



Speaker, Deputy Speakers Chosen

Members of the Nova Scotia legislative assembly elected Keith Bain as Speaker of the House of Assembly during a special sitting on September 24. Mr. Bain was first elected to the House of Assembly as MLA for Victoria-The Lakes in 2006 and re-elected in 2009, 2017 and 2021. He also served as deputy Speaker during the last general assembly.

The house also appointed Angela Simmonds, MLA for Preston, and Lisa Lachance, MLA for Halifax Citadel-Sable Island, as deputy Speakers. Both were first elected in 2021.

The Speaker presides over the legislative as-

sembly, maintaining order and regulating debate in accordance with House rules and practices. The Speaker decides questions of order, rules on questions, ensures that all viewpoints are heard, protects the rights of all members and casts the deciding vote in the event of a tie.

The First Session of Houston's new government comprising the Sixty-third General Assembly House will resume on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 1:00 pm when the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia will read the speech from the throne.



Municipalities to Receive Additional \$32-Million

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sive, and municipalities and towns have told us they need more help from the province. We promised to double this payment to municipalities while we negotiate the memorandum of understanding, and

we are keeping our promise," said John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "I will work with municipalities across the province to ensure all of our programs are meeting the needs of our communities and our residents."

Mass Casualty Commission

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during these open houses and the structure at each venue will be the same.

The open houses are an opportunity for Commission team members to meet with community members, answer questions and share information about how we are ap-

proaching our work. We recognize the sensitive nature of the events and thank you in advance for being respectful of all involved.

If you have any questions or are interested in attending, please email media@masscasualtycommission.ca.

Chamber to Present 2021 Small Business Week Awards

By Sherry Martell

Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce is gearing up to celebrate the many outstanding businesses in this region in October with business-focused activities and award presentations. "Despite the ongoing challenges of working through a pandemic many businesses in our region are growing and thriving," said Chamber Executive Director Sherry Martell. "We have also witnessed a number of new businesses open during the past year demonstrating that the entrepreneurial spirit here is alive and well."

While celebrating Small Business Week is a tradition for the Chamber, the organization didn't host its usual awards program in 2020 due to pandemic gathering restrictions opting for a virtual production showcase of business stories. The Chamber is excited to bring back the awards this year, along with planning for an in-person luncheon, which will follow current Public Health protocols.

The Chamber is now accepting nominations for the following small business awards: New Small Business of the Year, Small Business Achievement, Export Achievement Award, Small Business Innovation, Excellence in Community Development Award, Agriculture/Agri Small Business Award, and Small Business Growth Award.

Along with these awards, the Chamber will also present its Fourth Annual Rising Star Start-Up Award - Investing in Entrepreneurs, provided in partnership with several of its members. The award is valued at more than \$5,000 including a combination of cash, expertise in key business development areas and products and services.

"This award is an example of how chamber of commerce members are investing in the local economy by supporting a start-up with mentorship and advice as well as seed funding to take their venture to another level," said Martell.

The award is designed to offer support to a budding local entrepreneur. Professional mentorship offered as part of the award is key in helping a new business build a strong foundation for success in the future.



A viable start-up located within Truro and Colchester region, a business that is just beginning to develop, will be identified through a submission selection process. The award recipient will receive a one-time \$2,500 cash prize as well as in-kind supports, products and services, from our partnering businesses.

The Chamber is now welcoming submissions for its awards. Details and criteria can be found on the Chamber's website www.truro-colchesterchamber.com. Nominations for the Small Business Week Awards will be accepted by the Chamber until October 8, 2021.

The Awards Luncheon will take place on October 21, at noon at the Inn on Prince. The cost per person is \$30 plus HST for members and \$40 plus HST for non-members.

The Chamber will also be hosting a Women in Business Breakfast on October 20th at the Inn on Prince. There will only be 50 seats available so please book early to avoid disappointment. This year's special guest speaker will be Cynthia Kennedy, founder of Axe to Grind foods and national champion axe thrower. To book your seat visit www.trurocolchesterchamber.com and visit the events calendar.

Chamber events are open to members and future members. Join them in supporting the local business community. For more information about Chamber activities and events, visit www.trurocolchesterchamber.com or Truro Colchester Chamber Facebook page.

The Chamber continues to be a partner with Department of Health and Wellness to get Workplace Rapid tests into the hands of local businesses. This program is offered free of charge to any business in Nova Scotia that would like to

routinely test their staff for COVID-19 to identify and isolate cases early. As cases in the province begin to increase moving into a fourth wave, this program is a line of defense business can use to boost consumer confidence when they visit your location and provide comfort to your staff that they are not carrying or spreading the illness to co-workers or their families. For more information call the chamber at 902-895-6328 or email oa@tcchamber.ca

Another program the Chamber is offering is assistance for businesses who would like to develop a Workplace Wellness Program. With support from the Truro Community Health Board Wellness grant, the Chamber has prepared a kit for business that includes a template for a plan,

suggested activities to promote staff wellness and a basket of incentives. The program is offered free of charge to businesses in the Truro area. Email ec@tcchamber.ca for more details.

During the past year, the Chamber has assisted dozens of local businesses with improving their online presence, social media marketing and connected them to support to grow their online markets. Any business that would like a free sticker to place at their location to show customers that they are also selling online is invited to stop by the Chamber office at 105B Walker Street to pick one up or email ec@tcchamber.ca

Sherry Martell is Executive Director, Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce and can be reached at 902-895-6328



NOVA SCOTIA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

2021 NS Human Rights Awards

The Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission is seeking nominations for the 2021 Nova Scotia Human Rights Awards. People and groups who are committed to advancing human rights in the province can be nominated until November 10.

Nominations are being sought in the categories of youth, individual and group/organization. Consideration for a commemorative award named for the late Burn-

ley Allan (Rocky) Jones may be requested by people nominating a candidate in the individual category.

The 2021 Nova Scotia Human Rights Awards will be presented in Halifax on Dec. 10, the United Nations International Human Rights Day. To learn more about the awards and submit a nomination visit the commission's website: <https://humanrights.novascotia.ca/>



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