

Forestry Generates \$1.8 Billion in Economic Impact

(A new report, authored by Gardner Pinfold, on the Economic Impacts of the Forestry Sector in Nova Scotia outlines how Forestry employs over 6,400 Nova Scotians, with the jobs generating \$380 million in income).

In 2022, Nova Scotia's forestry sector generated \$1.8 billion in economic impact, according to a new report authored by Gardner Pinfold. The Forestry Eco-

nomics Task Force - a collaboration of forestry sector stakeholders whose purpose is to design and implement a strategic economic roadmap for Nova Scotia, commissioned the report with funding from the Forestry Innovation Transition Trust.

"Even after all the challenges our sector faced, it generates nearly \$2 billion of economic impact every year," said Forest Nova Scotia executive director Stephen

Moore. "This shows that the forestry sector is still part of Nova Scotia's engine."

"We can generate this kind of economic impact while being the province's greenest sector - we take more carbon out of the environment than we emit."

Forestry employs over 6,400 Nova Scotians - 2,700 direct full-time positions and 3,700 spinoff jobs, including about 900 in wood supply and support services. These

jobs generate \$380 million in income:

- The direct employees at the mills are well-paid, with an average income of \$66,500.

- The average income for those employed in indirect activities, including forestry and support services, is \$58,200.

- Nova Scotia's average income is just over \$43,000.

Additionally, the sector generates \$171 million in tax revenue for the provincial and federal governments - \$84 million provincially and \$87 million federally.

"We employ thousands of people and pay them well above the provincial average," said Moore. "The average pay cheque is \$43,000 in Nova Scotia. We pay as much as 54 percent more than that."

Northern Pulp's closure

in 2020 carried a substantial impact, resulting in multiple cases of job loss and financial hardship to those most closely tied to the mill's operation.

"The closure of Northern Pulp was hard on many forestry families," said Moore. "It also cost people their jobs, families their livelihoods, and the province revenue."

Between 2018 and 2022, the sector's GDP declined by 15 percent, exports by 18 percent, and employment by 14 percent.

"500 families lost their jobs and income because of the mill's closure," said Moore.

The Forestry Economic Task Force has created an economic roadmap that looks to sustain and unlock the significant growth potential of the forestry sector.

"We believe the forestry sector has immense potential for sustainable growth," said

the Forestry Economic Task Force executive director Harvey Gray. "Building upon the strength of our foundational manufacturing segments and supply chain, we are focused on finding and capitalizing on growth opportunities that will create green jobs and prosperity for generations."

"An economic contribution that approaches \$3 billion annually is within reach."

The task force has identified several opportunities, including:

- The replacement of petroleum-based products with wood-based products, including bio-fuels, biochemicals, and bio-coal, and

- The expansion of residential, commercial, and industrial construction using mass timber

Here is an online link to the report: <https://www.forestns.ca/forest-ns-blog/forestry-generates-1.8-billion-in-economic-impact>

Cumberland Public Libraries Services Restored

By Darrell Cole

Together with Mayors David Kogon, Murray Scott and Greg Henley, Cumberland Public Libraries (CPL) Chair Dale Fawthrop is pleased to announce that an agreement has been reached on the provision of additional financial resources for Cumberland Public Libraries, for fiscal year 2024/25 resulting in the restoration of all previously provided services at all branches of CPL.

The Municipality of Cumberland along with the Towns of Amherst and Oxford have agreed to provide one time bridge funding in the amount of \$ 67,335 for the 2024/25 fiscal year. The Government of Nova Scotia has also contributed \$37,700, bringing the total to \$105,035. The agreement will also see CPL use its internal reserve funds to round out the additional resources being accessed. The reserve transfer requirement is currently estimated to be \$55,000.

The additional, one-time municipal bridge funding is being provided in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding between the municipalities and CPL that details the contributions and commits CPL to restoring the recently announced reduction in library services

at a number of branches. As well, the parties have committed to a review of finances, operations and services at CPL, with recommendations for improvements in sustainability due by September 30, 2024.

All parties to the agreement are pleased to have been able to work collaboratively to provide this bridge funding as well as a process which is intended to provide a path to long term, sustainable and affordable core library services in the region. The parties also wish to acknowledge and thank the Province of Nova Scotia for their contribution of bridge funding.

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Cumberland County Council Notes

Cumberland municipal council awards paving tenders in Springhill, Parrsboro

Cumberland municipal council has awarded tenders for the 2024 paving season.

Part A (Parrsboro) and Part C (Springhill) has been awarded to Dexter Construction Company Ltd. for a value of \$1,551,798 (including non-recoverable HST) while Cumberland Paving and Contracting has been awarded Part B (Parrsboro provisional) for a value of \$297,025 (including non-recoverable HST) conditional on the approval of third-party funding.

There are about 32.4 km of roads (including 3.15 km gravel) in Parrsboro and 36.3 km of roads (including 1.3 km gravel) in Springhill the municipality is responsible for. Road surfaces have an expected service life of approximately 20 years and the municipality attempts to budget to repave about one kilometre of roads in each community every year.

Springhill projects include sections of Douglas Drive, Clarence Street, Elm Street, McGee Street, Harrison Avenue, Cowan Street, South Street and Clarke Street.

Parrsboro paving includes sections of Main Street and Eastern Avenue.

Provisional paving in Parrsboro includes a section of Eastern Avenue.

Ronald Webb appointed as a citizen member of Cumberland Senior Care Corp.

Cumberland municipal council has approved the appointment of Ronald Webb as a citizen member of the Cumberland Senior Care Corp.

Webb is a retired professor and CPA who grew up in the Oxford area and is now a resident of the Gulf Shore.

The board feels Webb would be a strong asset to the board with his background in accounting.

Cathy Coon appointed as municipality's returning officer for October election

Cumberland municipal council has approved the appointment of Cathy Coon as returning officer for the October 2024 election.

Coon has previous experience in elections working with the former town of Springhill.

Council had previously appointed someone as returning officer, but that person resigned their position with the municipality for another opportunity.

Council approves motion to reschedule regular May meeting to May 29

Council has approved a motion to reschedule the May regular meeting from the fourth Wednesday of the month to the fifth, May 29.



Regular meetings are usually the fourth Wednesday of the month, but with several employees registered for the municipal administrators association spring conference the same week there was a scheduling conflict.

AMANS schedules two meetings per year, which are excellent professional development opportunities for several employees in the administration and finance departments.

Public hearings held for projects in Pugwash, Springhill, Parrsboro

Council held a public hearing regarding an amendment to the land-use bylaw to add personal service shops to the list of permitted uses within the Institutional Zone and approved an amendment to the land-use bylaw redefining personal service shops.

The subject property is located just outside Pugwash's core and beside North Cumberland Memorial Hospital. It's a two-level 4,000-square-foot facility located within the institutional zone within the residential designation.

It is owned by Conrad Dental Services, located on the second floor of the building. Nova Scotia Health currently rents the lower level that includes 10 offices that will be moving into the new hospital.

The owner wants to rent four spaces to a medspa and rent the remaining spaces to other personal service shops compatible with health care uses.

Council also held a public hearing on an amendment to the land-use bylaw to rezone a piece of property on Main Street in Springhill from lower density residential to multi-unit residential.

This would permit the development of a multi-unit dwelling located on the remaining 34,650 square feet of land.

Neighbouring properties are zoned lower density residential.

Council held a public hearing on an amendment to the land-use bylaw to rezone part of a property at 121 Main St. in Parrsboro from downtown commercial to mixed use.

This would permit the development of a single-unit dwelling.

The neighbouring properties are mostly zoned mixed-use commercial with a few properties zoned downtown commercial.



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