

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

Continued from page 6

New Apple Processing Equipment Supports Nova Scotia Growers

New apple slicing and packaging equipment is increasing capacity and helping Nova Scotia growers reach institutional markets like schools, hospitals and care facilities.

With support from the Province, a new apple slicer and processing line is now operating at The Station Food Hub Company in Newport Station, Hants County.

"This new equipment helps open new market opportunities for Nova Scotia growers, particularly within public institutions," said Greg Morrow, Minister of Agriculture. "It shows how government and industry working together can strengthen local businesses while making local food more accessible across our province."

Minister Morrow visited the company April 16, with local apple growers, community partners and students from a nearby elementary school.

The Station Food Hub Company received \$25,000 from the Department of Agriculture's Institutional Supplier Investment Program and \$72,045 from the Institutional Development Expansion and Advancement (IDEA) program to purchase slicing and packaging equipment. This has increased the volume of apples processed from 30 cases per day to as many as 300.

Each case provides about 180 servings, and more cases will enable fresh, local apple slices to be included in the Nova Scotia School Lunch Program and in other institutional settings.

During the event, students from Three Mile Plains District School learned how local foods like apples make their way from Nova Scotian orchards, participated in an agriculture learning session and sampled fresh, local apple slices.

Child Care Now Nova Scotia requesting back pay

Child Care Now Nova Scotia is calling on the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to immediately release long-overdue back pay to Early Childhood Educators (ECEs), while raising serious concerns about a lack of transparency from the provincial government.

ECEs across Nova Scotia have been waiting months for wages they have already earned. Despite public commitments, the province has not clearly communicated when or how these funds will be delivered to child care centres—leaving workers and operators in the dark.

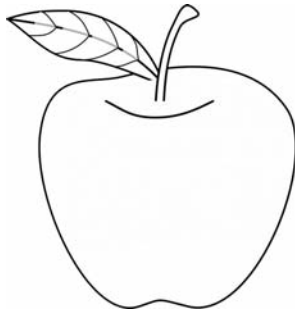
A press release said, "The lack of transparency around these payments is deeply concerning. ECEs and child care operators deserve clear answers. Instead, they're left waiting, with no timeline and no accountability."

These delays come at a time when the sector is already under significant pressure. Child care centres are struggling to recruit and retain staff, and recent provincial budget decisions—including cuts impacting professional development—are making that challenge even more difficult.

Early Childhood Educators are leaving the sector because they feel undervalued and unsupported. Delayed pay and reduced access to professional development only add to that pressure. Recent reporting has revealed that millions of dollars in back pay remains outstanding to ECEs across the province, further underscoring the urgency of immediate action.

Child Care Now Nova Scotia is urging the Minister to: Immediately authorize the release of all outstanding back pay; Provide clear, public timelines for payment distribution and Commit to supporting workforce retention, including reinstating and strengthening professional development opportunities.

continued on page 8



Two Arrested for Sex Trafficking and Financial Crimes

The Nova Scotia Provincial Human Trafficking Unit (HTU) has charged two people with 19 offences related to human trafficking and associated financial crimes during a traffic stop on Highway 102 near Milford. The investigation is ongoing.

In 2023, HTU began a sex trafficking investigation related to multiple victims in Nova Scotia. Over the course of the investigation, officers identified connections to New Brunswick and Ontario.

"Investigators' main priority in any human trafficking investigation is the safety of the victims," says Sgt. Jeff MacFarlane, HTU. "As officers began working with the victims, they connected them with appropriate resources in addition to putting together evidence to

support criminal charges."

As the investigation progressed, financial analysts with the Forensic Accounting Management Group (FAMG) identified over half-a-million dollars in suspected proceeds of crime funneled through casino activities across three provinces.

On April 10, during a traffic stop on Highway 102 near Milford, officers from the HTU, the Nova Scotia Organized Crime section, and East Hants District RCMP safely arrested two people associated to this investigation. The investigation was also supported by the Halifax Regional Police.

Fedul Cain, 49, of Porters Lake, is charged with 13 offences related to human trafficking and financial crimes. Charges include Trafficking in Persons, Material Benefit from

Sexual Services, Withholding or Destroying Documents, and Laundering Proceeds of Crime.

He had a first court appearance at Dartmouth Provincial Court on April 13 and remains in custody pending his next court appearance scheduled for April 20.

Marissa Church, a 43-year-old woman from Chester Basin, was also arrested for offences related to human trafficking and proceeds of crime. She was released by police on conditions pending future court appearances.

"Reducing the harm caused by human trafficking remains a priority for police and communities across Nova Scotia," says Sgt. MacFarlane. "Addressing this issue requires a united effort, and we recognize the strength and courage of the victims who came

forward to support this investigation. Their cooperation helped dismantle a sex trafficking network and protect others from being victimized."

This investigation is ongoing. The Nova Scotia Human Trafficking Unit is comprised of members of the Nova Scotia RCMP and the Halifax Regional Police, and is supported by police officers from across the province. Officers with specialized training in human trafficking and sexual violence can be contacted through the Nova Scotia Human Trafficking Hotline (monitored 24/7 by a police officer): 902-449-2425.

Anonymous calls can also be made by contacting Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS, submitting a secure web tip at www.crimestoppers.ns.ca, or by using the P3 Tips app.

OP-ED

By Al Muir

It was with profound sadness and disappointment that the Moose Conservation Association of Nova Scotia received notification of Nova Scotia Environment Minister Tim Halman's short-sighted acceptance of the Eigg Mountain Wind Project, Environmental Assessment (EA).

As the final judge and jury of the fate of the resident endangered mainland moose population Mr Halman, with his action, assumed the added role of their executioner.

A review of the 499 pages of internal government and public comments regarding the EA accompanying the Minister's decision reveals a litany of objections to the project with a light sprinkling of support. That support is primarily confined to those that will be directly, or indirectly, financial beneficiaries of the project.

Among the most damning revelations are those contained on pages 72-73 of Section 1 of the comments. Those submitted by one of the Minister's own offices, Protected Areas and Ecosystems. Comments include "Available moose -movement data is limited, which may limit the accuracy of modelled or predicted impacts on mainland moose, including in Eigg Mountain - James River Wilderness Area." and "The EA provides limited information on the potential impacts on Eigg Mountain - James River Wilderness Area."

On page 135 of that section an unidentified (EA comment requirement) biologist states "As a biologist, I studied the moose here beginning in 1968. This project lies right in the middle of the last area steadily frequented by mainland moose in the Cape

Moose Conservation Association Upset at Eigg Approval

George region." along with " I mapped their presence in winter aerial surveys in the 1970's and early 80's as the regional biologist" and "Their intact habitat will be eliminated. The moose will be displaced, with no suitable alternative habitat nearby."

Along with these comments several groups outline serious shortcomings of the current EA process around similar projects. A careful review of both the

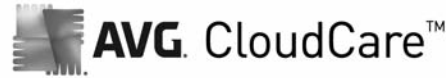
EA and the comments regarding it reveal the Minister objectives are part of the government's overall objectives. That is to erect wind developments regardless of their effects on endangered mainland moose or other serious environmental issues precipitated by them.

The Minister's apparent disregard for the plight of mainland moose on Eigg Mountain is in direct contravention of the gov-

ernment's legislated 2021 Mainland Moose Recovery Plan. For that reason MACANS next course of action will be to consult with other interested groups and individuals to determine the appetite for and resources available for a legal challenge of the Minister's decision.

For more information contact **MACANS President Al Muir at 902-616-4888**

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