

The Shoreline Tid-Bits

Journal

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Reducing Hotel Stays, Providing Homes

More families and individuals are moving out of emergency hotel shelters and into the comfort of a home since the launch of the Province's master lease program and through other investments in supportive housing. Over the past year, the number of people experiencing homelessness who are staying in provincially funded hotel rooms has declined from 251 to 36, an 86 per cent decrease. The number of hotel rooms is now 18, down from 111.

Growth in the master lease program as a longer-term housing option is a major reason why. Through the program, created in 2024, the Province provides service organizations with funding to lease housing units from landlords (a "master lease"), which are then subleased to people experiencing homelessness. There are currently about 320 units of supportive housing under master lease agreements with 10 service providers across the province. Those numbers are expected to grow in the coming months. As with other supportive housing, people who sublease from a service provider pay rent, usually 30 per cent of income. Service providers deliver wraparound supports to help residents establish and build good rental history and interact with landlords in a supportive setting, with the ultimate goal of taking over the lease themselves. The master lease program also provides a housing option for other people experiencing homelessness, such as youth, women and children fleeing violence, people discharged from hospital and people who have a criminal record or other conflict with the justice system. The supportive housing units provide residents independence and a sense of community, with support that may include mental and physical healthcare, substance-use treatment, life skills and job readiness programs, and access to food and other essentials.

Amendments to Aquaculture Licence, Lease Regulations

The Province is updating the Aquaculture Licence and Lease Regulations to support growth in the aquaculture industry with faster, clearer rules. The changes will help make the approval process more efficient and better aligned with different types of aquaculture projects.

Key updates to the regulations include: Adding a 30-day public comment period for new aquaculture sites or existing sites that are expanding; The Department's aquaculture administrator will approve new or expanding shellfish and aquatic plant farms rather than the Nova Scotia Aquaculture Review Board, making the approval process better matched to the size and risk of these projects and Timelines and processes for the review board, which will continue to handle applications for finfish in marine areas, will be updated to ensure applicants, the board and other parties to hearings have the time they need to prepare based on experience.

Province Plans to Invest in Highways, Bridges, Ferries

Nova Scotia drivers will have safer and more efficient ways to get where they need to go as the Province continues to make significant investments in highways, bridges and ferries. Fred Tilley, Minister of Public Works, released the 2026-27 Five-Year Highway Improvement Plan December 17. Through the plan, the Province will invest an estimated \$465 million in 2026-27 in major highway and road projects, repaving, bridge replacements, maintenance and other infrastructure work. Construction will continue on major projects, including: Highway 101 Cambridge interchange and connector (Kings County); Highway 101 dike and aboiteaux upgrades (Hants County); Highway 101 twinning from Three Miles Plains to Falmouth (Hants County); Highway 103 twinning from Exit 6 to Exit 8 (Lunenburg County); Highway 104 twinning from Taylors Road to Paqtnkek (Antigonish County); Highway 107 twinning from Burnside to Lake Loon (Halifax Regional Municipality); Seal Island Bridge rehabilitation (Victoria County); Trunk 4 active transportation corridor conversion (Antigonish County) and Tancook ferry infrastructure upgrades (Lunenburg County).

The plan is expected to advance more than 160 highway improvement projects over the coming year.

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Committee Appoints 2 Directors; 1 Representative

By Dan Troke, CAO

(The following action item was presented to council committee at its meeting on January 15th in preparation for further council deliberations at its monthly meeting on January 29th).

Purpose: At November's Council Meeting, Council Committee was given authority to make governance decisions regarding the RECC at the December and January meetings. At December Council Committee, a new governance model was approved. Three Councillors must be selected to join the Board. For efficiency it would make sense that these three Councillors participate at the members meeting as Board and Council members, following which would be the three appointed Colchester Board members.

At January's meeting of Council, a new operating agreement will be provided to Council for consideration. An information note has been supplied by legal counsel.

Background: In October, Council gave 90-day notice to end the current operating agreement with the RECC. The current operating agreement ends January 31, 2026.

In December, Council Committee approved a new governance model comprised of six members, three Councillors from Truro and three Councillors from Colchester. Truro has approved this governance model.

The current Society as a structure remains in place.

This new governance model will require by-law amendments which must be brought forward at a members meeting.

A members meeting is comprised of current Board members (2 council appointed board members) plus each Council can put forward an additional Councillor as their member for this meeting only. These are all voting positions.

At January's meeting of Council, a new operating agreement will be provided to Council for consideration. An information note has been supplied by legal counsel.

Analysis: As part of the continued operation of the facility, the Board will need to hold a members' meeting to approve new by-laws reflecting a governance change. At months end, Council will consider changes to the Operating Agreement.



Council can in the future consider or review the governance model proposed. No specific time limits are placed in the governance motion approved in December

Options: 1. Council Committee appoint three Councillors to participate at the members meeting and those three members further serve on the Board following by-law changes.

Recommendation: Staff recommend Council appoint three Councillors (2 as Board members and 1 as a Council representative) for the mem-

bers meeting; and further these three Councillors continue as Board members for Colchester following the anticipated by-law changes.

Authorization: Dan Troke, Primary Author Manager/Director Chief Administrative Officer

Motion(s): That Council Committee appoints, following a vote at Committee, Councillors and as Board

members and Councillor as a Council representative for the upcoming members meeting of the Society and these appointments continue as the three Board members for Colchester following the anticipated by-law changes. Motion approved by January council committee.

Also see 'Anticipated Amendment to Operating Agreement' on page 12.

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