

# Green Choice Program Greening the Grid

## Creating Jobs, Improving Energy Independence

The Green Choice Program will add more clean energy to the grid, bring more green jobs and investments to Nova Scotia, help stabilize power rates and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. "The Green Choice Program is the single largest addition of clean electricity and the single largest reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in Nova Scotia's history," said Energy Minister Trevor Boudreau. "Our province has incredible onshore and offshore wind speeds. Now is the time to use it to our advantage."

Eleven large-scale electricity customers are participating in the program. Most will get all their electricity through it. These customers include public institutions and some large industrial and commercial businesses.

Six wind farms were chosen through a competitive independent procurement to support the program. They will start generating more than 2,000 gigawatt hours of clean electricity per year by the end of 2028. They will increase the clean electricity to the grid for program customers by more than 12 per cent and by nearly seven per cent for all Nova Scotia ratepayers.

Each wind farm is co-owned by a private developer and one or more Mi'kmaw community in Nova Scotia. The developers are investing about \$73.5 million in social and economic benefits for communities where the wind farms are located. Benefits include training, skill development, capacity building grants and scholarships. There will be about 700 construction jobs and 30 full-time jobs to operate the wind farms.

The Green Choice Program is a commitment in Our Climate, Our Future: Nova Scotia's Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth. The plan aims to create a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable future for all Nova Scotians. It includes initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, switch to clean energy, create a clean econ-



omy, make homes and buildings energy efficient and able to stand up to the impacts of climate change, and help Nova Scotians adapt to the changing climate.

The Green Choice Program is open to Nova Scotia Power customers that pay the utility directly, not through a landlord, and had an average energy load of 10,000 megawatt hours per year over the past three years

- customers of municipal electric utilities are not included in the program; those utilities are increasingly providing clean electricity
- Nova Scotia Power will pay an average of \$63.62 per megawatt hour for electricity from the wind farms, which is a substantial fuel cost saving compared with coal
- the wind farms will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least eight per cent and, along with other initiatives, bring the power grid to about 78 per cent renewables by 2028; further initiatives like community, residential and commercial solar will bring the

grid to 80 per cent renewables by 2030 - the procurement for the new wind farms was managed independently by Coho Climate Advisors

The Green Choice Program customers are: Province of Nova Scotia - government owned buildings and operations including public schools, most of Nova Scotia Health's hospitals and health centres, the IWK Health Centre and the Nova Scotia Provincial Housing Agency; Government of Canada - federal departments, agencies and Canada Post's Crown facilities; Nova Scotia Universities and Colleges Power Purchasing Partnership: Dalhousie University (all campuses), Acadia University, Cape Breton University, Mount Saint Vincent University, Saint Mary's University, University of Kings College, Université Sainte-Anne, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design; all Nova Scotia Community College campuses; Halifax Regional Municipality; Halifax Water Commission; Cape Breton Regional Municipality; Halifax International Airport Authority; Wal-Mart Canada Corporation; Michelin North America (Canada) Inc. and PSA Canada Ventures Ltd.

The successful wind projects in the independent procurement are: Yellow Birch, Pictou County - developed by SWEB in partnership with Glooscap First Nation; Melvin Lake, Hants and Halifax counties; developed by ABO Energy Canada in partnership with Eskasoni, Potlotek, We'koqma'q L'nue'kati and Wagmatook First Nations; Rhodena, Inverness County; developed by ABO Energy Canada in partnership with Eskasoni, Potlotek, We'koqma'q L'nue'kati and Wagmatook First Nations; Blueberry Acres, Cumberland County; developed by SWEB in partnership with Glooscap First Nation; Sugar Maple, Pictou County; developed by SWEB in partnership with Glooscap First Nation and Eigg Mountain, Antigonish County; developed by Renewable Energy Systems Canada in partnership with Paq'inkek and Pictou Landing First Nations.

## Empowering Entrepreneurship and Fueling Local Business Growth in Nova Scotia

January 31, 2025 - Porters Lake, Nova Scotia - Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA)

The Government of Canada is providing a total of \$3,551,945 in 2024-2025 under its Community Futures Program to 13 CBDCs in Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Association of CBDCs. The funding will enable the CBDCs to offer essential financial assistance, specialized training, expert guidance, and customized local initiatives to the rural businesses, organizations, and communities they support.

**Northern Opportunities for Business Limited (NOBL)** serves Antigonish, Pictou and Colchester Counties and is receiving \$327,181. NOBL recently helped artist Marcus English establish his business, StoneFeather Creations. Marcus has been creating art using a variety of media since he was a young boy growing up in Pictou County and stone has become a material of choice to express his artistic vision.

CBDC Cumberland serves Cumberland County and is receiving \$201,631. It helps deliver the Workplace Education Initiative which provides free business education courses to residents of Cumberland County, such as Communication for Leaders, Financial Management and Sales and Marketing.

### Serving other NS Regions:

**Guysborough County CBDC** serves Guysborough County and is receiving \$326,121. The CBDC partnered with the Hire for Talent Initiative to offer approxi-



An art piece by Marcus English, owner of StoneFeather Creations

mately 20 small business entrepreneurs a networking opportunity, sharing valuable insights on topics such as workplace accessibility, inclusion, and flexible work arrangements.

**Annapolis Ventures** serves the Municipality of the County of Annapolis, Town of Middleton and Town of Annapolis Royal and is receiving \$308,532. Recently, it helped Ketabolic Kitchen purchase equipment to scale up. Located in Bridgetown, the bakery makes keto, low carb, celiac and diabetic-friendly goods for sale in stores across the province.

**CBDC Blue Water** serves rural communities in Halifax Regional Municipality and is receiving \$293,351. CBDC Blue Water recently assisted Porters Lake Family Smiles in securing financing to purchase equipment and renovate a space to establish a dental hygiene clinic on the Eastern Shore.

Nova Scotia Association of

**Community Business Development Associations** is receiving \$234,000. In addition to supporting all 13 CBDCs in Nova Scotia, it also delivers the Spark Nova Scotia program, a pitch competition which supports promising start-ups and encourages entrepreneurial activity in the province.

**CBDC Hants-Kings** serves Hants and Kings Counties and is receiving \$200,000. Recently, it helped Midhun Syriac establish and grow his driving school after he moved to Nova Scotia from Southern India. JMJ Driving School opened its first location in Greenwood and has expanded operations to Halifax and Bridgewater.

**Lori Selig Acting Director of Communications Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA)** [Lori.Selig@acoa-peca.gc.ca](mailto:Lori.Selig@acoa-peca.gc.ca)

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## Chamber Appoints Executive Director

Lexie Jasiewicz is a vibrant and accomplished professional from Cornwall, Ontario, with a strong economic and Community Development background. As a Loan Officer at ACCFutures, a Community Futures Development Corporation (the Ontario equivalent of a CBDC), Lexie managed an \$11 million loan portfolio, supported and advised entrepreneurs, spearheaded community initiatives, and represented the organization at networking events, trade shows and fairs.

Beyond her role at ACCFutures, Lexie has demonstrated her commitment to fostering community growth and collab-



oration.

She served as Vice Chair, and previously Secretary-Treasurer of the Cornwall Downtown Business Improvement Area (DBIA), where she championed revitalization efforts and strategized how to grow the downtown core, and previously as a Youth Ambassador for the United Nations Association in Canada, aligning her work with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals to

drive meaningful change.

Passionate about community building, Lexie has been a dedicated contributor to the economic and social vibrancy of Akwesasne, Cornwall, and the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry. Now, she is excited to bring her expertise and enthusiasm to Truro, embracing the opportunity to become an integral part of the Truro & Colchester community.

# Tom TAGGART



## Tom Taggart MLA Constituency Office

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Hours - 8:30am - 3:30pm

Use the lower level entrance - Look for the

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