

# Food Safety Program to Help Local Producers Expand

The Province is investing in a new Local Supplier Food Safety Support Pilot Program to help food producers meet food safety requirements they need to get more of their products to local and global markets.

The departments of Growth and Development and Agriculture have partnered with Perennia Food and Agriculture Corp. on the two-year pilot program for Nova Scotia food and beverage producers. The program will help with costs related to food safety standards such as training, assessment, program development, audit fees and facility upgrades.

The support will help more local producers meet provincial and federal food safety standards that can be a barrier to growing their business.

"We are Nova Scotia Loyal, and now more than ever, we need to find solutions to make it easier for our local producers to meet safety requirements to grow their business to larger retailers and distributors locally, nationally and internationally," said Growth and Development Minister Colton LeBlanc. "Local producers asked us for help to make sure they are meeting all food safety



requirements for larger retailers and distributors. Our government is stepping up with these supports so local producers can increase the demand and availability for their incredible local products while also removing barriers to interprovincial trade."

The Local Supplier

Food Safety Support Pilot Program will help food and beverage producers successfully achieve and maintain food safety requirements for retailers, food service companies and institutions or adjust their food safety program to meet emerging food safety requirements or new markets.

Perennia Food and Agriculture Corp. is a provincial development agency with a mission to support growth, transformation and economic development in Nova Scotia's agriculture, seafood and food and beverage sectors. Perennia will administer the Local Supplier Food Safety Support Pilot Pro-

gram on behalf of the Province at a total estimated cost of \$1.5 million over two years. In 2019, federal Safe Food for Canadians Regulations came into force to strengthen food safety rules for food businesses, including licensing, preventive controls and traceability

The program will cover 100 per cent of eligible training costs, and 70 per cent of other eligible food safety costs, up to \$20,000 per company. Producers can apply for the program at: <https://www.perennia.ca/supplierfoodsafety/>

## Quarry Expansions Support Growth, Opportunity

Municipal Enterprises Ltd.'s and Will-Kare Paving are two Colchester County quarries expanding to support the province's growth. The quarries in McCallum Settlement and New Annan, as well as others in Nova Scotia, provide stone, gravel and other materials that are essential for building roads and highways, clean energy projects, housing and other infrastructure projects.

The expansions at both locations have environmental assessment approvals that include strong terms and conditions to protect the environment and human health.

The two quarry approvals reflect the government's ongoing work to streamline approvals and provide greater regulatory clarity for companies by removing terms and conditions if they are repeated in other approvals or if they already exist in regulations that companies must comply with to protect the environment

and human health.

For example, environmental assessment approvals previously required an industrial approval, which is already required under other regulations for certain projects. Environmental assessment approvals also previously required a sediment and erosion control plan, already a requirement of industrial approvals for pits and quarries.

The Department of Public Works uses 2.5 million tonnes of gravel and 750,000 tonnes of asphalt, on average per year, to make sure Nova Scotians have safe, modern roads.

Municipal Enterprises Ltd.'s quarry expansion in New Annan received environmental assessment approval on March 6; the approval has 35 terms and conditions. Will-Kare Paving's quarry expansion in McCallum Settlement received environmental assessment approval on March 20; the approval has 33 terms and conditions.

## 714 Permits and \$157-Million in Construction Value



# Colchester be centred here.

The following is an overview of activities in the Community Development Department since November 2024, which was presented by Paul Smith, Director, Community Services at the Colchester Council committee meeting on April 10th.

### INSPECTION SERVICES

#### Building Inspection:

One Building Official has completed his level two certification which permits him to carry out plan examinations, issue permits and carry out field inspections for all buildings regardless of size or use. Another should receive his level 2 certification by the end of 2025 and the Facilities Maintenance Coordinator is taking courses towards his residential qualification with two more courses to complete.

The 2020 National Building Code will be adopted by the Province

on April 1, 2025. Mandatory code change training will be provided for Building Officials in the very near future.

#### Construction Value:

2024 was significant for building activity with a total of 714 Permits and a combined \$157 million in construction value. So far this year, it appears Inspection Services can expect this year to be as busy or busier with this past March being one of the most active ever.

#### Fire Inspection:

One Building Official is enrolled in the fire inspectors' professional studies program and is working towards Level 1 certification to assist the Manager with related duties. Fire inspections are carried out in accordance with the Municipal Fire Inspection Program Policy.

#### Animal Control:

The SPCA continues to carry out animal control services for the County

and has recently hired several new ACO's to assist with by-law enforcement. The SPCA keeps the Municipality updated with monthly reports and is quick to respond to any questions or concerns that may arise.

A new service agreement with the SPCA was approved this past February for a 5-year term.

#### Unsightly Premises:

There are currently 13 Dangerous and Unsightly complaint files open: One order issued by the Appeals Committee to clean up a property; Five orders issued by the Administra-

tor to clean up properties, and Seven orders issued by the Appeals Committee for demolition and clean-up of sites.

#### Facilities Maintenance:

The Coordinator is currently working on several projects: The Debert Aviation Center roof replacement; New flooring in both the Church Street building and the Tatamagouche library; Renovations to the front of the Church Street building to provide better accessibility and Increased security measures at several work sites.

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