

Policy & Strategy Committee Meeting AGENDA

Tuesday, May 17, 2022– 9:00 a.m.

Council Chambers, 10 Allée Champlain Drive Cookville NS

And Via Audio & Video Teleconference

1. **Call to Order**
 - 1.1 Mi'kma'ki Territorial Acknowledgement
2. **Announcements, Acknowledgements, Recognition**
 - 2.1 Proclamation – International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia & Transphobia.....1
3. **Approval of Agenda**
4. **Approval of Minutes of March 15, 2022 (as circulated)**
5. **Business Arising from Minutes - Nil**
6. **Presentations - Nil**
7. **Referral from Council - Nil**
8. **Staff Reports**
 - 8.1 **Administration Department**
 - 8.1.1 NS Department of Municipal Affairs & Housing – 12 Month Notice 2-6
 - 8.1.2 Emergency Assistance Fund for Community Facilities – Late Applications 7-8
 - 8.2 **Recreation Department**
 - 8.2.1 Elite Athlete Grant – Christine Anderson 9-10
9. **Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters**
 - 9.1 Christmas Tree Purchases from MODL District Producers (Councillor Haysom)11
 - 9.2 Thank You Letter to Basil Oickle re Books Donated (Councillor DeLong)12
10. **Added Items**
11. **In Camera**
 - 11.1 Contract Negotiations re Water Tower under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA
12. **Next Meeting – June 21, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.**
13. **Adjournment**

Proclamation: International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia

A proclamation in support of the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg recognizing and advocating for the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia.

WHEREAS, Tuesday, May 17th, 2022, is the 18th annual day against homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia. This day is recognized for creating more visibility, understanding, and eradicating hatred and violence against people of the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

WHEREAS, our municipality strives to promote protection for all groups in the community and to end oppression and phobias against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people.

WHEREAS, this day is to recognize the commitment our community has made to actively promote inclusivity initiatives and anti-homophobia, biphobia and transphobia within our municipality.

WHEREAS, today we celebrate and lift the 2SLGBTQ+ community in Lunenburg County and maintain our ongoing commitment to fight systems of oppression that impact them.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg recognizes the 18th anniversary of “International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia” Tuesday, May 17th, 2022.

Mayor Carolyn Bolivar Getson

May 2, 2022

Mayor Amanda McDougall
President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
Suite 1106, 1809 Barrington Street
Halifax, NS B3J 2K8

Dear President McDougall:

Under the provisions of the *Municipal Government Act*, the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing must provide to the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) 12-months' 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 is intended to provide notice for such changes for fiscal year 2023-24 and beyond.

The Department of Municipal Affairs & Housing canvassed all other provincial departments to seek information on plans for legislative, regulatory, and policy changes in the coming fiscal year. The following is a summary of the results of that process.

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS & HOUSING (DMAH)

Renegotiating the Memorandum of Understanding with the Municipalities

The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Mandate Letter of September 14, 2021, directs the Minister to *renegotiate the Memorandum of Understanding with municipalities*. The current Provincial-Municipal Service Exchange has been unchanged since 1995, and DMAH is reviewing all existing financial aspects associated with the provincial-municipal relationship, including: the Municipal Financial Capacity Grant, grants in lieu of municipal taxes, local roads, other departmental grants, education (including sewer and wastewater for schools), housing, policing, and mandatory contributions. It is difficult at this time to determine the potential financial impact on municipalities as future costs to municipalities will be dependent on the result of consultations and negotiations.

Municipal Financial Capacity Grant (MFCG)

The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Mandate Letter of September 14, 2021, directs the Minister to *double the equalization payment [MFCG] for the first year, until a new Memorandum of Understanding can be reached*. Municipalities received this double payment in fiscal year 2021-2022. It is expected that the MFCG levels for 2022-23 will continue to reflect previous levels (\$30.4M) until a new MOU is negotiated.

Changes to Definition of Income for Housing Programs & Services

In 2021, DMAH completed a review of the income definition for public housing programs. Income definitions determine eligibility and rent levels for public housing, rent supplement, and home repair programs. As a result of the review, the Child Disability Benefit, the GST Tax Credit & Affordable Living Tax Credit, and the Veterans Disability Pension were all excluded from the definition of income for public housing programs and services effective December 2021.

Using calculations based on the Net Operating Losses (NOL) for public housing and services from 2021-22, as well as the number of current public housing clients that are in receipt of these excluded sources of income, it is estimated that the annual municipal share of NOL will be impacted by approximately \$8,000 beginning in 2022-23. It is important to note that the impact to the municipal share of NOL could experience minor annual changes depending on any changes to the number of public housing clients in receipt of the identified benefits. The summary of the 2023 impact is as follows:

Municipal Name	Impact to Municipality	2021-22 NOL	% of NOL
Cape Breton Regional Municipality	\$172	\$2,157,152	0.01%
County of Annapolis	\$201	\$132,593	0.09%
County of Cumberland	\$1081	\$222,121	0.49%
County of Kings	\$694	\$256,780	0.19%
County of Pictou	\$55	\$150,373	0.04%
District of East Hants	\$43	\$69,274	0.06%
District of Guysborough	\$198	\$85,101	0.23%
District of Shelburne	\$196	\$7,469	2.62%
Halifax Regional Municipality	\$2,920	\$4,003,185	0.03%
Region of Queens Municipality	\$281	\$142,247	0.20%
Town of Amherst	\$243	\$246,897	0.10%
Town of Annapolis Royal	\$176	\$23,695	0.74%
Town of Berwick	\$2	\$33,523	0.01%
Town of Bridgewater	\$537	\$63,564	0.84%
Town of Kentville	\$248	\$72,564	0.34%
Town of Middleton	\$13	\$75,428	0.02%
Town of New Glasgow	\$41	\$222,735	0.02%
Town of Pictou	\$433	\$115,797	0.37%
Town of Yarmouth	\$497	\$220,492	0.23%
TOTAL	\$8,032	\$8,300,989	0.10%

Code of Conduct

Consultations for improving the regulations associated with codes of conduct for elected officials will be taking place in fiscal 2022-23. The process for addressing code of conduct issues will be developed with input from the municipalities and the NSFM. It is difficult at this time to determine the potential financial impact on municipalities as future costs to municipalities will be dependent on the model regulations that are advanced as a result of consultations.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE (ECC)

Coastal Protection Act

It is possible that municipalities will incur incremental costs in implementing the Coastal Protection Act in the coming fiscal year. ECC is providing notice of changes that will be required in municipal building and development approval processes now that coastal protection legislation (Bill 106) has passed. The legislation will provide consistent province-wide legal protection for our coast by restricting development and related activity in areas where structures will be at risk of damage due to coastal flooding and erosion, or where it will damage sensitive coastal ecosystems.

Under this legislation municipalities will be enabled to approve a building permit or development permit for construction within a coastal protection zone to be defined by regulation if the proposed location of the construction is above a minimum building elevation specified in the regulations and is situated upland of a site-specific horizontal setback determined by a designated professional. This will require minor modifications to municipal administrative processes for these types of permits.

It is expected that the responsibility for competent, accurate and objective determination of the horizontal setback will rest with the designated professional, using a methodology and forms prescribed in the regulations. Minimum building elevations will be prescribed by the Province for each of approximately 82 sections of coastline.

Subject to the final form of the regulations, if the act applies to a permit application, the municipality will be required to determine whether the proposed construction location is above the minimum building elevation and upland of the site-specific setback determined by the designated professional in an erosion risk factor assessment report the landowner will be required to submit to the municipality with the permit application and confirm the designated professional was a member in good standing of a professional body designated in the regulations at the time the erosion assessment was signed.

Specifics of which professional groups will qualify to determine the setback, standards and forms to be used and other administrative details will be set out in the regulations. Additional detail on the delineation of the coastal protection zone, restrictions and exemptions that apply within it will also be set out in regulations.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS (IGA)

Procurement

Every two years, Global Affairs Canada updates its thresholds for covered procurements under the Canada-Europe Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Canada Free Trade Agreement (CFTA). Municipal procurements are covered under these obligations. All procurements above the thresholds must be tendered unless subject to an exemption. Thresholds were last updated on January 1, 2022, and are as follows:

	CETA Thresholds	CFTA Thresholds
Goods	\$366,800	\$121,200
Services	\$366,800	\$121,200
Construction	\$9.1M	\$302,900

It is anticipated there will be new thresholds for CETA and CFTA for 2024-25. These thresholds are calculated based on data that will not be available until the end of next year, so at this time, the scope for municipal involvement is not known. IGA will advise as soon as they receive updated information.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Biological Casework Analysis Agreement

The Biological Casework Analysis Agreement provides Nova Scotia's municipalities with DNA analysis arising from criminal investigations. DNA analysis is an important and affordable service that helps solve crimes. The 2022-23 financial cost of this program is expected to stay the same at \$799,688 however the proration of the cost to municipalities will be reassessed upon DMAH's release of the "Uniform Assessment" for 2022-23.

RCMP Collective Bargaining Agreement

The RCMP National Police Federation's collective bargaining agreement with the Government of Canada was signed on August 6, 2021. It included economic increases and market adjustments for the period April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2023, which the RCMP implemented according to the timelines stipulated in "Appendix C" of the collective bargaining agreement. The average cost increase to municipalities under the Provincial Police Service Agreement in the 2022-23 fiscal year is 11%.

Amendments to the Part XX of the *Municipal Government Act*

The Attorney General and Minister of Justice's Mandate Letter of September 14, 2021, directs the Minister to *[a]mend the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to give order-making ability to the Privacy Commissioner*. These amendments, as well as other amendments aimed at modernizing the act are anticipated to be brought forward by government at a future sitting of the House of Assembly. To ensure consistency in access and privacy, Part XX of the *Municipal Government Act* will be updated at the same time, which may include resource

implications or increased legal costs. However, the financial implications associated with changes to part XX of the *Municipal Government Act* to give order-making power to the privacy commissioner are unknown at this time.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR, SKILLS AND IMMIGRATION (LSI)

Expansion of Firefighter’s Cancer Presumption under the *Workers’ Compensation Act (Firefighters’ Compensation Regulations)*.

Following consultation with the firefighting community, organizations that represent firefighters, and municipalities, the Province of Nova Scotia has approved LSI’s request to expand presumptive coverage for firefighters under the *Worker’s Compensation Act*. This added coverage for paid and volunteer firefighters will increase the number of presumptive cancer coverage from 6 to 19 and cover heart attacks that occur within 24 hours of an emergency call.

The Province of Nova Scotia also approved LSI’s request to extend financial support to help municipalities cover initial and annual liability costs for the next four fiscal years. Over this period, the Province of Nova Scotia will cover liability costs to a total of \$80.6 million. Municipalities will not incur any additional cost for the enhanced benefit until the fiscal year of 2025-26.

	2021-2022	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Province paid portion	\$67.4M	\$4.4M	\$4.4M	\$4.4M
Associated costs covered	Initial liability	Annual liability	Annual liability	Annual liability

The Department acknowledges that several items included in this letter have financial impacts that are unknown at this time. The Department will attempt to clarify these impacts and alleviate any issues during the implementation of these items in 2023-24. If any of the above content is unclear or should you have any questions regarding the provided information, please do not hesitate to contact the Department for clarification.

Sincerely,

John Lohr
Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing

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Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Request for Decision

REPORT TO: Council
SUBMITTED BY: Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO
DATE: May 17, 2022
RE: Emergency Assistance Fund for Community Facilities – Late Applications

RECOMMENDATION

“that Municipal Council award emergency assistance funding to the community facilities with late applications listed in staff’s report in the amount of \$5000; and further, that the funds be taken from the safe restart fund”.

Background

The Municipality established an Emergency Assistance Fund for Community Facilities to assist local groups and organizations in addressing the financial hardship caused by the inability to host planned fundraising events and activities during the Covid-19 crisis.

Applicants could apply for emergency assistance for fundraising events and activities that were scheduled to take place during the Application Period of October 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022, but had to be cancelled because of the Covid-19 restrictions. There have been 3 earlier calls for applications since the beginning of the pandemic. Local groups and organizations that receive emergency assistance through this program are still eligible to apply for regular municipal grants.

As directed by Council, the criteria for the Emergency Assistance Fund for Community Facilities is as follows:

- The Applicant must be a not-for-profit community, charitable, fraternal, educational, recreational, religious, cultural or sporting organization;
- The Applicant must operate a community facility or hall that is used for hosting funding events and activities that are open to the general public; and
- The Applicant must demonstrate that it has experienced a negative financial impact resulting from its inability to raise funds through planned fundraising events and activities that had to be canceled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Funding amounts were prescribed by Council as follows:

- Facilities within MODL are eligible for a grant of up to \$2500 to replace reported losses.
- Facilities outside of MODL who serve MODL residents are eligible for a grant of up to \$1500 to replace reported losses.

DISCUSSION

Since closing the call for applications, 2 late submissions were received. St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Cornwall submitted an application after the deadline reporting \$2500 in lost fundraising. In addition, St. Paul’s United Church Hall in Stonehurst submitted an application reporting \$4000 in lost revenue. Both applications would otherwise have been eligible for \$2500 in funding had the applications been received during the window that MODL was accepting submissions.

St. Mark’s Lutheran Church	MODL	\$2500
St. Paul’s United Church Hall	MODL	\$2500
TOTAL		\$5000

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Council has funds budgeted as safe restart funding to manage costs resulting from pandemic induced changes. The above costs are eligible and can be accommodated within the budget.

ALTERNATIVES

Council could choose not to award one or both of the grants.

CONCLUSIONS

Municipal Council established an Emergency Assistance Fund to support community facilities who have been affected by the pandemic and the related public health restrictions. The applications demonstrate the need for such a program to support these valuable community assets.



Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Report to Council

Report To: Policy and Strategy Committee
Submitted By: Tissy Bolivar, Program Coordinator
Date: May 17, 2022
Re: Elite Athlete Travel Grant – Christine Anderson

Recommendation

That the Policy and Strategy Committee recommend to Council that Municipal Council award the **Elite Athlete Travel Grant** to **Christine Anderson** in the amount of **\$1,282.50** to participate in the **West Coast Wonder Woman Boxing Tournament** from **May 20 – 22, 2022**.

Executive Summary

We have received an application from Christine Anderson as an Elite Athlete to participate in an all-female boxing tournament in Sooke, BC from May 20 – 22, 2022. This event will be complete prior to the recommendation to Council.

Background

Christine Anderson is an amateur, open class female boxer from Bridgewater who trains out of Dave's Multisports Gym. She has won the provincial title in 2018, 2019 and 2021. She competed in the Olympic Qualifiers in 2019, representing Nova Scotia, and she was awarded the Senior Female Boxing Athlete Award in 2019-2020 from Sport Nova Scotia.

The West Coast Wonder Woman Boxing Tournament is an all-female tournament, one of only 5 in the world, registered under Boxing Canada. There are over 100 athletes participating in different weight classes from Canada, USA, and Mexico. Christine will be participating under the 63kg weight class, where she won her most recent provincial title.

As an athlete and volunteer coach, Christine wants to inspire local female athletes and gain more experience in her sport, while representing Lunenburg County and Nova Scotia. She hopes to improve her personal skills in the sport and continue to stay active. There are limited opportunities to advance for female boxers in Nova Scotia as there are limited fights/competitions.

The total expenses for the trip are \$1710. The Elite Athlete Travel Grant will award up to 75% of total costs, up to a maximum of \$2,000.

We have not awarded an athlete under this grant since 2018.

Budget Implication

The budget for the Elite Athlete Grant is \$1,500. To date, \$0 has been awarded.

Alternatives

1. Not award an Elite Athlete Travel Grant to Christine Anderson.
2. Award a different amount than recommended.

Conclusion

The application meets the grant criteria, and it is the recommendation of staff to award a grant in the amount of \$1,282.50 to Christine Anderson as an Elite Athlete.

Department: Recreation

Report Prepared By: Tissy Bolivar

Date: May 10, 2022

Report Approved By: Bill Schurman

Date: May 10, 2022

Reviewed By CAO:

Date:

Request for Agenda Items under Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters

TO: Chief Administrative Officer
 FROM: Leitha Haysom
 DATE: March 7th 2022

1. Agenda Item
Christmas Tree Purchases from MODL District Producers

2. On what agenda do you want the item placed?
Policy and Strategy

3. Do you have written material to circulate with the agenda? Yes No

If you do, please attach it to this form. If you do not, please explain.

During the March 7th Council meeting we had a presentation from the LCCTPA on the importance of the industry to Lunenburg County. We should support our local producers as much as possible while highlighting producers throughout the Municipality.

4. What is its relevance to Council or the committee?
Creating a policy around sourcing trees for the holiday season allows us to plan ahead and promote local producers.

5. What outcome(s) are you seeking?
That MODL Council adopt a policy of purchasing Christmas Trees for municipal use from Christmas Tree Producers from each of the ten districts within the municipality, rotating each year. This will allow us to highlight different producers from all areas of the Municipality while supporting local businesses.

Leitha Haysom
Digitally signed by Leitha Haysom
 Date: 2022.03.08 10:55:40 -04'00'
 Councillor's Signature

March 8th 2022
 Date

Approval for agenda: Yes No

Reason for Denial:

 Mayor or Chair of Committee

 Date

Request for Agenda Items under Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters

TO: Chief Administrative Officer
 FROM: C. DeLong
 DATE: April 19, 22

1. Agenda Item

Thank you letter to Mr. Oickle for his books delivered to council.

2. On what agenda do you want the item placed?

Whichever makes sense.

3. Do you have written material to circulate with the agenda? Yes No

If you do, please attach it to this form. If you do not, please explain.

4. What is its relevance to Council or the committee?

5. What outcome(s) are you seeking?

Good community relations

K. P. DeLong
Councillor's Signature

April 19, 22
Date

Approval for agenda: Yes No

Reason for Denial:

Mayor or Chair of Committee

Date