

# Letters to the editor

*This is an open forum for your opinions and comments.*

MAIL TO: The Shoreline Journal, P.O. Box 41, Bass River, NS, B0M 1B0  
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Dear editor,

In Canada, nearly 50% of children live in a child care desert, meaning in an area where there are more than three children for every available spot in a child care facility.

While the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care system has managed to reduce fees by an average of 50% for

parents, securing a spot for their child remains a significant challenge.

To ensure every child has a child care spot, three major barriers must be addressed: the labour crisis in the sector, the lack of infrastructure and the threat of privatization.

These are three different barriers, but they have one common solution: sufficient

funding from the federal government.

Sufficient funding to recruit and retain staff by offering better working conditions and benefits, including access to a pension plan. Sufficient funding to eliminate child care deserts by opening new public child care centres across the country. And finally, sufficient funding to build a strong and universal child care system, which will keep private companies at bay, because the education of our children is not a commodity!

The 2024 budget is an opportunity for the government to reaffirm its commitment to make the Canada-wide Early

Learning and Child Care system a reality by investing a \$7 billion to resolve the labour crisis in the sector and \$10 billion to expand the early childhood education system.

This investment will enable child care workers to continue doing the work that they are passionate about, it will provide children with an opportunity to learn and thrive in the best possible environment and will give parents a chance to fully contribute to their community and our economy.

That is the virtuous circle of investing in our child care.

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## The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

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### New Tool Means Funding Programs Easier to Find

A new online tool makes it easier for Nova Scotians to apply for provincial grants supporting arts, culture, tourism, sport, recreation, cultural identity and languages.

The new Grant Finder helps individuals, non-profits and businesses find funding programs offered by the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage.

"Nova Scotians have told us that navigating the large number of grant programs can be challenging, particularly for organizations with volunteers working in their spare time," said Allan MacMaster, Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage. "This one-stop entry will help people quickly match their needs with the programs that we have available."

Applicants can quickly find a list of funding programs they may be eligible for by answering a few short questions at: <https://beta.novascotia.ca/find-grants-offered-through-department-communities-culture-tourism-and-heritage>

### Strong Tourism Recovery in 2023

Nova Scotia welcomed 2.2 million visitors in 2023, an increase of 14 per cent compared with the previous year's 1.9 million.

"Nova Scotia has so much to offer visitors, and it is wonderful to see tourism getting back on track and poised for growth," said Allan MacMaster, Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage. "We're working closely with operators and communities to keep the momentum going for 2024 and raise Nova Scotia's profile as a top vacation destination."

Visitation was six per cent below pre-pandemic 2019, due mostly to softer recovery of tourists from Atlantic Canada and the United States, but the number of visitors from Ontario, Western Canada and overseas grew.

Darlene Grant Fiander, President, Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia said, "Tourism is a critical part of our provincial economy with annual revenues over \$3 billion, employing more than 50,000 Nova Scotians. It is encouraging to see tourism recovering after a challenging couple of years, and we know with an integrated and holistic approach to growth there is tremendous opportunity in the years to come."

Accommodation operators reported growth in sales compared with both 2022 and 2019, with three million room nights sold in 2023.

### Continuing Support for Fruit Growers

Grape and other fruit growers still feeling the effects of the extreme cold weather in February 2023 can apply for funding through Phase 2 of the Polar Vortex Industry Recovery Program.

"We knew it would take a number of seasons for farmers to know how much damage was done," said Agriculture Minister Greg Morrow. "During Phase 1 of the program, we were able to help over a hundred farmers. Now we're launching Phase 2 to keep that support going as the spring season starts."

Steve Ells, President, Grape Growers Association of Nova Scotia is quoted as saying, "The polar vortex recovery program has been instrumental in the recovery of our vineyards over the last year. With the announcement of Phase 2 of this program and the support it brings, all our vineyard operators in Nova Scotia can continue to work towards a full recovery."

The previous round of funding helped with increased maintenance costs for recovery of grapes, stone fruit, cranberries and other cold-sensitive crops. Phase 2 includes support for virus testing, plant materials and ongoing crop maintenance.

Marlene Huntley, Executive Director, Horticulture Nova Scotia said, "This industry support by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture is greatly appreciated. The damage from last year's extreme cold event was devastating to a great number of growers, and this funding has been essential to many farms."

The Department is working with industry representatives and Horticulture Nova Scotia, which delivers the program, to meet growers' needs. The long-term impact of the extreme cold event and the sector's recovery needs continue to be assessed.

Polar vortex recovery funding complements business risk management programs such as crop insurance.



In accordance with the Municipal Government Act of the Province of Nova Scotia, PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the following lands & premises shall be **SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION** for taxes, interest, and expenses due at the time of sale to the Town of Truro, unless the taxes, interest and expenses are paid in full.

The public auction will take place in Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, 695 Prince St, Truro Nova Scotia on **Tuesday the 28th day of May 2024**. (Note the date has changed from previous notice) The doors will open at 9.00am and the auction will commence at 10.00am

- Property assessed to Alisha Brooks  
Land 10 Elizabeth St  
Account# 00250155  
Taxes/Interest & expenses: \$1,126.72      Redeemable      Minimum bid: \$500.00
- Property assessed to Paul Layton Byard & Lemeul Richard Valaster Sealey Jr.  
Land 207 Prince St  
Account# 00575224  
Taxes/Interest & expenses: \$1,171.36      Redeemable      Minimum bid: \$1,171.36
- Property assessed to Boakye Holdings Ltd.  
Commercial Property 277 Lower Truro Rd  
Account# 02241323  
Taxes/Interest & expenses: \$13,066.34      Redeemable      Minimum bid: \$13,066.34
- Property assessed to Paul, Nikole Leigh & Carl James MacDonald  
Residential Property 327 Brunswick St  
Account# 02818485  
Taxes/Interest & expenses: \$7,432.23      Redeemable      Minimum bid: \$7,432.33
- Property assessed to Donald Geldart  
Residential Property 106 James St  
Account# 02866684  
Taxes/Interest & expenses: \$4,874.73      Redeemable      Minimum bid: \$4,874.73
- Property assessed to Fadi Bitar & Bill Wood  
Land 1 Hayward Crt  
Account# 05193133  
Taxes/Interest & expenses: \$1,398.50      Redeemable      Minimum bid: \$1,398.50
- Property assessed to Elizabeth Ann Nelson  
Land Prince St  
Account# 03715868  
Taxes/Interest & expenses: \$3,775.53      Redeemable      Minimum bid: \$200.00

A full description of each property will be available at the Finance Dept., First Floor, 695 Prince St, Truro, Nova Scotia or by email: [erenaux@truro.ca](mailto:erenaux@truro.ca)

These balances are current as of April 19, 2024, and are subject to change.

HST is applicable to Land and Commercial Property Sales.

Terms: Payment in full at the time of tax sale in the form of cash, debit, certified cheque, money order, bank draft or lawyer trust cheque or deposit **equal to taxes/interest & expenses** with remaining balance to follow within 3 business days.

Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024

Michael Dolter MBA, CPA, CMA Chief Administrative Officer