771 Free Bags of Compost

Phillip Redden, B.Eng. Director of Solid Waste presented his Director's Report to council committee on August 11th. This section deals with the Compost Facility.

COMPOST FACILITY

Staffing: There have been no compost staffing changes.

Production & Markets: The Annual Spring Compost Giveaway was held on May 2nd through 9th and 257 residents attended and took home 771 free bags of compost. An extra 192 bags of compost were sold to 42 customers, and an extra 33.9 tonnes of bulk material was loaded to 35 residents that week.To date this season a total of 633 bags and over 270 tonnes of bulk compost were sold to residents and commercial contractors and there is still lots of finished compost ready and available for sale in the remainder of the 2026 season.

Projects/Operations: Discussions continue about a pilot project with Paul Arnold from Acadia University, who recently did the training with our staff, looking at the efficiency of the air floor operations, but no start date of final plans ha been set. The wind damaged front trim piece on Compost Tent #2 has been removed by Britespan Atlantic from of Bridgetown, NS. They completed preliminary level 1 inspections on all three (3) tents when they were here to remove the trim and will do a more in-depth inspection and tighten all straps when they come back to install the new end flap. Pricing is being gathered to do a pilot install of a section with bird spikes to deter the birds that are perching and pecking at the tarp material causing holes.

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Employment Supports for Income Assistance Recipients

Nova Scotians receiving income assistance will have access to the same employment services, supports and job opportunities as other job seekers in the province. Starting in September, income assistance recipients who are ready to look for work will be referred to Nova Scotia Works, the Province's public employment service that offers free employment supports in more than 50 communities.

"Moving to a one-door approach means income assistance recipients go to the same places, receive the same supports and have access to the same job opportunities as any other work-ready Nova Scotian," said Susan Corkum-Greek, Minister of Opportunities and Social Development. "When we make services easier to access and reduce stigma, we help more people take the next step toward stability, independence and meaningful employment."

Under the new approach, clients will be connected to the employment supports that best match their needs – people who are work-ready will be referred directly to Nova Scotia Works; those who need more support before looking for a job will access those services through the Department of Opportunities and Social Development's network of community-based service providers.

Employment supports funded by Opportunities and Social Development and delivered by community partners will continue as-is through the end of March 2027. Over the next six months, Department staff will work with service providers, employers and the Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration to design pre-employment supports for Nova Scotians receiving income assistance who are not yet ready to move directly into employment services. This work will focus on helping people build confidence, stability and readiness at a pace that reflects their circumstances.

Nova Scotians receiving income assistance will continue to receive personalized support. Caseworkers will work with clients to ensure people are connected to the right services.

About 1,100 work-ready income assistance recipients are expected to transition to Nova Scotia Works employment services and supports over the course of implementation. Services include one-on-one support from certified career development professionals, skills training and upgrading opportunities, employment and career workshops, and more.

Nova Scotia Works is delivered by 15 organizations. In 2024-25, Nova Scotia Works helped 4,794 people get a job; 3,282 were still employed a year later, a strong retention rate of about 70 per cent. Opportunities and Social Development will continue to provide employment programming for youth at risk and dependents of income assistance recipients

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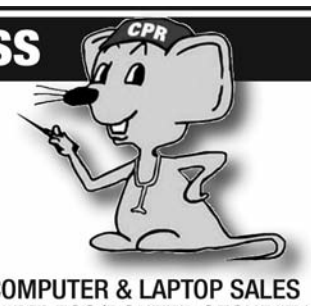

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