

Three Brigades Receive \$60,000 ESP Funding

By Linda Harrington

Deputy Premier, MLA Colchester North Karen Casey visited three Fire Brigades recently to make presentations of \$20,000 in funding from the Emergency Services Provider Fund (ESPF) on behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia.

First responder organizations can apply for funding from the Emergency Services Provider Fund (ESPF) to buy emergency response equipment. The fund provides up to 75% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$20,000. Organizations can only receive funding once every 3 years.

MLA Karen Casey was pleased to announce an additional \$500,000 was added to the original \$1 million Fund this year to enable the approval of every qualifying application that met the criteria. She also noted

the importance of allowing Brigades to choose how to best allocate the funds. "As I look at what each Brigade is purchasing it is clear they all have individual needs," says MLA Casey. "It is important the Brigades can make these decisions and the Province provides the funding."

Great Village & District Fire Brigade is often called out to the 100 series highway for motor vehicle accidents and they were in need of specialized rescue equipment. They will be purchasing a \$12,000 Hydraulic Ram, two \$2,000 Stabilizing Rams and turnout gear.

Five Islands Fire Brigade needed to replace older bunker gear, with four new sets which costs \$2,200 each. They requested ten pairs of Nomex coveralls at \$3,213, a lighter protective gear which will be used in

the heat of summer if called out to fight grass fires. Also, on their list was suction hose (\$678), two portatanks (\$4,255), six VHF radios and batteries (\$3,201). The total cost of \$26,752.45 will see the Brigade cover the remainder \$6,752.45 after receiving \$20,000 in funding.

Debert Fire Brigade received \$19,486.12 towards the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), Water Supply and Suppression Equipment.

All Brigades noted with Covid restrictions in place their normal means of annual fundraising has been cut off, including Bingo, auctions and rentals. The money from the Emergency Services Provider Fund is extremely important at this time.

See also story on page 3.



Deputy Premier, MLA Colchester- North Karen Casey presents members of the Great Village & District Fire Brigade with a cheque for \$20,000 in funding from the Emergency Services Provider Fund (ESPF). The Brigade will use the funding to purchase a Turn-out Gear, a Hydraulic Ram and two Stabilizing Rams. Left to right- Angela McDonnell, Joe Slack, MLA Karen Casey, Larry Kinsmen and Greg Kinsmen. (Harrington Photo)



Deputy Premier, MLA Colchester- North Karen Casey presents members of the Five Islands Fire Brigade with a cheque for \$20,000 in funding from the Emergency Services Provider Fund (ESPF). The Brigade will use the funds to purchase four sets of bunker gear, ten pairs of Nomex coveralls for fighting grass fires, five SCBA masks, suction hose, two porta tanks, six vhf radios. Front Left to Right- Dennis Burke, Evan White, Carissa Atkinson, Maureen Burke, Tim Reid, Gerry Roberts; Back Left to Right- Robert Webb, Kathy Simpson-Giles, Darrel Spence, MLA Karen Casey, Aubrey Eagles, Jeff Eagles, Vergle Lewis. (Harrington Photo)



Members of the Debert Fire Brigade were on hand to accept a cheque totalling \$19,486.12 in funding from the Emergency Services Provider Fund (ESPF) presented by Deputy Premier, MLA Colchester North Karen Casey on behalf of the Province of NS. Left to Right- Brandon Slack, MLA Karen Casey, Shane Slack, and Peter Dellewell. (Harrington Photo)



Five Islands Fire Chief Darrel Spence assists MLA Karen Casey in trying on turnout gear. Deputy Minister Casey learned the complete gear weighs 60lbs and is very hot to wear in warmer weather. The Brigade intends to purchase new sets of Nomex coveralls which are much lighter and will be safer for firefighters when they fight grass fires in the heat of summer. (Harrington Photo)

Investments to Protect Farm Workers

A new agreement between the Government of Canada and Nova Scotia will see Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada invest \$983,500, for a total of \$1,229,375 available funding under the Emergency On-Farm Support Fund.

Applicants are eligible for federal assistance and a provincial top-up, for up to 75 per cent of eligible

project costs, to a maximum of \$50,000. In addition to the Emergency On-Farm Support Fund, there is a range of other programs to support farmers and food producers through these challenging times

Farmers seeking to apply for funding must do so before Dec. 31 by going to <https://novascotia.ca/programs/>



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