



Provincial Health and Wellness Minister Michelle Thompson, right, speaks with members of the Parrsboro Shore Healthcare Improvement Committee demonstrating against the continued closure of the local emergency room Tuesday, September 21. (Contributed photo)

## Health Minister Responds to Demonstrators

Submitted by Bruce Lantz

A September 21 demonstration over the continued closure of a local emergency room turned into a meeting of the minds with provincial Health Minister Michelle Thompson.

The Parrsboro Shore Healthcare Improvement Committee had organized a demonstration outside the South Cumberland Care Centre calling for the reopening of the emergency room, which has been closed for 18 months, forcing those from Five Islands to Advocate needing emergency medical care to travel to Amherst or Truro or call an ambulance to take them there.

"When we became aware that the ministry was sending a team to rural Nova Scotia that would be in Parrsboro to speak with our healthcare professionals, we decided to stage a small demonstration to ensure that officials were aware of the public concerns around this issue," said committee spokesman Bruce Lantz.

"The lack of an emergency room has been jeopardizing the lives of our residents for far too long and we want to encourage government to

take steps to get it open again."

The committee has submitted an 831-name petition to government calling for reopening of the Parrsboro emergency room, which sits idle despite still containing all its equipment. The previous government has blamed a lack of doctors and other medical personnel for the closure, but Lantz said it's time for the NS Health Authority to "think outside the box" for ways to alleviate that shortage. He said the best way for that to happen is with the combined efforts of government, medical professionals and the public.

Bolstered by honking horns and cheers from vehicles passing by Tuesday afternoon, the demonstrators waited until Thompson's group emerged from the Care Centre and then were pleased to see the minister cross the street to speak with them.

"She spent considerable time with us and was obviously interested in what we had to say," Lantz said. "We aren't just complaining about the ER being closed; we want to work with her team to develop solutions to Nova Scotia's healthcare crisis. We are

hopeful this communication will continue."

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## Amethyst Boutique's New Location

Amethyst Boutique's grand opening at their new location was held on September 10th from 2-9pm. Their new location at 63 Tacoma Drive, Dartmouth featured new minerals, gemstones, polished items and much more.



## Mi'kmaq Stories: Past & Present on Saturday, October 2

Ship's Company Theatre presents the world-premiere of the Halifax Theatre for Young People production - Mi'kmaq Stories: Past & Present on Saturday, October 2 at 2PM AST. This special offering, which is being performed in Parrsboro/Awokun at Ship's Company Theatre, will be simultaneously live, in front of an audience and available to livestream audiences! Tickets for the presentation are Pay-What-You-Can and can be purchased at [www.shipscompanytheatre.com/mikmaq-stories](http://www.shipscompanytheatre.com/mikmaq-stories) by clicking the "Buy Tickets" button, in person at The Ship (18 Lower Main Street, Parrsboro NS) or by giving us a call at 1-800-565-SHOW.

Created by Mi'kmaq artists including film-maker Catherine Anne Martin, storyteller shalan joudry, and drummer/dancer/film-maker Trevor Gould, with design by artist Jordan Bennett, Mi'kmaq Stories: Past and Present weaves stories from the past with glimpses into current realities and dreams for the future. Co-directed by Tessa Mendel

and Trevor Gould, this blend of Indigenous voices and stories will be a truly unique experience for all ages.

Artistic Director, Richie Wilcox says "I'm so glad we could team up with Halifax Theatre for Young People to premiere this piece at the beginning of Mi'kmaq History month. The group of artists Tessa Mendel has gathered to collaborate on this is fantastic and I feel honoured to host this piece at our theatre

The hour-long production will also be live streamed across Mi'kma'ki at 1:30 PM on October 1st to schools as a performance to watch for Treaty Day.

Ship's Company Theatre would like to thank the Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage, Arts Nova Scotia, the Municipality of Cumberland County, Music Nova Scotia, the Playwrights Guild of Canada and the Town of Parrsboro for their continued support. Thank you also to our season sponsors RBC, O'Regans, Archway Insurance and Masstown Market.



## Public Awareness Lacking for Years

Public awareness and education about the forestry sector has been lacking for years. Unless directly involved in the industry, many people do not understand what the term silviculture means and continue to look at the forestry sector with a negative lens. The Cumberland Business Connector has been part of these community sessions and the CFAC since the closure of Northern Pulp was announced.

The Connector saw the need to educate residents of Cumberland County on our forestry industry, which led to the development of a new video. A huge thank you goes out to Nova Social Media and Marketing for producing the video, C.E Harrison & Sons for showcasing their operations, and Mac Davis for underlining the science behind harvesting and sustainable management of woodlands.

Deadline for the November issue of *South Cumberland NEWS* is Oct 19

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## Cumberland Council Committee Declares 3 Properties Surplus

Committee of the Whole (COW) met via zoom on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 and declared three properties surplus. The meeting opened with a territorial acknowledgement.

A moment of silence was held to recognize the tragic loss of a young family in the municipality over the last weekend. Flags at municipal buildings will be at half mast to honour their memory.

Council received a presentation from Athol Forestry Cooperative Ltd. entitled Forestry in Cumberland County and Tomorrow's Opportunity.

Reports were provided from the department of human resources and community facilities, the department of engineering and operations, and also the finance department.

Council directed staff to compile information regarding how other municipalities deal with fireworks as it pertains to noise infractions.

Three properties were declared surplus: 53 Junction Rd., 242 McGee St., and 123 Church St. The first two properties will be listed at fair market value through a tender process. The Church Street prop-

erty is too small for development and will be offered to the abutting landowners for the cost of migration and legal fees incurred by the sale.

The next committee of the whole meeting will be held October 20, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. Formal minutes of the September 15 meeting are available at <https://cumberlandcounty.ns.ca/2021-council-minutes.html>

A Facebook live recording is available on the municipal Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Municipality-of-Cumberland>

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