



Village of Kingston
655 Main Street PO Box 254
Kingston NS B0P 1R0

ph 902 765-2800
fx 902 765-0807

June 10, 2026

Commissioner W. Fowler
Commissioner M. Bishop
Commissioner N. Larder
Commissioner L. Green
Commissioner M. Travis

Dear Commissioner Members:

Attached for your review is the agenda for the regular Village meeting scheduled to take place on Wednesday, June 10, 2026.



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REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING JUNE 10, 2026

AGENDA

1. Chair / Vice-Chair Appointment
2. Review of Minutes of Meeting held May 13, 2026
3. Business Arising from the Minutes
4. Consent to Agenda Items
5. Departmental Reports
 - i. Wastewater
 - ii. Public Works
 - iii. Recreation
 - iv. Community Programming
6. Committee Reports
 - i. Steer BBQ
 - ii. JAAC - Joint Accessibility Advisory
 - iii. Audit Committee
 - iv. Soldiers Memorial Hospital Foundation
 - v. ANSV - Association of Nova Scotia Villages
7. Clerk's Report
8. Correspondence
9. In-Camera Discussion (if required)
10. Adjournment



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KINGSTON VILLAGE COMMISSION MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING OF MAY 13, 2026

COMMISSION / STAFF:

Wayne Fowler - Chair
Mike Bishop – Vice Chair
Laurie Green
Maggie Travis
Neil Larder

Mike McCleave – Clerk/Treasurer
Paula Ferguson – Administrative Assistant

OPENING

Meeting was called to order at 7:01pm

REVIEW OF MINUTES

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER LARDER AND COMMISSIONER TRAVIS, THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2025. MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

CONSENT TO AGENDA ITEMS

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER TRAVIS AND COMMISSIONER LARDER THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED, MOTION CARRIED.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – See Full Report/PUBLIC WORKS – See Full Report

An update on the Woolly Adelgid was requested, wondering how the trees are doing this year.

Guidelines for charges on sewer calls for residents vs the Village were discussed. Clerk is looking into the by-laws of the County as a starting point.

RECREATION – See Full Report

COMMUNITY PROGRAMMER REPORT– See Full Report

Business Association suggestions- more community involvement and beautification, like the wreath contest for example. The Commission looks forward to the goals the Association makes and seeing what they do.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

2025 Steer BBQ

Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (JAAC)

Audit Committee

Will meet Tuesday May 19, 2026. at 8am

Soldiers Memorial Hospital (SMH) Foundation – Dr. Recruitment Committee

Received a donation from the smile cookie campaign

Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV)

New Director has started, just waiting to meet him.

CLERK REPORT – See Full Report

Meeting on May 21, 2026 at the Municipality about rezoning property on Highway 1 if anyone is interested in attending

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER TRAVIS AND COMMISSIONER BISHOP THAT THERE WILL BE NO INCREASES TO THE 2026/27 RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE AND IT BE SET AT 32.0 CENTS ON RESIDENTIAL AND RESOURCE PROPERTIES, MOTION CARRIED.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER TRAVIS AND COMMISSIONER GREEN THAT THERE WILL BE NO INCREASES TO THE 2026/27 COMMERCIAL TAX RATE AND BE SET AT 41.3 CENTS ON COMMERCIAL PROPERTY, MOTION CARRIED.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER BISHOP AND COMMISSIONER TRAVIS THAT THE PROPOSED 2026/27 OPERATING BUDGET DISSEMINATED AT THE APRIL 8, 2026 COMMISSION MEETING BE ACCEPTED AND APPROVED, MOTION CARRIED.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER LARDER AND COMMISSIONER GREEN THAT INCLUDE ME BE AWARDED \$650 FOR THEIR CELEBRATION OF NEURODIVERSITY EVENT FROM THE FESTIVAL AND COMMUNITY EVENTS FUND, MOTION CARRIED.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER LARDER AND COMMISSIONER BISHOP THAT THE VILLAGE OF KINGSTON COMMISSION AWARD THE PINE RIDGE SIDEWALK CONTRACT TO VALLEY PAVING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$67,466.96+HST TO BE FUNDED WITH THE \$45,000 FROM THE COUNTY VICE PROGRAM AND THE REMAINDER WITH CAPITAL RESERVES, MOTION CARRIED.

BIDS

VALLEY PAVING - \$67,466.96

DEXTERS - \$87,320.00

MID VALLEY - \$174,900.00

No election necessary for 2026, Commissioner Bishop and Commissioner Larder elected by acclamation.

Dan Lundrigan's Retirement

Congratulations on your retirement Danny. Thank you for 39 incredible years with the Village of Kingston. Your hard work, dedication, and the genuine care you put into everything you did never went unnoticed. You took great pride in your work and made a lasting impact on the community and everyone who had the pleasure of working with you. Wishing you all the best in this next chapter- you've truly earned it.

2026 Steer BBQ Golf Tournament

Clerk will speak to Deanna Banks as a representative of the Admirals Hockey Club, to see if they would like to be involved in the Golf tournament.

Fishing in the Duck Pond

The Nova Scotia government has rules for fishing, if those laws are being broken the Department of Fisheries should be contacted.

"No Fishing" signs are not an option as there is no one to enforce it.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON MAY 28TH, 7PM AT THE FIREHALL IN KINGSTON

FINANCE REPORT – See Full Report

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bishop motioned to adjourn at 8:21pm

COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

CLERK/TREASURER



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REPORT TO VILLAGE COMMISSION

From: **Stephen Mosher, Public Works Supervisor**
Date: **June 10th, 2026**
Re: **Environmental Services Report**

Treatment Plant

Broken Aerator Cable

June 1st upon entering the treatment facility it was found that one of our four primary aeration devices (splasher) had broken free of its anchorage and was free floating in the aeration tank. Equipment was shut down and locked out instantly and the aerator recovered and cleaned. Upon inspection it was found that a previous repair of chain had rotted through entirely. Stainless steel wire rope has been adjusted, and the aeration device has been resecured.

During the month of June, we will be removing all the aeration devices for bearing replacement. At this time, we will also be making note of all securement deficiencies.

Easement Clearing

Using the villages bush hog and hand tools, staff have been clearing back growth around village easement lines. This is done every few years to ensure access for village personnel, and equipment. This work also includes limbing and tree removal around the fence line of the treatment facility.

Ongoing Maintenance

On going daily and weekly maintenance includes taking flow readings, washing down clarifier and UV Channel twice per week, cleaning out sludge pumps when needed, coordinating with Loomer's to haul sludge, and sending in monthly effluent samples to BV Labs for analysis.

Spring hydraulic overload cycles present a significant operational challenge to a developing biomass population, as the immature biological community remains more vulnerable to process upset under rapidly fluctuating flow and loading conditions.

Collection System

KN4 Pump Contact

Staff responded to a pump fault alarm at KN4 on Sunday, May 10th. When a reset did not cure the fault, it was decided to pull the pump for inspection the following day. Since we also had a suitable backup pump for this station, we installed it in place. Once the backup was in place we found the same error, indicating the pump was not the fault. Fine inspection of the parts of

the panel showed a pump contact had burned out internally for unknown reasons. A new contact is shipping and inquiries have been sent about the source of the burnout.

Sewer Call 965 Kingston Heights Drive

Saturday June 6th staff responded to a call from 965 Kingston Heights drive due to a homeowner's report of previous backups in her basement caused by the gravity line. Upon inspection it was found that the collection system appeared to be functioning properly with good flow observed.

Gravity Line Flushing

With the improvement in weather, public works staff have been out flushing known bottleneck areas in the collection system to help remove potential buildup of F.O.G/solids etc.

KN15 Extension

After confirming with Xylem about the capacity of our pumps at KN15 to extend the force main, we have completed locates in the proposed area which have come back clean. Staff recently met with DeWolfe and Morse surveyors to come to review the topography and propose a best route.



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REPORT TO VILLAGE COMMISSION

From: **Stephen Mosher, Public Works Supervisor**
Date: **June 10th, 2026**
Re: **Public Works Report**

Ongoing Maintenance and Seasonal

The leaf bins are done for another season, and tear down/clean-up is complete. They were very busy the first 10 or so days, with use petering towards the end.

After a small motor repair, both two fountains have been reinstalled in the duck pond for another season.

The new Steer BBQ banners have been installed around town. They are featured along Maple Street, Main Street (between Sparky and Marshall), and Bridge Street. Public works is prepping the new outdoor in-ground signs for installation closer to the event.

The Duck Pond parking lot and ramp were resurfaced with Class A gravel following deterioration caused by spring thaw conditions. The work was completed to address potholes and improve overall surface conditions.

Staff have continued regular maintenance of the Ravenwood ball fields over the past several weeks, including lining and dragging to maintain playing conditions. The large safety nets separating the two fields were also installed.

Additional work at Ravenwood included reinstalling the community playbox for park users and assessing and clearing vegetation and debris from the disc golf course to improve playability.

The C.C Cleveland Sign that was installed at the day camp ball fields had deteriorated significantly and has been removed.

Following a report of damage to the slide at Forest Brook Park, staff completed repairs to restore the equipment to service. Staff also addressed concerns regarding movement in the blue elephant play structure at the Day Camp park, by confirming current footings, and installing additional bracing to improve stability.

The ground beds and planters have all been filled with annuals for the year, as well the annual flower baskets are in place.

We have weeded and leveled the volleyball courts in preparation for the upcoming season, nets to be installed this week.

Ongoing Tree Maintenance

Branch trimming has been ongoing around town including places like line of sight for cameras, and around the "Welcome to Kingston" planters.

Staff were able to remove a dead apple tree on the edge of the sidewalk in Fireman's Cove with the aid of the boom lift.

Ongoing Fleet Maintenance

Nothing of significance.

Damage and Vandalism

The light standard across from the office has been repaired by Nova Millwrights and has been reinstalled.

Landscape Guru was able to complete the repairs to the damaged planter at Pharmasave on the 5th of June. The work was done to satisfaction and was able to be replanted along with the rest of the beds.

Response to Commission Inquiry: Update of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

The response to the previous years treatment has varied. Very little to no infection can be seen in the smaller diameter trees, whereas infestation continues in the larger diameter trees. This is quite possibly due to the time it takes for full dispersal of product into the tree, especially after a very dry year.

After a recent conversation with forest ecologist Donna Crossland, we are advised to use a modified dose and treat the larger trees again as soon as possible. As there are only a handful of larger trees, we expect this to be done very soon.



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REPORT TO VILLAGE COMMISSION

From: **Elizabeth Wright, Recreation Coordinator**
Date: **June 10, 2026**
Re: **Recreation Report**

Recreation/Other

- Final report completed on June 5, 2026, marking the last day before maternity leave. Checklists and coverage information have been distributed to staff.
- Kingston Greenwood Sports Hall of Fame is progressing well. Finished the write ups and plaque write-ups. Date is still set for October 3rd.
- Informed the IncludeMe society of the grant approval, they received cheque.
- The end-of-year social for the 50+ class was a great success. A highlight is a wonderful good-news story about a new participant who initially relied on a cane when he joined, but through the program has improved so much that he no longer needs it.
- Equipment Loans and Facility booking of the Rec-hut, fields, Ravenwood has been busy this spring.
- Volleyball program with same instructor as last year should start again this year.

Grants

- No word yet from the Kings County Parks Playground and Trails grant, or the Community Recreation Programming Grant.
- Completed the Active Communities Fund grant for new items for Equipment Loans. Including: new helmets for free skates, 2 sledges, more skate helpers, cornhole, stroller skis. No update if approved or not.

Concert Series

- Started promoting for the summer on Facebook and in the Aurora newspaper.

Steer BBQ 2026 – 65th

- 65th anniversary t-shirts have been ordered.
- New signage and banners have been received.
- Facebook posts featuring historical photos continue to receive strong engagement. Posts have also been scheduled to promote various events, including registration for the golf and pickleball tournaments.
- Met with Sara from the Aurora and Amy to finalize plans for this year's BBQ. The spread in the Aurora will feature some new additions, such as the pickleball tournament, along with displays of historical photos from past celebrations.
- Completed the new program and it will be mailed out with colouring contest included. Thanks to Canada Post for continuing to send out bigger program, and to do colouring contest again.
- Completed all the cheque req's that are needed.
- Water bottles are in for Steer BBQ volunteers/ committee members.
- Everything should be lined up to have a great event this year; Amy and Brad will be taking over the meetings.



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REPORT TO VILLAGE COMMISSION

From: **Amy Spurrell**

Date: **June 10, 2026**

Re: **Community Programmer Report**

Apple Blossom Parade

Thank you to Commissioner Travis, Commissioner Green and volunteers who did such a wonderful job representing us at the Annapolis Valley Apple Blossom parade. The theme of the parade was "The Fabric of the Valley", and so to represent the interwoven fibres of volunteers, families, connection, and community support, they proudly displayed the logos of the organizations who assist with the Kingston Steer BBQ - the Village, the Kingston District Fire Department and Auxiliary, the Lions Club, and the Legion. Thank you for all your hard work and for representing our village so well!

Beach Volleyball

Kenzie and I met with Ksenia Sehic on Friday, June 5th. She ran the beach volleyball club last year for teens and is planning to offer that and maybe more programming again this summer. She's also interested in helping Kenzie with some of her activities with Pine Ridge Middle School and adult try-it sessions.

Equity & Anti-Racism Committee

Mary's African Cuisine Food Demonstration was held on Tuesday, May 26th at 6:30pm at Superstore. We had all but four people who registered attend. A couple groups brought extra people, so our numbers worked out to just about 20, which was our maximum. Brenda Theriault-Gallant from the Women's Place Resource Centre came at the beginning of the event to promote their cookbook. We gifted one of the cookbooks to Chef Mary at the end of the session. Mary and participants were all very pleased with the event. Our committee will meet in July to debrief the event and plan for the next one in August or September.

Kingston Farmer's Market

We are happy to support the market again this year by loaning out our shade tents.

Kingston Greenwood Soccer Club

Kenzie and I met with club president, Crista MacNeil, equipment manager, Matt Morrison and Village of Greenwood clerk, Kerry Graham on Thursday, May 28th about the World Cup watch parties. I have since helped facilitate booking of the Kingston Fire Hall and Lion's Club for their events after attempts at holding it outside in the Village of Greenwood fell through. They will borrow our Kingsley costume and popcorn machine for the events. The events are June 12th, 18th and 24th.

REMAX Hot Air Balloon

Commissioner Travis was in contact with Rob Schellenberger of REMAX about hosting the hot air balloon on the evening of July 6 and the morning of July 7. We're looking at the ball field behind the arena. We're still waiting for confirmation and then we will start planning a few activities around the event.

SchoolsPlus

Kenzie and I met with Amanda White on Tuesday, June 2nd to see how we can support SchoolsPlus activities. Amanda is new in the position and getting a feel for what works and what doesn't. We exchanged some potential ideas and will look to work with them more in the future.

Steer BBQ

Grant funding has been secured from the Middleton Rotary.

Summer Day Camp

Our Supervisor, Anna, started on Monday, June 8th. She is already busy planning and booking lots of fun outings and presenters for camp! Counsellors Ava and Kalim will start on June 22nd. Anna will work on a schedule with counsellor Rachel that will accommodate her high school exam schedule. Addison Beardsley will be contacted by Anna to figure out a schedule for her as a junior leader. All camper payments are up to date.

Summer Recreation Facilitator

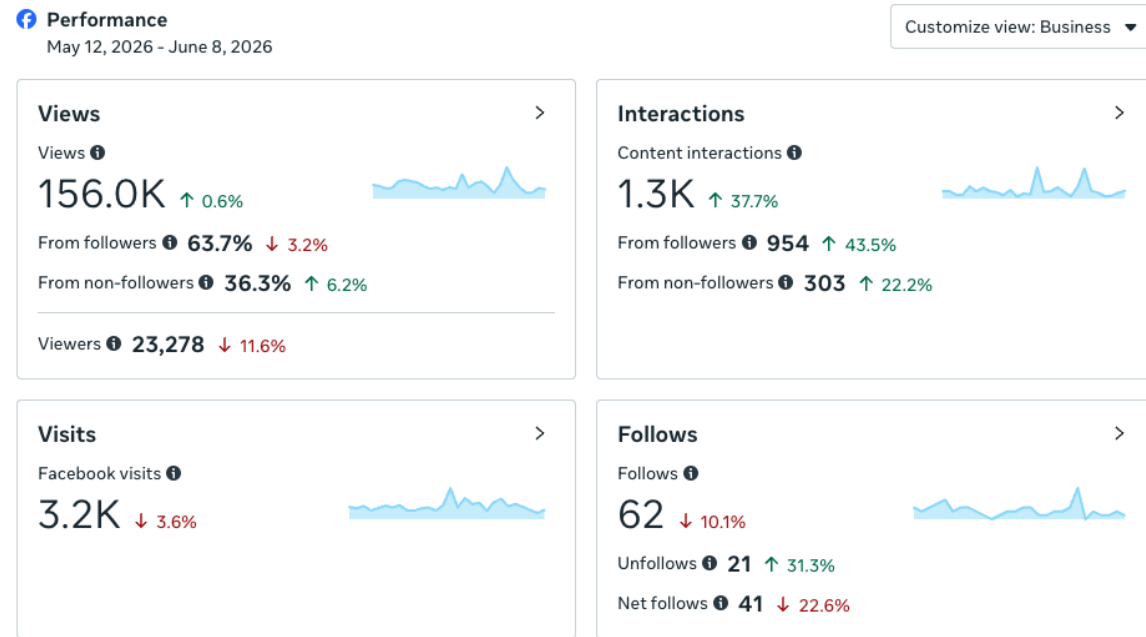
Kenzie started Monday, May 25th and immediately got to work, bringing lots of great programming ideas to the table. She also created a survey to see what the public wants for activities this summer and is now working on some of the most popular asks. Her first event is a Community Plant Swap on Sunday, June 14th in Centennial Park. She has also started our walk group up again as the walk leader.

Kenzie started helping in Kingston & District Elementary School and Pine Ridge Middle School. Communication between us and the schools, and between staff within the schools has been challenging but we are working through those hiccups. Also, since hearing our library may see a reduction in staffing, Kenzie has reached out to them to offer help in July and August with any programming, like their summer reading challenge.

On Wednesday, June 3rd, Kenzie attended an inclusion training session hosted by Valley Recreation. She said it was a great session and noted that it was hosted by an employee of the Town of Kentville who is transgender and was very open to share their firsthand experience with the group.

I am continuing to find schools with students available for co-op terms in the fall and winter.

Overall Facebook Performance for the Month



Best Performing Facebook Post

Overview

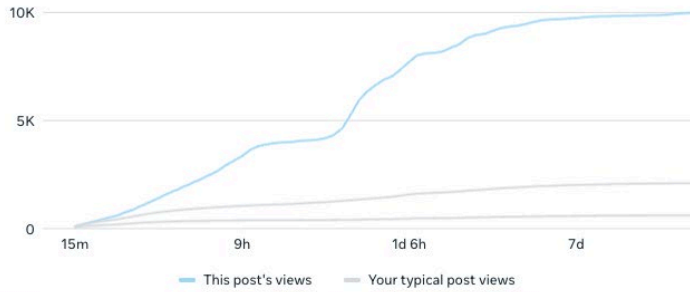
Views ⓘ	Viewers ⓘ	Interactions ⓘ	Link clicks ⓘ	Follows ⓘ
10K	6.2K	77	--	1

↗ This post received more views compared to your recent Facebook posts.

Views ⓘ

10K

Total Audience Age & gender Top countries



↗ This post received more interactions compared to your recent Facebook posts.

Interactions ⓘ

77

Reactions ⓘ	Comments ⓘ	Shares ⓘ	Saves ⓘ
29	2	41	5

Feed preview

 **Village of Kingston, NS**
Published by Kingston Rec · May 16 at 2:00 PM ·

Ravenwood yard Sale will be on June 13th this year! 9am-2pm... [See more](#)



📣 Boost this post to get more reach for Village of Kingston, NS.

Boost

[View post on Facebook](#)



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REPORT TO VILLAGE COMMISSION

From: **Mike McCleave, Clerk/Treasurer**
Date: **May 13, 2026**
Re: **Clerk Report**

Insurance

Our general insurance through Brokerlink for this year was only slightly higher than last year's premiums. It has increased by \$620.13 to \$70,834.68 (0.9% increase).

Request for Barricades – Kingston Fire Department

Kingston Fire Department has requested more barricades for our Steer BBQ parade. PW has suggested that we could build a few each year to build up our inventory. Steve suggested that storage could become an issue depending on the amount of barricades required.

County of Kings – Planning Department

Melissa Chunick – will have a presentation to the Commission at their July Commission meeting (July 8, 2026). This presentation will provide information on the rezoning request from Macall Robinson for 1016 Main Street. Rezoning from R2 to R4.

Irving Parking Lot Planter

Planter has been repaired by the Landscape Guru for \$1,500+HST. The driver's insurance will be reimbursing the costs.

AVRL Library Closure Discussion

Capital Projects:

DNR Greenspace Purchase

DNR is working on list of encroachments - 04-16-2025

Pickleball Acrylic Surfacing Project

Project should be completed this month pending weather conditions (3 days no rain, no night-time temperatures below 10C.)

Kingsley Steer Purchase

Clerk has been advised that the original company cannot fulfill the order due to health reasons. They have recommended another Quebec company but I have not had a response from them (yet).

Embrook Sidewalk

Waiting on NS-DPW response to see if we can be exempt from provincial standards on sidewalk design due to geographical constraints in the area.

Embrook Road Access

Applications have been submitted to purchase road access properties for Embrook development. This development is projected to bring 178 more units to Kingston. Embrook Investments are required to cover all expenditures during this process.

Beaman Bandstand

Village contracted a company to use laser removal of mildew and stain. The laser was not powerful enough to remove the stain which seems to have benefited the Village since the mildew was removed but the stain looks like it does not need to be re-applied.

2026-27 Projects	Budget	Tender w/ HST portion	YTD Actual	Status
Beaman Bandstand Refurbishment	8,000	4,735+	4,155	C
Kingsley Replacement (new steer)	8,000			
Oakhurst Pavilion	25,000			
Rec-Hut updates	30,000			
2017 Truck Replacement	70,000	54,679		C
STP Sludge Blanket Sensor w/Scada	20,000	17,583+		C
STP Digester Pump Upgrade	66,000	50,662+		C
STP Clarifier Parts Replacement	10,000	6,837 USD		C
STP Sludge Pump Venturi System	10,000	6,989+		C
KN15 Forcemain Extension	15,000			
Wastewater Study (County)	50,000			
Sidewalk – Pine Ridge 510m	90,000			T
Pumps & Laterals	25,000			

Year	Multi-Year Projects	Budget	Tender w/ HST portion	YTD Actual	Status
2008	DNR Greenspace Purchase	n/a	n/a	7,691	C
2025	Pickleball Courts	130,000	146,069	74,009	C
2025	Kearne Avenue Streetlights	8,000	5,380		C

T - Tendering Process

C - Work started / Construction

Z – Finished

Y - project deferred or cancelled



Royal Canadian Legion

Alvin H. Foster M.M. Memorial Branch #098

P.O. Box 2, Kingston, NS B0P 1R0

website: www.legion98.com

email: legion98sect@eastlink.ca



Branch: 765-4428

Office: 765-4920

Fax: 765-2479

04 June 2026

Mr. Wayne Fowler
Kingston Village Chairperson
Kingston, NS
B0P 1R0

Dear Mr. Fowler:

The Members of Royal Canadian Legion, Alvin H. Foster M.M. Memorial Branch #098 invite you and a guest to attend the 100th Anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion Centenary Banquet

Our Centenary Banquet will be held on Friday, July 17th. Cocktails at 5:30pm and dinner at 6:00pm.

To enable us to prepare for this function, please reply by July 3rd by calling the Secretary at 765-4920, Monday-Friday, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or via email at the address above.

Smart Casual dress – No jeans or t-shirts

Yours in Comradeship,

Michael Wood
1st V. President
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 098



Branch 098
Kingston





Royal Canadian Legion

Alvin H. Foster M.M. Memorial Branch #098



P.O. Box 2, Kingston, NS B0P 1R0
website: www.kingstonlegion.com
email: legion98sect@eastlink.ca

Branch: 765-4428
Office: 765-4920
Fax: 765-2479

21-May-2026

Chairman Wayne Fowler
Village of Kingston
PO Box 254
Kingston, NS B0P 1R0

Dear Chairman Fowler:

RE: Remembrance Day 2026

The Branch is preparing for Remembrance Day 2026. As in years past, we are requesting from you a letter of support to be forwarded by us to 14 Wing Greenwood Ops for a fly past of 500 feet by 14 Wing Greenwood over Kingston Legion Branch #98, and the Village of Kingston.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned at your convenience.

Yours truly,

Micheal Wood
1st Vice President
Kingston Legion Br.98

CORL – Council of Regional Librarians

June 3, 2026

Honourable Dave Ritcey
Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
1741 Brunswick Street, 3rd Floor
PO Box 456, Station Central, Halifax, NS B3J 2R5

Dear Minister Ritcey,

I am writing to urge the Government of Nova Scotia to take immediate action to address the growing funding crisis facing public libraries across our province.

Nova Scotia's regional libraries are currently facing an estimated funding gap of \$12.78 million. This estimate is based on research completed as part of the department led 2024 Library Funding Review and reflects the impact of inflation over the past two years. Core provincial funding has remained unchanged since 2020, despite years of inflation and steadily rising operational costs. While temporary bridge funding has helped delay the most serious impacts, it has not resolved the underlying issue.

Library regions have worked diligently to manage these pressures responsibly. They have expanded fundraising efforts, coordinated services, shared resources across regions, reduced staffing and service hours, cut programs and collections, postponed maintenance and capital investments, and eliminated expenses wherever possible. These measures have been taken even as libraries across Nova Scotia continue to experience year-over-year growth in visits, circulation, and program attendance.

The strain on library systems is now becoming unsustainable. Reduced staffing levels are contributing to safety concerns, staff burnout, and a diminished capacity to respond to growing community needs. Stagnant wages and limited operational support are also contributing to staff turnover, further reducing the ability of libraries to develop and sustain valuable programs and services.

On June 1, 2026, the Annapolis Valley Regional Library announced that, effective July 20, 2026, it will close five of its eleven branches. Without meaningful provincial investment, other library regions may be forced to make similar decisions within the next one to three years. The consequences of these reductions will extend far beyond library walls and will be felt throughout communities across Nova Scotia.

In difficult times, Nova Scotians rely on public libraries more, not less. Libraries meet people where they are and provide essential services to residents who are often underserved elsewhere. Public libraries provide:

- Seniors with opportunities for social connection and support to remain active and independent within their communities.

- Low-income Nova Scotians with access to computers, internet, printers, and assistance completing taxes, government forms, job applications, and other essential tasks.
- Children and teens with safe after-school spaces, literacy support, and educational programming.
- Newcomers with welcoming community spaces that support integration and belonging.
- Community groups and volunteers with accessible meeting spaces.
- Entrepreneurs and small business owners with places to work, meet, and access information and services.

Every service reduction or branch closure has a ripple effect throughout the community. When a library branch closes, communities often lose one of their last free and inclusive public gathering spaces. In many smaller communities, libraries are the heart of civic life. Their loss deepens social isolation, widens the digital divide, and weakens the social connections that contribute directly to community wellbeing and public safety.

The Mass Casualty Commission's report, *Turning the Tide Together*, emphasizes the importance of strong social infrastructure, trusted local relationships, and connected communities in supporting resilience and public safety. Public libraries are uniquely positioned to help provide exactly these conditions.

For a relatively modest investment, the Government of Nova Scotia can preserve and strengthen a province-wide network that delivers tremendous social and economic value. Public libraries support digital access to government services, workforce readiness, entrepreneurship, newcomer integration, health navigation, mental health, and healthy aging. They also serve as an efficient and trusted distribution network for public programs and services.

This is not simply an investment in libraries. It is an investment in stronger, safer, healthier, and more connected communities across Nova Scotia.

To ensure standards in service delivery across all regions and the long-term sustainability of library services, The Council of Regional Librarians requests an increase to the core provincial operating grant of \$12.78 million, with future funding levels subject to annual indexation to account for inflationary pressures and rising operating costs.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,



Erin Comeau, Chair
Council of Regional Librarians

CC: Premier Tim Houston
Christopher Shore, Deputy Minister, CCTH
Sara Halliday, Associate Deputy Minister, CCTH
Stephanie Smith, Executive Director, Libraries & Museums
Lynn Somers, Director, NSPL
Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities



Emergency Management Office of the Minister

Suite 601-1871 Upper Water Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 1S8 • Telephone 902-424-5620 • Minister.EmergencyManagement@novascotia.ca

May 8, 2026

David Mitchell
President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM)
Suite 1304, 1809 Barrington Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3K8
Via email: david.mitchell@bridgewater.ca

Dear David Mitchell and NSFM Members:

Recently, my team had the pleasure of connecting with many of you at the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) Spring Conference in Yarmouth (April 29- May 1). We deeply value the diverse perspectives of our municipal partners and have been listening intently to your feedback and questions. This ongoing dialogue will continue to help shape how we will strengthen fire services, together.

On May 2, 2026, my colleague, Minister John A. MacDonald, sent a letter to Mayor David Mitchell, President of the NSFM. This letter provides notice of any provincial legislation, regulation, or administrative actions that could have the effect of decreasing revenues or increasing the required expenditures of municipalities. This letter provides advance notice of these changes for the **fiscal year 2027-2028** and beyond.

With the introduction of the *Act to Provide Support for Fire Protection Services*, the Department is providing one-year notice that all municipalities – whether they oversee fire services or not – will be required to:

- conduct a fire protection service review to ensure municipalities and fire service providers make evidence-based decisions about the services they provide to their community,
- ensure that local firefighter competencies, training, and personal protective equipment meet the service standard required by the fire protection service review, and
- participate in a common records management system.

These requirements **will not take effect this fiscal year** (2026-2027). Over the next three years, my team will be working closely with our municipal and fire service partners to support the design and completion of fire service reviews beginning in 2027-2028 and to develop regulations and standards.

To establish the groundwork for fire service reviews our first steps – to be completed this year - will be to design and roll-out an online risk-based assessment tool to gather information and facilitate decision-making about fire protection service levels that are aligned with recommended training and assets requirements.



Emergency Management Office of the Minister

Suite 601-1871 Upper Water Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 1S8 • Telephone 902-424-5620 • Minister.EmergencyManagement@novascotia.ca

This tool will be provided free of charge to all municipalities and fire service providers in Nova Scotia. Training and support to use the tool will be provided by DEM.

To clarify, the tool and the fire protection service review are not separate requirements. At this time, the Province does not anticipate any significant expense to be accrued by municipalities as result of using the tool to inform fire service reviews which will be required in the next fiscal year.

In addition to standing up the new Office of the Fire Commissioner, this year's focus builds on the Province's ongoing commitment to strengthen the fire service sector through:

- access to specialized firefighter training and the certification process,
- education/training for municipal elected officials,
- procurement support,
- mutual aid and service agreement templates,
- design and roll-out of the online risk-based assessment tool, and
- the new Fire Records Management System.

Meaningful change requires planning and collaboration. That is why your continued input is essential. We look forward to continuing to work with you to create a better model for fire services in Nova Scotia. Please reach out to firemodernization@novascotia.ca if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Honourable Kim Masland

Minister of the Department of Emergency Management

- c. Honourable Minister John. A MacDonald, Department of Municipal Affairs
Executive Deputy Minister, Paul LaFleche, Department of Municipal Affairs
Associate Deputy Minister, Valerie Pottie Bunge, Department of Municipal Affairs
Juanita Spencer, CEO, NSFM
Victoria Brooks, Chair, Association of Municipal Administrators (AMANS)
Jeff Sunderland, Executive Director, AMANS

Dear vendor of Annapolis Valley Regional Centre for Education (AVRCE):

Privacy breach potentially involving your personal or business information

We are writing to let you know that your personal or business information, held by the Government of Nova Scotia, may have been impacted as the result of a global cybersecurity breach affecting the software used by one of our IT support systems.

The investigation is ongoing, and we have not been able to determine whether the data was accessed or stolen, or only corrupted. Because of this, we are treating this as if it was stolen.

We are working hard to notify everyone whose personal information was accessible at the time of the breach. You may receive more than one letter like this from us if you are a vendor who has done business with multiple Regional Centres for Education (RCEs) or the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP); please know it is all part of the same breach.

The breach

On May 8, 2026, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development was informed by Easy on Net, an IT service provider, that a government IT ticketing tool may have been affected by a cyberattack. The IT ticketing tool was used for some finance-related processes, including setting up vendors, like yourself, in the payment system used by RCEs and CSAP.

We immediately launched an investigation with external cybersecurity experts. We have confirmed that on April 30, 2026, the ticketing system was compromised as part of a global cybersecurity issue affecting cPanel, the IT provider's server software. The ticketing data on the servers, including vendor and staff information, was corrupted by an external attacker.

The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner has been notified.

Your information affected

Information you provided as a vendor for billing to receive payments from AVRCE may have been affected. This includes contact details (name, address, phone, email) and banking information if you were paid electronically. If you were paid as a business, it may also include your company's HST number. If you were paid as an individual rather than a business, it may also include your Social Insurance Number (SIN) collected for tax purposes.

Assistance offered and how to protect yourself

If you are an individual and your SIN or banking information have been affected, you will receive a letter explaining how to sign up for a free 5-year credit monitoring service.

In the meantime, there are other steps you can take to protect your information:

- Call Equifax or TransUnion Canada to get a copy of your Credit Report (or check with your bank as some also have these available through their online services).
 - o Equifax Canada Customer Service 1-800-871-3250, <https://www.consumer.equifax.ca/personal/>
 - o TransUnion Customer Service 1-800-663-9980, <https://www.transunion.ca>
- Report any irregularities in your mail delivery to Canada Post, for example, opened envelopes, missing financial statements or documents.
- Contact your financial institutions and credit card companies to discuss placing an alert on your account(s).
- Visit: EN canada.ca/social-insurance-number or FR canada.ca/numero-assurance-sociale for further information.

If you suspect that your SIN is being used fraudulently or you have been a victim of identity theft:

- Service Canada advises filing a complaint with the police.
- Inform your bank and creditors by phone and in writing about any irregularities.
- Visit a Service Canada Office and bring all the necessary documents with you proving fraud or misuse of your SIN.
- Alert the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA): You can report suspected fraud or identity theft with the CRA by calling them at 1-800-959-8281.

We also encourage everyone to practice safe habits to help protect themselves. This can include:

- Only installing applications on your devices from well-known companies;
- Updating your passwords and never sharing them. Always create strong passwords and use multifactor authentication where possible;
- Being alert to possible phishing attempts, where scammers try to get you to give them your sensitive personal information or request money or gift cards. Never give out sensitive personal information, financial information or send money/gift cards to anyone who you haven't confirmed to be a trusted contact; and
- Limiting your public computer use to non-sensitive transactions (and remember to log out of public computers when you finish using them).

- Contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 to learn more about fraud, identity theft and scams affecting Canadians (<https://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/index-eng.htm>).

How to reach us

Contact finance@avrce.ca if you have any questions about this breach.

If you wish to submit a privacy complaint because of this breach, please provide your complaint in writing to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Privacy Office at: rae@novascotia.ca. However, before you file a complaint, I encourage you to contact finance@avrce.ca to ask any questions you have about this breach. You may be satisfied by the information you receive, and a formal complaint may not be required.

If you make a formal written complaint but you feel the Department's response does not resolve the matter, you may request a review of the response to your complaint by the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC). You cannot file a privacy complaint with the OIPC first. You must file your privacy complaint with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development first. To request a review of the response to your complaint, you must submit a written request to the OIPC within 60 days of receiving our response to your complaint. For more information about the OIPC review process, please visit <https://oipc.novascotia.ca>.

I know this may cause you worry and concern, and we are sorry for that. Please be assured that we are taking this matter very seriously.

Sincerely,



Tracey Barbrick
Deputy Minister
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development