

**News from our Provincial Council**  
*Continued from page 5*

with 30 seats in the University of Cape Breton. It will take years for them to graduate. The same with Nurses, we have added nursing seats at different Universities across Nova Scotia, but it takes 2 years to graduate an LPN and 4 years to graduate an RN. We have set up a 6 month course for foreign trained nurses to help them meet the credentialing requirements to be employed in Nova Scotia. The immigration process can be extremely slow and painful. We have asked Federal immigration for a streamlined process. I believe that is being worked on.

It is my view and this has been widely reported recently that there are more than enough Canadian Doctors working abroad to easily solve this challenge. I may be wrong, but I do watch too much American news, and I have never seen a news report about lack of availability of Doctors! Many of those doctors will be Canadian. Canadians who were either unable to secure a seat in a Canadian Medical University or simply chose to study abroad at well recognized and highly qualified international Universities. Sadly, the professional organizations which control who get Licenses in Canada do not seem to want to Credential them. It is my personal view that this is simply protecting their turf. Who really thinks that Physicians trained and licensed in United States or Britain or Australia are somehow not qualified. That absolutely must change!!

Another of the many challenges we face when coming to Government was Ambulance availability and Emergency room overcrowding. For sure these challenges have not been solved, however we have invested heavily in Ambulances. It was identified that ambulances were often tied up transporting folks back and forth to medical appointments. We purchased 100 new transport ambulances and spread them across the province. Ambulances were backed up waiting to unload patients, and Emergency rooms are often overwhelmed because there were no hospital beds available. Well, why were no beds available? Turns out there were far too many seniors in hospital beds awaiting long term care beds. Amazingly there were hundreds of long term care beds empty because they could not staff them. Again, Why, we immediately took steps to get these beds staffed. These included, providing free tuition and books for CCA students, we began an innovative work to learn program where students can learn while working and earning money and a targeted investment that significantly increased the wages and brought many of these workers back. As a result we went from hundreds of long term

beds empty 18 months ago to ZERO today.

Recognizing that we have an aging population and to ensure we do not repeat this crisis, we are planning and investing in the future by beginning construction of new long term beds. I recognize at this point, I have rambled on. My intention was to make some brief points. I apologize. I will close by saying there are many new initiatives in progress. Using new technology to streamline work and find efficiencies. I have great confidence in Minister Thompson. As has been said many times, this crisis did not happen overnight and it will not be solved overnight. It will take a tremendous amount of effort and money. We are making progress! Again, I am confident that Minister Thompson and her leadership team as well as the dedicated front line staff at Nova Scotia Health will guide us through these challenging times!

**Tom Taggart, MLA Colchester North can be reached at (0) 902-641-2335, or tom.taggartmla@gmail.com**

The **Shoreline Tid-Bits** Journal

*Continued from page 6*

**Nominations Open for Lieutenant-Governor's Award**

Nominations for the Lieutenant-Governor's Award of Excellence for l'Acadie and Francophonie opened January 24. The award recognizes people whose social, economic or cultural contributions have made a difference in the francophone community and in Nova Scotia as a whole. "Since this award was created in August 2020, I have been happy to recognize individuals across the province who have made significant contributions to our francophone community," said Lt.-Gov. Arthur J. LeBlanc. "French language and culture have influenced the character of Nova Scotia, and this program is an opportunity to celebrate the diversity that defines our collective identity." The award is presented to people in three categories: a francophone; a francophile - someone who is not francophone but supports and promotes French language and culture; and a youth recipient under the age of 25. The February 26 deadline for nominations has passed.

**Elections Nova Scotia Presents Budget Estimate**

On January 25, 2023, Dorothy Rice, the Chief Electoral Officer for Nova Scotia presented budget estimates of \$4.671 million for the 2023-2024 fiscal year to the Special Committee of the House of Assembly that by law, convenes each year to consider the budget submissions of Elections Nova Scotia (ENS) and the Auditor General.

**New Support Program for Abattoirs, Meat Processors**

Licensed abattoirs and meat processors can now apply to the new Abattoir Enrichment and Efficiency program for funding to help upgrade their facilities and grow the local food sector. The new \$500,000 program is open to all provincially and federally licensed abattoir and meat processors in Nova Scotia. The program builds on a similar initiative in 2020-21 that helped upgrade facilities, resulting in quality improvements and more sales opportunities. The new program covers up to 60 per cent of the cost of eligible upgrades per program year. Abattoirs can receive a maximum of \$25,000 per year, and meat processors can receive \$10,000. Facilities must be already licensed to be eligible to apply. The application deadline for this year was February 28.

**RCFNS grants \$200,000 to ten leading initiatives**

The Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia (RCFNS) announced funding totaling \$200,000 to ten leading initiatives to support women, girls, Two-Spirit and gender-diverse individuals working towards a future grounded in equity, inclusion and justice. The funding is through the Fund for Gender Equality (the Fund). This initiative is part of a partnership with Community Foundations of Canada, funded through the Government of Canada. RCFNS is one of 21 local community foundations from coast to coast to coast that are taking part. In total, these community foundations are granting over \$3.4M towards the gender equality movement. Communities For Gender Equality Fund Recipients 2023 include: SuperNOVA at Dalhousie University Received \$15,000 for the Project "Girls Count"; King's Theatre Society Received \$15,000 for the project "Non-Gender Washroom Project"; Pictou County Roots for Youth Received \$10,000 for the project "Fem Stars; Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation Received \$15,000 for the project "GO Crew"; Halifax Refugee Clinic Association Received \$15,000 for the project "From Healing to Recovery: Supporting Refugee Claimant Women in Nova Scotia to Reach Their Full potential"; South Shore Sexual Health Received \$20,000 for the project "Framework for Anti-Oppression Renewal"; Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design received \$40,000 for the project "Culture Exchange: Women's Leadership Equity Program"; The Lotus Centre - Women's Resource Centre received \$35,000 for the project "Partnership for GBV; Innovation and Change"; Cape Breton Centre for Sexual Health Received \$20,000 for the project "Personal Care for EVERYBODY" and Potlotek First Nation Received \$15,000 for the project "Apoqn'multiek Epi'jik".

*continued on page 10*

*Love Right* 1114 Highway 2, Five Islands Nova Scotia

**Pet Supplies** Open every day from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

We have Lifetime, Fromm, Canadian Naturals, Pulsar, & Oven Baked.

All with the same Frequent Buyer Program as the big chain stores.

Bring us their FB card & we will carry it on to your free bag.

We have feed for Chickens, geese/ducks, goats, hogs &

rabbits. We have oats, barley, beet pulp, alfalfa/timothy

cubes & Corn. And a large variety of Bird seeds & feeders

Call 902-613-9898 to check stock levels.



**DR. STEPHEN ELLIS**  
MP | CUMBERLAND—COLCHESTER

40 Inglis Place, Truro NS B2N 4B4  
35 Church Street, Amherst NS B4H 3A5  
stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca • www.drstephenellismp.com  
902-895-2863 / 902-667-8679



**"Express Lane is more than just an oil change"**

- No appointment oil changes •
- Courtesy shuttle available •
- All makes and models •

**Blaikies** **BLAIKIES DODGE CHRYSLER JEEP LTD.**

28 Waddell Street, Truro, NS B2N 5C5

902-893-4381 www.blaikies.com

**HOURS:**

Monday – Friday  
7:30 am – 5:30pm



**An invisible man married an invisible woman.  
The kids were nothing to look at either.**