

# The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

## Increased Funding for Community Grants, Applications Now Open

The Province is providing additional funding to support projects that aim to address systemic hate, inequity and racism. This year, a total of \$400,000 will be available through the Office of Equity and Anti-Racism's (OEA) Community Network Grant program, up from \$289,000.

To be eligible, registered non-profit and charitable organizations and their projects must have a primary mandate and objectives related to equity and anti-racism such as: reducing or removing barriers in education, healthcare, the justice system, public services, employment or public life; promoting public awareness about the importance of fairness and justice and actively opposing hate, inequity and racism; promoting cultural and intercultural community building and economic development for underrepresented and underserved groups; responding to and reducing gender-based violence; offering training and capacity-building programs that support those interested in advancing equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives and promoting and increasing the availability and accessibility of data, evidence and community insights on equity and race-related issues.

Grants of up to \$40,000 per project are available, an increase from \$25,000. The deadline for applications is October 31.

## Changes to Rent Cap, Residential Tenancies Act

The Province is making changes to the Interim Residential Rental Increase Cap Act and the Residential Tenancies Act to help tenants and landlords address the challenges in today's housing market. The rent cap will be extended to December 31, 2027; it would otherwise expire on December 31, 2025.

Changes to the Residential Tenancies Act will shorten rental arrears eviction timelines to align Nova Scotia with other Canadian provinces, allowing landlords to begin the eviction process after three full days of lapsed rental payment. Tenants would then have 10 calendar days to pay their rent or dispute the eviction notice. Nova Scotia currently has the longest eviction timelines in the country, with landlords required to wait 15 days after rent is late to file an eviction notice and tenants given another 15 days to pay their rent in full or dispute the eviction notice.

Other amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act include: new, clearer conditions for when landlords can end a tenancy, such as criminal behaviour, disturbing another tenant or the landlord, repeated late rent payments, or extraordinary damage to the unit; prohibiting tenants from subletting their unit for more rent than they are currently paying for it; permitting the Province to publish all or part of the residential tenancies director's orders issued after a hearing; new requirements for landlords to provide email addresses if their tenants also provide them and establishing a common anniversary date for land-lease communities for changing or implementing rules, and posting rules in an area that is accessible by all community tenants.

The rent cap is set at five per cent per year. A land-lease community is one in which residents own their own home but lease the lot it is placed on, such as a mobile home park.

## Changes to Honour More Nova Scotia Veterans

Nova Scotians who have played a role in making Canada and the world a safer place to live will be able to obtain a veteran's specialty licence plate in honour of their contributions sooner. The Province is removing the minimum length-of-service requirement to apply for the plate, which is available to past and current members of the armed forces, RCMP and others. Previously, members must have served at least three years.

The Province worked with the Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command of the Royal Canadian Legion on eligibility changes, including removing the requirement for members of wartime allies' armed forces to have served in a theatre of war.

Under the updated definition, a veteran is considered to be any person who is serving, or who has honourably served, in the Canadian Armed Forces, the armed forces of another Commonwealth country or its wartime allies, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Merchant Navy or Ferry Command during wartime, or as a peace officer on a special duty operation.

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## County Council Election Coverage

Presented by **The Shoreline Journal**

My name is Geoff Stewart and I am running for Mayor of Colchester County. I am a small business owner from Brookfield and have served on Council since 2012, and Deputy Mayor for the past 6 years.

I have served as President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities and currently serve as President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. My peers across this Province and Nation have given me their confidence to lead the Municipal agenda. I have built relationships with both Provincial and Federal leaders which can only help Colchester.

People are struggling to make ends meet, we must take a serious look at the taxes residents pay, our policing and the aging in-

frastructure in this Municipality. Council should be open and transparent, our meetings should be live streamed to those who wish to join. Colchester should be working in partnership with our neighboring Municipalities, more shared services, bulk purchasing, working as one for the residents.



**Geoff Stewart**

Colchester is growing, and with the right leadership and a strong team, there are opportunities. Opportunities for more jobs, building our infrastructure and affordability for families here at home. I ask for your support!!

"Lets get to Work!"

**Geoff Stewart, mayoralty candidate for municipal election County of Colchester, gs4mayor@gmail.com**

## News from our Federal Capital - Dr. Stephen Ellis

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covered a range of topics including healthcare, high-speed Internet, and the concerning lack of response from the government regarding a plan to remediate the gravel bar in Advocate Harbour. I'm committed to continuing to push for an answer on this matter.

September has been a busy month, already. I visited Cambridge, Milton, Brampton, and Durham to engage with stakeholders who are crucial to my role as the Shadow Minister of Health. It's vital to hear from people across different provinces as we refine our healthcare policy in preparation for the next election. These conversations are invaluable in shaping a plan that truly meets the needs of Canadians.

Now that I'm back in Ottawa, I want to ensure that I'm focusing on the issues that matter most to you. By now, you should have received a pamphlet in your mailbox seeking your feedback. I encourage you to fill out the survey enclosed. Your input helps me stay on track and ensures that I am effectively serving your best interests.

Our work on The Standing Committee on Health (HESA) will continue with the opioid study - which has increasingly been sharing alarming testimony about the ever-increasing drug overdose crisis in Canada. We need to end the safe supply experiment and start helping those who suffer from addiction. Recovery is possible through rehabilitation clinics that a Conservative government will establish soon after we are elected.

We will also finalize studies on Children's Health, Women's Health and Breast Cancer. The work we do in these committees are not taken lightly and I believe that this work will help drive and shape productive policy moving forward.

Thank you once again for your continued support and engagement. I look forward to working together to address the challenges we face and to drive positive change for our communities.

**Dr Stephen Ellis is MP for Cumberland Colchester. He can be reached at: 902-895-2863, or E-mail: stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca**

## News from our Provincial Council - Tim Houston

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portance. Projects like the Champlain Bridge in Montreal, where the federal government assumed one hundred per cent of the \$4.2 billion cost. Nova Scotians have a right to expect the same treatment as other jurisdictions.

By forcing Nova Scotia to turn to the courts, the federal government is merely delaying the inevitable. This inaction puts Nova Scotians at risk. We are not waiting for the federal government to take action.

As additional protection against the federal government positioning, we applied to the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund. This application remains open but it will only fund 50 per cent of the cost. This means all funds from this program will have to be allocated towards the Isthmus and are not available to complete other much-needed projects.

I recently wrote to the federal Nova Scotia Liberal caucus and asked them to reconsider their position and take responsibility for this piece of federal infrastructure.

We are counting on them to put the Province before party, but we won't hold our breath. In the meantime, we are taking action and doing the work on behalf of Nova Scotians.

## Statement on Asylum Seekers

The federal government wants to send nearly 6,000 asylum seekers to Nova Scotia. This is simply unacceptable.

Nova Scotia does not have the capacity to accept thousands of asylum seekers. We cannot let the failure of federal policies derail our plan for strategic population growth. We have communicated to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's cabinet that any attempt to ship asylum seekers to Nova Scotia will be challenged.

My immigration minister will maintain open lines of communication with the federal government, but my position is firm - we are calling on the Trudeau government to drop the idea, listen to Nova Scotians and let us focus on our strategic and sustainable plan that is attracting the professionals, like doctors and nurses, our province needs.

We have a plan to strategically grow our population from immigration, migration and retention. Our immigration growth is strategic - focused on filling shortages in healthcare and trades. We must stick to this focused plan, aimed to fill strategic vacancies, and we ask that the federal government respect our plan.

Nova Scotians are caring, compassionate people, but we will not be taken advantage of by the federal government.

**Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia can be reached at: premier@novascotia.ca or 902-424-6600.**

## Remembrance Day Service

Remembrance Day Service will be held at Veterans Memorial Park, Bass River, NS on Monday, November 11, 2024.

The service starts at 10:45 a.m. Reception to follow at Victoria Hall. All are welcome!

To order a natural bough wreath, in memory of, or in honour of, contact Heather Robinson at (902) 647-2478.

Cost for wreath is \$25.00.

Deadline for a wreath order is Wednesday, November 6.

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### HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday to Friday  
from 9:30am to 5:00pm