

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

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More Access to Counselling Services for Victims of Crime

The Province is supporting victims of crime and their families by providing more funding for counselling services, extending the length of time the service can be accessed and offering more flexibility for those who need extra support. Through the Criminal Injuries Counselling Program, counselling services are available to Nova Scotians who are victims of serious crimes in the province. The amount of funding and, in some cases, the length of time to access care are increasing for victims and families: Survivors of human trafficking will be able to access \$8,235 over three years, up from \$2,000 over two years; Immediate family of a homicide victim can access \$8,235 over three years, up from \$4,000 over two years and a victim of a compensable offence can access \$4,118 over two years, an increase of \$2,118.

The program will now also be available to victims of gender-based violence and hate crimes. Another change to the program is higher pay for counsellors that aligns more closely with industry standards. The increase in rates is expected to help recruit and retain more counsellors, including those who provide culturally appropriate services.

Changes to the program align with the Mass Casualty Commission's recommendations and the Desmond Fatality Inquiry final report.

New Mental Health, Addictions Grant

Applications for the New Investigator in Addictions and Mental Health Grant are now open. This one-time grant will provide up to \$100,000 over two years for early-career researchers who are working on mental health and addiction research that focuses on equity-deserving groups in Nova Scotia. A total of \$500,000 is available.

The deadline for the first step in the application process is November 7. More information and the application are available at: <https://researchns.ca/new-investigator-in-addictions-and-mental-health-grant/> This is the third and final funding stream for the new community wellness framework. Two others announced this year involve one-time mental health and addictions projects and multi-year funding to community-based organizations. The framework is supported by a \$6.7-million investment.

This increased investment in research aligns with Action for Health's Solution 6 - Address the factors affecting health and well-being.

Province Extends Yarmouth Ferry

People and businesses will continue to benefit from the ferry connecting Nova Scotia and Maine as the Province extends the service and commits to finding a long-term solution. A progress report on the comprehensive economic impact study released on October 15, shows the service benefits all regions of the province and is not more expensive than comparable services.

The service, between Yarmouth and Bar Harbor, will continue for the 2025 and 2026 sailing seasons. After that, the Province will require new agreements for the vessel, operator and United States terminal operator. The economic impact study by 21 FSP, which began in September 2023, will continue to collect and analyze data this fall. The final report is expected in the spring of 2025.

Physician Retirement Fund Initiative

The government will provide a new retirement benefit to doctors as part of ongoing efforts to expand recruitment and retention initiatives in Nova Scotia. The support is through annual contributions that doctors put toward their retirement savings. The Province's contributions will be based on doctors' years of service, full- or part-time status, and the amount they contribute to their preferred retirement savings option.

The retirement benefit is available to all full- and part-time doctors who are licensed to work in Nova Scotia and provide direct patient care or clinical services such as specialists in radiology and pathology. The amounts doctors can receive based on their years of service, as of December 31, are as follows: five or fewer years of service - \$5,000 annually; no savings contribution by the doctor is required; five to 15 years - up to \$10,000 annually and more than 15 years - up to \$15,000 annually.

The Province's contribution is based on full-time equivalency. Doctors who work part-time will have their hours prorated and contribution matched based on their full-time equivalency.

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2024 Colchester Mayoral Results		Christine* Blair	Geoff Stewart
Telephone & E-voting		4517	4389
District 1			
1A		148	41
1B		13	8
Total District 1		161	49
District 2			
2A, 2B, 2C		51	53
2D, 2E		11	43
Total District 2		62	96
District 3			
3A, 3B, 3C		40	178
3D		2	3
Total District 3		42	181
District 4			
4A, 4B		47	108
4C, 4D		47	49
Total District 4		94	157
District 5			
5A		113	57
Total District 5		113	57
District 6			
6A		104	62
Total District 6		104	62
District 7			
7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E		67	90
7F		9	5
Total District 7		76	95
District 8			
8A, 8B, 8C		92	63
8D		7	3
Total District 8		99	66
District 9			
9A, 9B, 9C		167	95
9D		7	1
Total District 9		174	96
District 10			
10A, 10B, 10C		91	53
10D, 10E		80	51
10F		19	15
Total District 10		190	119
District 11			
11A		152	73
Total District 11		152	73
Total Mayor		5784	5440

Total Number of Polls Reporting: 21 of 21

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