

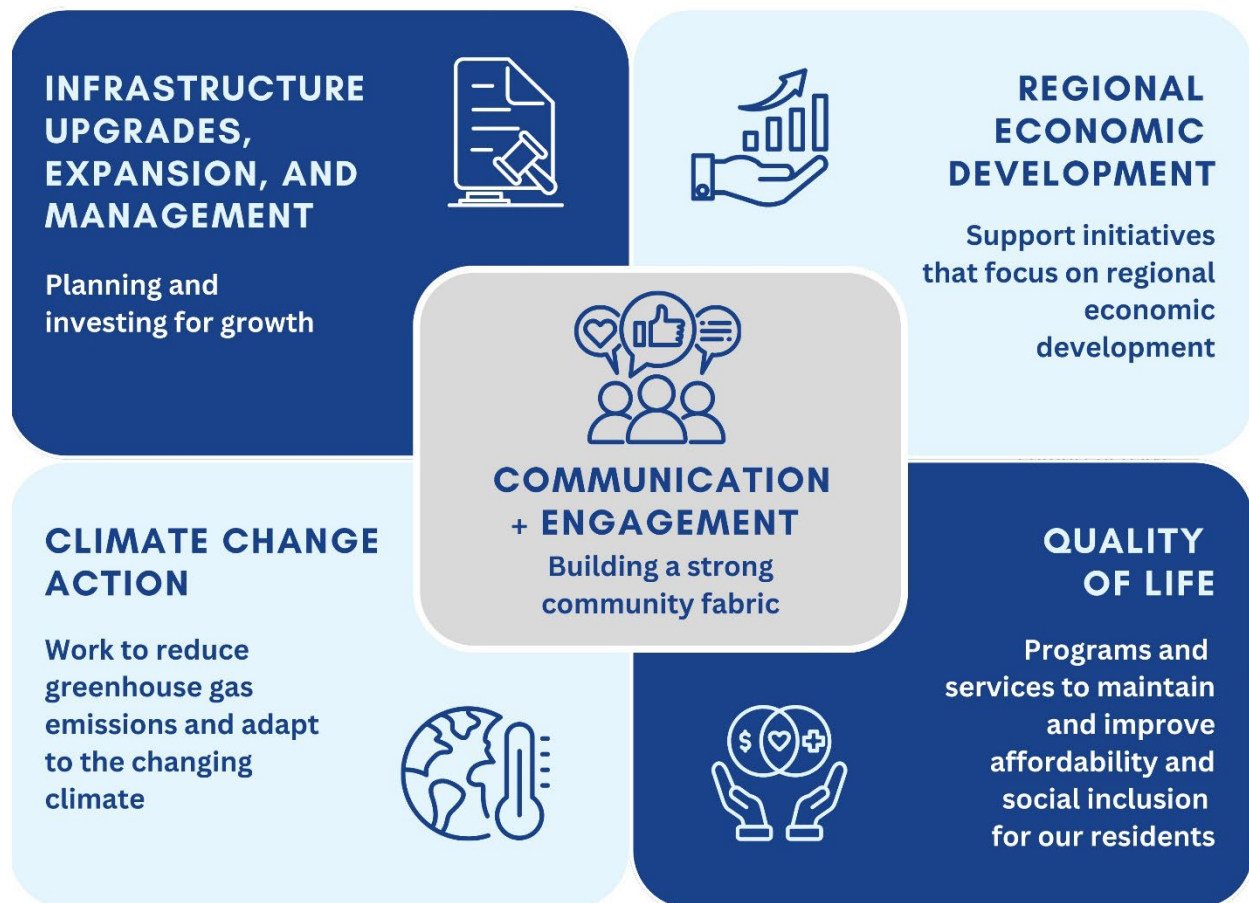
District of Lunenburg 2025/2026 Budget Highlights



Watch our Budget Summary Video here: <https://youtu.be/jZyUlfThNEs>

These highlights showcase how Council is investing in projects and initiatives that align with the District of Lunenburg's five strategic priorities: Regional Economic Development, Infrastructure Upgrades, Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces, Quality of Life, Climate Change Action, and Communication and Engagement.

The 2025/2026 budget reflects Council's commitment to enhancing community infrastructure, supporting economic growth, promoting social inclusion, and protecting the environment. These investments will ensure that the District continues to thrive, providing valuable services and opportunities for residents while fostering a sustainable and prosperous future.



Regional Economic Development

Support initiatives that focus on regional economic development.

- \$6,500,000 in expansion work at the Cookville Wastewater Treatment Plant to increase our capacity to treat waste, allowing for high-density housing and commercial development. Further investment of \$17,000,000 for construction is planned for the 2026/2027 budget. 65% of the total project is funded by grants from the federal and provincial government.
- \$2,000,000 to build the Community Hub space in the Lumia Collaborative Health Centre in Osprey Village.
- Regional growth happens through collaboration among municipalities. The District is establishing a Joint committee with our neighbours to speed up collaboration on infrastructure and initiatives that will grow the economy in our region.
- A water storage tank will be constructed to provide increased fire flow to support new high density residential and commercial development in Osprey Village. This is a \$6M project phased in over three years. A 73% grant has been received (\$2.1M) from the federal and provincial government. The balance of construction costs (\$3.9M) will be equally shared by the Municipality and the Town of Bridgewater.
- \$250,000 for design work for the Osprey Village Sidewalk Project, which will ultimately see sidewalks, curbs and gutters, watercourse crossing, stormwater infrastructure, traffic signals and pedestrian crossings, and lighting and seating in the Osprey Village area. Further investment of \$4,750,000 for construction is planned for the 2026/2027 budget. Grant funding of over \$3.9M (79% of total cost) has been leveraged for this project.
- \$150,000 will be spent to develop an e-permitting platform, making it easier for those renovating or building new homes to obtain and pay for necessary permits.
- \$50,000 is earmarked for the development of a housing strategy. Future infrastructure investments will support the execution of the strategy in our growth centres.
- \$35,000 for grants to support major events, plus \$18,000 for the 2025 National Para Hockey Championship being held at the LCLC in May.

Infrastructure Upgrades, Expansion, and Management

Planning and investing for growth.

Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces

Council continues to aggressively pursue improvements to our parks, trails, and open spaces. The 2025/26 budget includes more than \$2.7 million dollars for parks and open spaces. This includes:

- \$600,000 for construction of pickleball courts (budgeted, but not yet confirmed by Council).
- Grants to community organizations of \$517,100.
- \$478,000 to make accessible trails and build an accessible canoe/kayak launch at Miller Point Peace Park.
- Recreation programming at a cost of \$420,700.
- \$452,600 in improvements and operating our parks and park facilities.
- \$350,000 for accessibility upgrades and a vault toilet at Indian Falls Park.
- \$340,000 to complete the wayfinding and directional signage project.
- \$200,000 towards Sawpit Wharf Park improvements. Further investment of \$4,000,000 for phased in construction over three years is planned.
- \$178,300 for grants to trail groups.
- \$150,000 for MARC ballfield improvements.
- Investments in tourism of \$119,100.
- \$80,000 for public consultation, concept design and Class D estimates to reimagine the MARC.
- \$50,000 for public consultation, concept design and Class D estimates to reimagine Wiles Lake Park.
- \$50,000 for Art on the Trails.
- \$41,000 to expand the equipment loan program to include e-bikes.

Wastewater Improvements

- In addition to the Cookville upgrades that will permit high density housing, this budget supports capital maintenance for our four wastewater treatment systems. This includes upgrades such as replacement pumps, pH balancing improvements, and an assessment of small treatment plant costs and effectiveness.

Quality of Life

Programs and services to maintain and improve affordability and social inclusion for our residents.

- \$150,000 to purchase a transit bus for a fixed route transit services to Osprey Village and surrounding areas.
- The council has expanded the Property Tax rebate program. This offers rebates ranging from \$270 to \$680 on household incomes under \$60,000. The property tax rebate is a targeted tax relief strategy that provides a rebate to those homeowners who need it the most. Rebates for 2025-26:
 - Under \$30,750 – maximum rebate value up to \$680
 - \$30,751 - \$45,000 – maximum rebate value up to \$475
 - \$45,001 - \$60,000 – maximum rebate value up to \$270
- \$600,000 for the Water Supply Upgrade program, offering low-interest financing to help residents access potable water through system upgrades, including new wells and cisterns. This program supports residents in coping with increasingly dry well conditions due to changing climate patterns. Loans are repayable over 15 years. Learn more: [**cleanfoundation.ca/energy/water-supply-upgrade**](https://cleanfoundation.ca/energy/water-supply-upgrade).
- \$500,000 for the Clean Energy Financing program, providing low-interest financing to homeowners for energy efficiency and clean energy upgrades, such as insulation, windows, heat pumps, and solar panels. This program improves affordability by helping homeowners save on energy costs, with the savings covering the loan repayments over 15 years. Learn more: [**cleanenergyfinancing.ca/lunenburg**](https://cleanenergyfinancing.ca/lunenburg)
- \$350,000 for cost-sharing with the province to pave non-District of Lunenburg owned roads.
- \$75,000 to support the transit services provided by Lunenburg County Wheels.
- \$60,000 allocated to ProKids and ProFund (an increase of \$10,000 over 2024/2025 budget).
- We have budgeted \$35,000 in grants to help bring communities together.

Climate Change Action

Work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the changing climate.

- MODL has partnered with Efficiency Nova Scotia through the Roving Energy Manager (REM) program to improve energy efficiency and reduce utility costs for municipal buildings and community fire halls across the region. In 2024/25, MODL completed energy audits at 10 fire halls and is now supporting the implementation of the recommended upgrades.
- \$5,500,000 for the remediation and demolition of the Centre School building. Application will be made for 73% provincial/federal grant funding; the project will not proceed without this funding.
- \$650,000 for the land acquisition for a 7MW community solar garden in MODL, to be repaid once construction is complete and financing is secured. The project will be jointly owned by an Intermunicipal Service Agreement (IMSA) between the District of Lunenburg, District of Shelburne, and District of Argyle, pending approval from the Provincial Government and the three Municipal Partner Councils.
- \$840,000 to cover interest costs during construction of the community solar garden, to be reimbursed upon securing financing. Funded through general operating reserves, ensuring no impact on municipal debt. The project will reduce electricity costs, provide clean energy to approximately 1,200 homes (saving residents ~\$0.02/kWh), cut 6,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually, and generate about \$250,000 in annual profit for municipal partners. Learn more at: engage.modl.ca/community-solar-garden-project.
- \$150,000 to purchase a transit bus for a fixed route transit services to Osprey Village and surrounding areas.
- \$140,000 to complete purchase and installation for backup power generator for the Nathan Cirillo Road pump station.
- \$100,000 to combat the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in municipal parks and forests.
- \$75,000 to support the transit services provided by Lunenburg County Wheels.
- \$50,000 to identify and map Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs) as part of a land conservation strategy
- \$50,000 to support land purchases for the purpose of conservation.
- \$30,000 addition to REMO, jointly funded by all five municipalities in the county to add an emergency coordinator who will help with local preplanning and responding to emergencies.
- \$12,000 for annual tree planting program, distributing 1,000 trees this year to promote a greener, more sustainable community.
- \$15,000 to eliminate tipping fees for brush to help residents reduce wildfire risk and seeking partnerships and grants to help communities become FireSmart.

Communication and Engagement

Building a strong community fabric.

- \$60,000 for public engagement to hear directly from residents about new rules for all property owners as we write new zoning regulations.
- \$25,000 for audio visual services to hold Council in the Community meetings throughout the District of Lunenburg.
- \$23,000 for public engagement initiatives, including our online engagement website engage.modl.ca and public engagement events and initiatives.
- \$15,000 for the development of a District of Lunenburg app for residents.
- Reallocation of staff time from other projects to support Communications with residents.
- Changing the format of Municipal Matters to offer more space for municipal and community news.

Want to learn more? Visit modl.ca/budget