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The Nova Scotia Legislature will re-convene when the second session of the 63rd Nova Scotia general assembly will resume at 1 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 20.

During 2019 Nova Scotia experienced the fastest employment growth and labour force growth since 2004. The unemployment rate also averaged 7.2 per cent in 2019, the lowest unemployment rate since the early 1970s. Almost half of the annual job growth is attributable to improved employment for youth.

Nova Scotia has broken immigration records again in 2019 as the province finds new ways to target workers in sectors with the greatest need. The Office of Immigration approved 2,780 applications as of Dec. 27, up 21 per cent over 2018 and more than 300 per cent over 2013. As a result, the province's population is at an all-time high and getting younger, while filling persistent labour needs in key sectors, including health care.

Several film productions have been approved by (NSBI) including: Documentary TV Series, Maritime Museums Series 2, produced by Maritime Museums 2 Productions Limited (Winter Light Productions), has been approved for a funding commitment of \$321,552 based on an eligible expenditure of \$1,004,850; Variety TV series, Tout Simplement Country, Season Two, produced by 3286993 Nova Scotia Limited (Connections Productions), funding of \$303,848 based on an eligible Nova Scotia expenditure of \$1,104,901; Documentary TV Series, NSK9 Series 2, produced by NSK9 2 Productions Limited, for \$227,200 based on an expenditure of \$710,000; Feature film, Shush, produced by Shush It's a Movie Inc. for \$68,743 based on expenditure of \$221,752; Documentary TV series, Haunted Season V, produced by Winter Light Productions Limited, for \$480,000 based on expenditure of \$1,500,000; Dramatic TV mini-series, Cinema 902 Series 2, produced by Winter Light Productions Limited, for \$307,200 based on expenditure of \$960,000; Comedy TV series, Halifax Comedy Festival 2020, produced by ComedyTV 20 Inc., for \$170,631 based on expenditure of \$620,476; Documentary TV series, Jumping the Apex, produced by Jumping the Apex Productions Inc., for \$27,749 based on expenditure of \$100,905 and Documentary TV series, Champions, produced by Revolution Distribution Inc., for \$229,856 based on expenditure of \$718,300.

News from our Federal Capital *Continued from page 5*

At the Liberal Women's Caucus meeting, I was delighted to be chosen to be the English Vice Chair of the Caucus with unanimous support.

As a rookie MP and new member of the caucus it was a real surprise and honour to be asked by my fellow colleagues from across Canada to take on the role as Vice Chair! This is an impor-

tant place for woman to have a voice within the Liberal Caucus and as a life-long feminist I have always been someone to speak my mind on women's issues and concerns and push for women's concerns to be heard at all levels of government."

Lenore Zann is Member of Parliament for Cumberland-Colchester with offices in Amherst and Truro.

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great job in directing us through a long and difficult process leading to our success. I believe the future looks good for Colchester County and in Particular West Colchester.

Now I must confess, my earlier comments were leading me to this. In the beginning I spoke about some struggles we had. The biggest struggle for me was the lack of movement on Code of Conduct. There have been negative media reports and public comments have attempted to portray our council as an old boy's club or somehow not modern or independent minded. In fact, I believe there are people within our organization who like to further this conversation. This is very personal to me.

I am here to tell you that I am very proud of our council and proud of the work I have done or the part I have played in its suc-

cess. I would invite any one to go back in the minutes of council meetings beginning in June or July of 2017, where you will find a unanimous motion of council to bring in a code of conduct.

If you continue to follow the minutes through to November of 2019, that is 29 months after the initial motion, and count how many times "Code of Conduct" was brought up. Finally in January of 2020 we passed a code of Conduct. Like I said, this has become very personal to me. Please keep this in mind when anyone attempts to discredit our council on this. Not suggesting we are perfect, we most certainly are not.

However any mistakes real or perceived are honest and have been debated based on the best information provided.

Tom Taggart is Colchester Municipal Councillor for District 10

Broadband by January 31?

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gether to develop a service which would apply to all residents and businesses within their governance areas.

- The speed at which it happened.
- A joint proposal for a two county-wide program, but each retaining control of their respective areas.
- Elimination of municipal competitiveness, which may pave the way to other similar initiatives, when appropriate.
- History making that in all of Canada, Cumberland-Colchester is the first federal constituency which will receive broadband services, in some ways that are more comprehensive, better, more economical and faster than some of Canada's largest Metropolitan areas.

Not mentioned in any of the above what the economic on the two counties would

be. It is definitely a tool to make businesses more competitive. The anticipated UNESCO Geo-Park approval will bolster tourism activity and permit hospitality businesses to market the area as having wide broadband throughout the entire UNESCO approved area.

As Tom Taggart has reported, the Federation Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to which he is a board member, in a study which it commissioned have concluded populations of rural municipalities will increase by at least 7% over the next decade.

Professionals who have the ability to work from home and prefer a county lifestyle will gravitate to relocations in their chosen area of Cumberland-Colchester. The construction build-up is expected to take upwards of two years, as long as approval is received early in the non-construction season.

With heavy promotion by

the two municipalities that broadband will be available, it won't take long before realty brokers and individual agents will extensively market the broadband asset.

Some commercial real estate transactions of businesses relocating to Debert Business Park have evolved slower than anticipated because of the lack of broadband services.

Economic development

specialists are excited about the potential possibilities for Cumberland and Colchester to recruit new businesses. However, they have a major concern there might not be the trained labour force.

In order to be totally successful the municipalities need to be diligent to orchestrate a "buy-in" from realtors to find trained professionals to relocate here and ensure training is available for the skills the new businesses will require.

Recommendations in Post Election Report

By Maurice Rees

Several recommendations were included in the post 2016 municipal election report prepared by returning officer, Lorraine Dawson.

Some of the recommendations included:

Evaluate the electronic voting process to employ e-voting in the Municipality with one polling station in each district using the traditional paper ballot on election day.

Review the requirement for signage at polling locations with the intention of providing at least two signs each location and obtain a plastic banner to be placed on or adjacent to the entrance of each polling location.

Request a version of Elections Nova Scotia data base system be provided with the List of Electors. This would facilitate changes input by office staff and ensure the updates are captured for future elections when the list is returned to ENS.

This election was conducted in 51 polling stations in 24 locations. Advance polling stations were conducted for two days in each of the 11 districts and 4 mobile polls serviced the homes for long term care.

Many complaints were received concerning signage. The report stated, "Signage is important. In many areas the provided plastic sign on the post, located at the entrance to the polling location was not adequate."

PROTECT & PRESERVE YOUR FAMILY MEMORIES



VHS Home Videos
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Deadline for
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is February 18.



2020 90 & 90+ BIRTHDAY PARTY

We wish to thank all those who attended the 2019 Annual 90 & 90+ Birthday party. We hope you had a good time.

We are planning this year's party and need your help. I ask you to think about friends, relatives and neighbours from our coverage area, who will be turning 90 in 2020. Let's not wait until next year to get them registered.

If you know of someone who turns 90 in 2020, or is over 90 and never been invited, please pre-register them by sending name, mailing address, phone and date of birth so we can invite them to the party being held in Economy on May 9, 2020.

Please send to:

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