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**The government will** put an additional \$3.4 million dollars into Student Support Grants. This money comes as a result of the one day unpaid strike by the Nova Scotia Teachers Union Friday, February 17. Student Support Grants were created in 2013 to allow school communities to tailor their services and programming to improve student success and create special student experiences. To ensure Nova Scotia students benefit directly, any portion of the \$3.4 million that is not spent in the 2016-17 school year will be carried over, in addition to the allotment for the 2017-18 school year. Government allocates funds to each school board based on the number of schools and enrolment numbers. The formula is \$5,000 per school, plus \$1 for every student. This additional top up will be allocated on a per student basis.

**Classroom teachers** who want to improve the teaching and learning environment in Nova Scotia were encouraged to apply online between Feb 22 -28 to be part of the new Council to Improve Classroom Conditions. The council is an initiative of the Teachers' Professional Agreement and Classroom Improvement Act that passed yesterday. It offers classroom teachers the opportunity to direct how the province will invest \$20 million into classrooms during the next two school years. Initial recommendations from the council are expected by April 28.

**Motorcyclists who can't** wait for the snow to melt and warm weather to arrive can get a taste of what's new for 2017 during the Motorcycle and Powersport Atlantic show at Halifax Exhibition Centre, March 3-5<sup>th</sup>. Show hours are: Friday, 12:00 noon to 9:00 pm; Saturday, 9:00 am to 8:00 pm and Sunday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

**Nova Scotia's Culture** Action Plan: Creativity and Community, was launched on February 22. The plan focuses on six themes which provide government with specific actions, strategic priorities and criteria to help guide decision-making. In announcing the action plan, Premier Stephen McNeil said, "Culture connects us as people, it makes us stronger and helps us to build a province where all people have the opportunity to reach their full potential." The themes are: promote Mi'kmaw culture; promote creativity and innovation; strengthen education; partnerships and understanding; advance cultural diversity; excellence in cultural stewardship and drive awareness and economic growth of the culture sector. Government connected with thousands of Nova Scotians and 188 culture organizations around the province, as part of the consultation process for the plan. Culture contributes \$949 million to Nova Scotia's economy and provides almost 14,000 jobs, representing 2.7 per cent of the provincial gross domestic product and three per cent of all jobs in Nova Scotia.

**Nova Scotians are encouraged** to recognize the contributions and accomplishments of outstanding citizens by nominating, or renominating, people deserving of the Order of Nova Scotia. Nominations for the province's highest honour are being accepted until Friday, March 17 to be eligible for consideration this year. Recipients of the order are chosen for making significant and lasting contributions to their communities. Since its creation in 2001, 87 recipients have been invested into the order, including nine posthumously. Nomination forms are available at Access Nova Scotia centres, Province House in Halifax, MLA and MP offices in Nova Scotia, municipal offices, and online at [www.novascotia.ca/orderofnovascotia](http://www.novascotia.ca/orderofnovascotia). Nominations will be accepted by mail, fax, or email. Those wishing to renominate someone can submit a photocopy of the previous nomination package, with a new nomination form. For more information, contact the Protocol Office at 902-424-2467, [orderofnovascotia@novascotia.ca](mailto:orderofnovascotia@novascotia.ca) or visit [www.novascotia.ca/orderofnovascotia](http://www.novascotia.ca/orderofnovascotia).

**Nova Scotia Business Inc.** (NSBI) announced a newly approved production through the Nova Scotia Film and Television Production Incentive Fund on February 15. Documentary, Cannabis Crusaders, produced by Cannabis Pictures Inc., has been approved for a funding commitment of \$36,219 based on eligible Nova Scotia expenditure of \$131,708. To learn more about the production above, go to [www.nsbic.ca/articles](http://www.nsbic.ca/articles).

Forward your Briefs to: [maurice@theshorelinejournal.com](mailto:maurice@theshorelinejournal.com)

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The **Shoreline** Journal  
Deadline for the April issue of  
is March 21

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enough things to do around the Bay of Fundy. Our job is to make sure people know about us, and when they get here, that they have a choice of places to stay and eat and ways to get around. I and the other MPs who sit around the Bay of Fundy have

been working together as a "Bay of Fundy Caucus" with the goal of promoting the entire region as a tourist destination. We will work with the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick governments. We will work with anybody who shares our passion for this wonderful region.

*Bill Casey, MP for Cumberland-Colchester*

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federally licensed. Being able to sell across provincial borders has enabled the co-operative to expand and hire more employees.

Perennia's horticulturist worked with producers to use bee vectoring to deliver a beneficial biological agent to combat blight in greenhouse tomatoes. By having the bees walk through a small attachment on their hives where they picked up the product on their body and legs, it was deposited on the blossoms during pollination and was successful in preventing the blight.

Perennia also offers Market Connector, a free service that allows connections to be made by producers and those seeking products. Among those using this service are hay growers and hay seekers, and the same for bees. It is a very useful service for those

in the agrifood and seafood sectors.

If you are a current or future food producer or processor looking for advice and assistance whether on some aspect of farming, help meeting retailers' food safety requirements or a way to improve or create a product, contact Perennia to see what they can do to support you.

For more information contact the Innovation Centre at 173 Dr. Bernie MacDonald Drive, Bible Hill at (902) 896-8782, or Field Services and Food Safety Services at 199 Dr. Bernie MacDonald Drive, Bible Hill (902) 896-0277 and 32 Main Street, Kentville (902) 678-7722 or visit their website at [www.perennia.ca](http://www.perennia.ca)

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

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ask for money. All they asked us to do was to always have healthy communities in mind as we set policy and worked to improve our community.

Now I am not sure how this will sound or how it will come together, but here is my thought process, because believe me, they have certainly got my attention.

I will not go into detail on this but, over the past 9 years I have tried to be very involved in all aspects of Municipal Government and to fully understand my role as a rural municipal councillor. I have understood what is considered to be the CORE responsibilities of Municipal Government, Policing, water, waste water, and municipal solid waste. Deputy Mayor Masters, a senior Councillor and someone I respect and lean on has often commented 16 years ago when he began on council we had very little involvement in recreation and in fact only had one part time employee that worked from home.

Today we have a recreation DEPARTMENT with three community parks, most notably the Five Islands Lighthouse Park, many different recreational programs and services and a walking/ hiking trail system that is second to none in N S.

Now just bear with me, as I said this is my thought process, I will get to my point shortly. We, the Municipality of Colchester and the Town of Truro have a first class recreational facility in the RECC. Clearly it has had its challenges! Which I have documented in my last two articles. My point being we as council has done a lot. However it is time to change!

I believe the Municipality is in great shape! In fact, we are recognized as leaders, in the field of Municipal Solid waste and Waste Water. Council and Staff have done a great job in overall recreation. I

feel we have done a good job in responding to our CORE MUNICIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES. I believe it is time for council to put more focus on what I would call the social economic responsibilities of our communities. The Majority of our core responsibilities revolve around the Urban Core. There is no question the RECC benefits our Municipality as a whole, but clearly benefits the Urban Core the most.

The time has come to put more focus on the small communities! How do we do this? Well, I think providing for and motivating our youth to lead a healthy and active lifestyle would be a start. I would like to begin a process of developing small active parks in our small rural communities, such as Five Islands, Bass River, Debert, Upper Stewiacke, Earltown, Old Barns etc. Nothing elaborate, but small BMX bike parks or skateboard parks or whatever the local communities want.

They do not have to be elaborate; they just have to be available. We need to motivate one of the more valuable segments of our communities to get outside to be active, be healthy and to give them options other than video games. This will require community support and buy in, but I feel it could be the first step to a healthy community.

In closing I would like to suggest to graduating students and parents to keep a close eye on potential Municipal Scholarships. Our Municipality provides scholarships to a graduating student from CEC, Brookfield, Tatamagouche and Ecole de Acadian students. Also Divert N S [Previously RRFB] will also be providing a \$2,500 scholarship for one gradating student from our Region as well as a \$5,000 for one student from across the province. Details can be found on the Divert N S website.

*Tom Taggart, Councillor District 10, Colchester County*

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it will play a huge role in the economic development and growth of Debert in the future. Our Airport in Debert. All airports in Canada have certain regulations they need to adhere to. One such regulation is the certification of the approaches. This certification is granted by NavCanada. Without this certification, an airport is very limited to the size and number of aircraft which can safely use the airfield on a regular basis. NavCanada has informed us without upgrades to the present weather station and GPS system currently in operation in Debert our approach certification will expire in December of 2017.

On January 30th staff, myself and Mayor Blair met with representatives from Jetpro, an engineering firm based out of Alberta with staff located in the Maritimes. Jetpro specializes in satellite-based (Global Positioning Systems - GPS and Wide Area Augmentation System - WAAS) instrument flight procedure design.

Along with the installation of a Lateral Procedure Vertical Guidance (LPV) system these systems will provide more accurate information to aircraft for more control to a lower elevation, along with much greater control in poor weather conditions.

Another great feature which I especially liked about these systems was the simplicity of upgrading in the future as the airport

grows. The system proposed for Debert is the same as one at a large International Airport without as many bells and whistles. The total overall cost of the basic system for installation at the Debert Airport is \$23,000 which includes the first year's maintenance cost of \$4,000.

At our rescheduled Council Committee meeting on February 15th, 2017 council was given a presentation on these systems by our Director of Community Development, Crawford McPherson. It was decided by council to authorize staff to proceed with acquiring the services of Jetpro to certify the runway approaches at Debert Airport, to a WASS/LPV standard. This will be the first of many upgrades you will see at the Airport in the years to come.

I must say learning the operations of an airport wasn't something I thought I would ever be doing but that is what makes being your councillor so interesting. We now have a meeting scheduled with representatives from the Stanfield International Airport who are going to tour the Debert Airport with us. They believe Debert can complement their operations so we are going to see if there are ways we can work together and share their expertise.

Don't forget March 2nd 7:00 pm West Colchester United Arena. I see you there!

*Doug MacInnes, Councillor District 9, Colchester County*

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