and holidays on-call, after 10:00 pm emergency only; RFP Complete Kennel Package \$42,000, (Vet. Care, Adoption, Kennel & Post 72 hrs); Veterinarian Services \$4,000; Truck (Fuel, Insurance, Maintenance) \$15,000; One Full-Time Animal Control Officer \$80,000, Part-Time Animal Control On-Call \$40,000; Overtime \$15,000 and Vacation Coverage (3 weeks) \$6,000.

Option 2 Total \$202,000 To cut down on administrative expense Option 2 includes: Issue one dog tag for life. Each year 1,300 renewal notices are mailed to remind dog owners to renew their tags. Tags are in-



tended to be a tool to reunite dogs with their owners and generates very little revenue. Instead a dog would receive a tag and number for life to encourage all owners to make the purchase once at the time they acquire the dog.

It was suggested share the dog tag database with the answering service and vet clinics to provide alternative and reliable ways to share information that helps the public to reunite lost dogs with their owners.

The higher priced Option 1 would have provided: Projected total costs at \$252,600, which included: 24/7 Coverage (County Staffed + 72 Hour Impound Administration); RFP for County Pound \$20,000; Dog Pound Expenses (2017/2018) \$15,000; Truck Expenses (Fuel, Insurance, Maintenance) \$15,000; Two Full-Time Animal Control Officers, \$160,000; On-Call \$14,600; Overtime \$19,000; and Vacation Coverage (6 weeks) \$9,000. Cost Option 1 Total \$252,600.

Committee's decisions will be further evaluated by staff and a plan developed to move forward.

Nova Scotia Job Analysis 2014 to 2018						
North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Job Change
Persons Employed (000's)						2018 Vs 2017
Total employed, all industries 5	447.6	448.1	446.2	449	455.9	6,900
Goods-producing sector 6	84	83.1	81.2	81.3	82.7	1,400
Agriculture 7	5.2	5.4	4.5	4.7	5.2	500
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas 8 9	11.2	11.8	11.3	10.1	9	(1,100)
Utilities	3.8	3.7	3.3	3.9	3.7	(200)
Construction	34	33.6	32.9	31.6	33.1	1,500
Manufacturing	29.9	28.7	29.1	31	31.7	700
Services-producing sector 10	363.6	365.1	365	367.7	373.2	5,500
Wholesale and retail trade	73.9	71.8	71.9	75.8	79	3,200
Transportation and warehousing	20.9	20.5	20.3	19.4	19.4	-
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing	22.2	23.4	23.6	22.8	22.1	(700)
Professional, scientific and technical services	26.1	27.8	27.5	28.4	27.5	(900)
Business, building and other support services 11	19.7	20.3	17.5	18.1	17.7	(400)
Educational services	35.4	36.4	36.7	36.4	37.8	1,400
Health care and social assistance	69.2	72.4	74.9	72	68.4	(3,600)
Information, culture and recreation	19.2	17.5	16.2	16	18.3	2,300
Accommodation and food services	32.1	30.9	29.5	30.3	35.3	5,000
Other services (except public administration)	18.3	17.1	19.4	18.8	18.7	(100)
Public administration	26.7	27	27.6	29.6	29.1	(500)

## Colchester Committee Sets Meeting Schedule

By Maurice Rees

Being the first meeting of the new year, Colchester Council dealt with a number of items which will happen throughout the year. Establishing meeting dates included: Presentation meetings on the first Tuesday of the month; Council Committee meetings on the second Thursday of the month and Council meetings on the last Thursday of the month. From time to time, Council has opted to change the date of the Council Committee meeting from the second to third Thursday of the month when there are five Thursdays in the month.

Council is required to set dates for other meetings such as the Grant Presentations and Budget Deliberations. A date

for the Capital Budget meeting also needs to be determined and staff will present possible dates at an upcoming meeting.

Throughout the year, some exceptions are necessary, as follows: May Council Committee - the 2019 NSFM Spring Workshop is scheduled for May 8-12. With May 2019 having five Thursdays, staff is suggesting the third Thursday, May 16th be approved for the Council Committee meeting to accommodate those attending the Spring Workshop;

May Council - the 2019 FCM Annual Conference is being held from May 30th to June 2nd. Staff is suggesting the Council meeting date be changed from Thursday May 30th to Wednesday, May 29th.

Halloween - this year Hal-

loween falls on the last Thursday of the month, which would normally be our Council meeting night. In the past when Halloween falls on a meeting night, Council has opted to change the date to Wednesday the 30th. In keeping with this past practice, the attached schedule sets the 30th for the Regular Council meeting.


November Presentations Meeting - the NSFM Annual Fall Conference is scheduled for Tuesday November 5th to Friday November 8th. Staff suggested the November Presentation meeting be changed


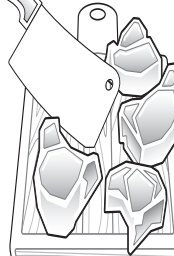
from Tuesday, November 5th to Monday, November 4th.

2019-20 Budget Related Meetings - staff reviewed dates for 2018-19 budget meetings and are suggesting February 20th and 26th for

Grant Presentations, April 8th for Maintenance Budget, and April 15th and 17th for Additions/Deletions.

The 2019 FCM Conference will be held in Quebec City from May 30 to June 2. Council policy is for Mayor, Deputy Mayor, CAO, and three Councillors attend the conference. By drawing the names out of the hat, Councillors Gregory, Masters and Gibbs will attend. Councillor Taggart as an FCM Board member automatically attends.

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