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## **Policy & Strategy Committee Meeting Agenda**

**Tuesday, November 21, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.**

**MODL Council Chambers, 10 Allée Champlain Drive Cookville NS**

**1. Call to Order**

1.1. Mi'kma'ki Territorial Acknowledgement

**2. Nominations and Election by Ballot for Vice-Chair**

**3. Announcements, Acknowledgements, Recognition**

**4. Public Input (15 Minutes)**

**5. Changes/Approval of Agenda (as circulated)**

**6. Approval of Minutes – October 17, 2023 (as circulated)**

**7. Business Arising from Minutes – Nil**

**8. Presentations/Scheduled Times**

8.1. Zen Energy – Dr. Ravi Kempaiah, CEO & Dr. Kriti Yadav, Director of ..... 10:15 a.m. 1-5  
Operations and Strategy

**9. Referral from Council - Nil**

**10. Staff Reports**

**10.1. Planning & Development Department**

10.1.1 Protect MODL's Old Growth Forests ..... 6-13

**10.2 Finance Department**

10.2.1 Hydrant Charge Proposed Policy 096 ..... 14-17

**11. Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters - Nil**

11.1. Elite Athlete Grant Update (Councillor Greek) ..... 18

11.2. Request to Pursue Videoing of Council and Committee Meetings (Councillor DeLong) . 19

11.3. Declaration on Gender Based Violence (Councillor DeLong) ..... 20-21

**12. Added Items**

**13. In Camera – Nil**

**14. Adjournment**



## ECO-FORWARD MODEL

Charting A Clean Tomorrow Through Strategic  
Clean Energy And Transportation Pilot Program  
With Zen Energy



WHO WE ARE ?

WHAT WE DO ?



## MODL's Climate Action Plan

### Energy Efficient homes and buildings :

Retrofitting existing residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial buildings, and implementing energy efficiency standards for new constructions.

### Low Carbon Transportation:

Developing electric vehicle charging infrastructure, promoting electric vehicles, and implementing car and bike-sharing programs

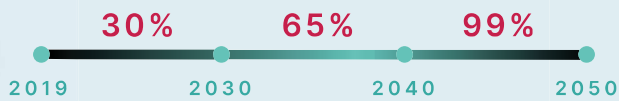
### Emergency Preparedness:

Educating on the impacts of climate change and improving infrastructure, better response to emergencies



## GOALS

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions



## Powering MODL's Climate Action Milestones with Zen Energy

### Initiative

Energy Efficient Homes and Building

Low Carbon Transportation

Energy Efficient Emergency Preparedness

### Objective

Home Energy Integrated Solar-Storage Initiative

Lunenburg Net Zero Carbon E-Bike Library

Lunenburg eco-power share initiative



enhancing electric vehicle infrastructure.



Land Conservation



Retrofitting Buildings

## Home Energy Integrated Solar-Storage Initiative

### Program Objective:

To revolutionize Lunenburg's energy landscape with a resilient solar-storage network, delivering cost savings, grid stability, and setting a standard for sustainable community energy solutions.

Zen Energy's storage systems paired with MODL's subsidized solar panels.  
 More resilient, self-sufficient energy network for Lunenburg residents.  
 Capability to store excess solar power for energy availability during peak times or outages.  
 Substantial reduction in electricity bills and a potential alternative to diesel generators.  
 Vital support in emergency scenarios like snowstorms and hurricanes.

### Economic Advantages

Significant average cost savings from reduced energy bills over time.  
 Stabilized local grid with the option to sell excess energy to the provincial grid. A pilot project that sets a benchmark for future community-driven energy initiatives.

### Community Value Proposition



Lower energy bills



Increased energy independence and grid resiliency



Improved property values due to integrated sustainable energy solutions.

### Strategic Value to MODL



Advancement towards 2030 climate action targets.



Alleviated peak load pressure on the local grid.



Long-term financial savings and potential for new revenue streams from energy sales.



Strengthened community resilience against power outages and grid disruptions



## Lunenburg Solar E-Bike Initiative/E-Bike library

### Program Objective

Establishing a clean energy, eco-friendly, and green transportation network/e-bike library maximizing Lunenburg's commitment to environmental stewardship and cutting-edge innovation.

- Introducing a net zero carbon the Lunenburg E-Bike Library with solar-powered bike hubs (electric bikes charged through solar energy)
- Each e-bike provides a 75km range at an operational cost of just 10 cents.
- Zero-emission e-bikes promoting active transport for residents, tourists, and businesses.
- Enhancing Lunenburg's UNESCO heritage site status and eco friendly tourist attraction.

### Economic Advantage

- Revenue from e-bike rentals and surplus solar energy fed back to the grid.
- Profitability through direct rentals and grid energy credits, aiding off-season revenue stability.

### Community Value Proposition

- Sustainable and convenient travel options enriching tourist experiences and resident commutes.
- Support for eco-tourism with ZERO environmental impact

### Strategic Value to MODL

- Established MODL as pioneers in eco-tourism in Canada and globally.
- Innovative revenue generation for MODL, fostering municipal sustainability initiatives.

E- Mobility hubs equipped with Zen E-Bikes and solar-charging panels



Vancouver

Nova scotia

5000 kms for the cost of 1 Tim Horton's coffee



Pilot 50 E-bikes in strategic locations through short term lease or rentals



## Sustainable Power Solutions/ Lunenburg eco-power share initiative

Lunenburg Eco-Power Share Initiative, uproviding portable energy storage units charged by Solar - to improve eco-friendly tourism, support local events, and provide reliable power for emergencies.

MODL unveils cutting-edge, solar-charged energy units, fostering an eco-innovative environment for tourism, local festivities, and crisis management.

### Economic Impact:

- Diverse rental opportunities from tourism, public events, and emergencies.
- A dynamic rental market propels the initiative towards financial sustainability.
- Revenue from contributing surplus solar power back to the grid

### Community Impact:

- **Eco-Tourism:** Magnetizes green-minded tourists, elevating Lunenburg's eco-prestige and UNESCO prestige.
- **Event Energization:** Delivers sustainable power, reducing the environmental and carbon impact of community gatherings.

### Strategic Benefits for MODL:

- **Fiscal Innovation:** Diversifies municipal revenue via smart energy rentals and strategic subsidies.
- **Crisis Resilience:** Equips MODL with autonomous energy solutions, fortifying community preparedness and response



## Green Initiatives for District of Lunenburg - Summary

### Clean Energy Transition :

The Lunenburg Eco-Power Share and Net Zero Carbon E-Bike Library initiatives propel MODL's climate action plan forward by promoting zero-emission transportation.

### Community and Environmental Benefits:

These initiatives offer the community accessible and sustainable alternatives to traditional transport and energy, contributing to a healthier environment.

### Strategic Advancement for MODL:

By integrating solar energy solutions and establishing an innovative e-bike network, MODL sets a benchmark for eco-innovation, crisis resilience and for fostering economic diversification through renewable rentals and energy credits.



**THANK YOU**





## Memorandum

**To:** Policy and Strategy Committee  
**From:** Abhimanyu Jain, Climate Change and Sustainability Manager  
**Date:** November 21, 2023  
**Re:** Letter to the Premier of Nova Scotia to Protect MODL's Old Growth Forests

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Through this memorandum it is recommended:

**“That the Policy and Strategy Committee recommend the Municipal Council to write a letter to the Premier of Nova Scotia, requesting expedited identification of all Old Growth Forests on Crown Land in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.”**

### Background

This recommendation arises from Mr. George Buranyi's presentation during the Municipal Council meeting on July 25, 2023. Mr. Buranyi highlighted key aspects concerning Lunenburg County's old growth forests and the environmental commitments of the Nova Scotia Government:

- In October 2021, the Nova Scotia Government passed the Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act, aiming to conserve at least 20% of the province's land and water by 2030.
- Mr. Buranyi emphasized the importance of protecting specific forests, such as Public Land Minamkeak Lake and Public Land with multi-aged old forest and mature old forest in Lunenburg County.
- He highlighted the decline in forests aged over 80 years old, significant forest cover loss due to clearcutting practices in Lunenburg County, and the ecological importance of old forests in various aspects such as carbon sequestration, biodiversity support, water purification, and wildfire resilience.
- He presented the “Save our Old Forests (S.O.O.F.)'s Petition to the Premier” to MODL's Municipal Council to request Premier to pause all harvesting and roadbuilding activities in old growth forests until the 20% conservation target is met.

### **Provincial Action towards Old Growth Forests Protection**

The Province introduced an Interim Old Forest Policy in 1999 to conserve old-growth forests across all eco-districts on Crown land in Nova Scotia. The province further expanded its conservation efforts with Old Forest Policy in 2012. Since its implementation, the policy has helped to conserve thousands of hectares of maturing old forests and old-growth forests across provincial Crown land. However, with increasing pressures from private land development and climate change, this policy wasn't enough to protect old growth forests.

Responding to recommendations by Dr. William Lahey, the Province developed a new Old-Growth Forest Policy in August 2022. This policy aims to enhance old growth forest protection on crown land, defining "old growth" as forests with at least 20% of the tree stand being 100 years or older. The new policy protects designated old-growth forest areas from logging or commercial activities and estimates protection for approximately 32,000 hectares of old growth forests on crown land.

### **Staff Recommendation**

In the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, approximately 19,170 hectares of crown land exist, with only 645 hectares currently protected under the new Old-Growth Forest Policy (2022). The memorandum includes a map that highlights the crown land in MODL with green color. The Province plans to continuously update its mapping to identify more old growth forests for protection.

Given the critical importance of preserving these old growth forests, staff recommends that the Policy and Strategy Committee recommend the Municipal Council to write a letter to the Nova Scotia Premier to request to expedite the identification of all old growth forests on crown land in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg. This action will automatically protect the newly identified old growth forests on crown land from harvesting and commercial activities.

Additionally, this recommendation aligns with the Municipality's commitment in its Local Climate Change Action Plan 2030 to protect 20% of the Municipality's land and water mass by 2030.

For reference, Mr. Buranyi's presentation from the Council meeting is attached below.

<b>Memorandum Preparation</b>	
<b>Department</b>	Planning & Development Services
<b>Prepared by</b>	Abhimanyu Jain, Climate Change and Sustainability Manager
<b>Approved by</b>	
<b>Date Reviewed by C.A.O.</b>	

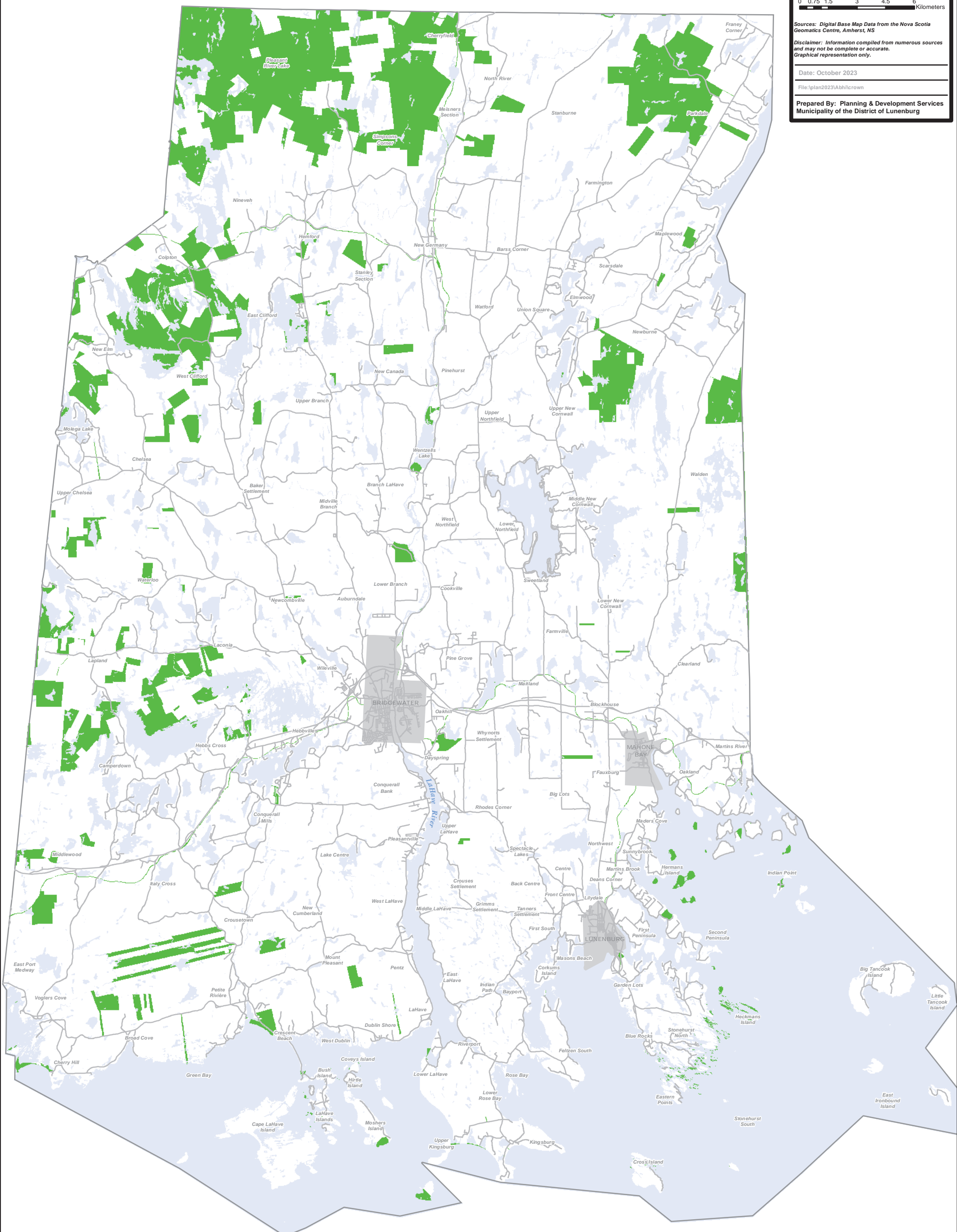
— Roads  
 □ Municipal Boundary  
 ■ Town Boundary  
 ■ Crown Lands (MODL)

0 0.75 1.5 3 4.5 6 Kilometers

Sources: Digital Base Map Data from the Nova Scotia Geomatics Centre, Amherst, NS  
 Disclaimer: Information compiled from numerous sources and may not be complete or accurate. Graphical representation only.

Date: October 2023  
 File: lplan2023\Ahh\crown

Prepared By: Planning & Development Services  
 Municipality of the District of Lunenburg



## Save Our Old Forests (SOOF) Request to the Municipality of the District of the County of Lunenburg



Forest Cover lost in Lunenburg county, mainly to clearcutting, in 2001. Satellite imagery from Global Forest Watch.



## Forest cover lost between 2001-2022



## Protecting 20% of Nova Scotia by 2030

- The Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act was passed by the Nova Scotia Legislature in October 2021.

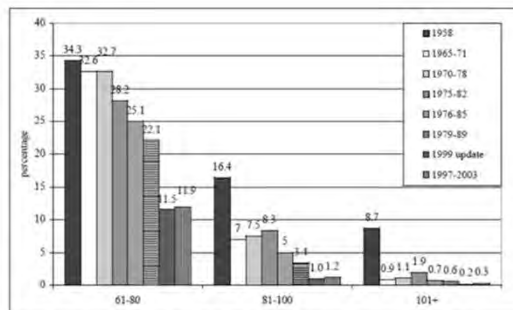
It includes a commitment “to conserve at least 20% of the total land and water mass of the Province by 2030 as protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures”.



So which forests should we protect?

- Public Land Minamkeak Lake.
- Public Land with multiaged old forest and mature old forest in Lunenburg County.

In 1958, 25% of Nova Scotia's forests were over 80 years old. In 2003 that figure was 1.5%.



Sources: The Forest Resources of Nova Scotia (1958); Nova Scotia Forest Inventory Provincial Summary 1965-1971, 1970-1978, 1975-1982, 1976-1985, 1979-1989; DNR GIS 1995 Inventory Data (September 1999 update), DNR GIS Unpublished Inventory Data (1997-2003). Note: Figures have been rounded.

Figure 4. Provincial forest area by age classes over 61 years as percentage of total forest area from 1958-2003. Sourced from GPI Atlantic (2008).

There are still areas of public land in Lunenburg county with pockets of old forest or mixed aged/old forest. The public land in the designated watershed of Bridgewater is one instance, as are public lands north of Chester and a few other areas in Lunenburg.

- Old forests are special. You can feel it. People need old forests on public land.
- And they store more carbon
- They support more diverse forms of life
- They cleanse water and regulate its flow
- They are less flammable and more resilient

- Only 4% of Lunenburg County forests are protected.
- Lunenburg has lost over 13% of tree cover in the past 20 years.
- Forests are the most reliable and best means of carbon sequestration, protection against biodiversity loss, and hope of meeting our climate goals.
- We are not opposed to all forestry.
- We are opposed to logging forests that should be protected

## S.O.O.F.'s Petition to the Premier

WHEREAS our Government has committed in law to protecting 20% of Nova Scotia's lands and waters by 2030 but is continuing to permit logging of old forests of high conservation value on Crown land,

THEREFORE we, the undersigned residents of Nova Scotia, call upon the Premier to pause all harvesting and roadbuilding activities in forests over 80 years old on Crown land in Lunenburg County until such time as 20% of Nova Scotia's lands have been permanently protected.

We ask that the Mayor make the same request of the Premier on behalf of the Municipality of the County of Lunenburg





## Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

### Request for Decision

**Report to:** Policy & Strategy Committee  
**Submitted by:** Elana Wentzell, CPA, CMA  
**Date:** 2023-11-21  
**Re:** Hydrant Charge Proposed Policy 096

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#### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Policy & Strategy Committee accept Policy 096 Hydrant Charge Policy as presented and hereby give seven (7) days' notice of its intention to approve the proposed policy at the November 28, 2023 Council Meeting.

#### **Executive summary**

On February 21, 2023, staff presented the Committee with background information on the hydrant charge area rate that is applicable in the Pinegrove and MacCulloch Road areas where fire hydrants are located.

The Committee directed staff to develop a policy based on the existing practice of billing only those properties located within 1,000 feet of a hydrant.

#### **Discussion**

The attached proposed policy was developed clarifying the charge area, how the charge is calculated and what properties are billed.

#### **Budget implications**

Because the policy does not change how the hydrant rates are calculated or applied, there are no budget implications.

## Alternatives

The Committee can accept the policy as submitted or make any changes it deems necessary.

## Conclusion

Staff believe this policy addresses the intent of the Committee to formalize the way the hydrant charges are calculated and applied.

Report Preparation	
Department	Finance
Report Prepared by	Elana Wentzell
Report Approved by	
Date Reviewed by C.A.O.	

## Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Policy Details	
<b>Name</b>	Hydrant Charge
<b>Number</b>	096
<b>Legislative Authority</b>	Municipal Government Act - Section 75
<b>Effective Date</b>	April 1, 2024

### Purpose

- 1 To establish how hydrant charges are billed to property owners in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg.

### Hydrant Charge

- 2 A hydrant charge is the amount billed to property owners for the annual maintenance of hydrants located in the hydrant charge district.

### Hydrant Charge District

- 3 (1) The Hydrant Charge District means the area where the charge is imposed, and has its boundaries identified on mapping.  
  
(2) The Hydrant Charge District includes all properties located within 1,000 feet of a hydrant within the MacCulloch Road and Pinegrove Area.

### Hydrant Charge Rate

- 4 (1) The Hydrant charge rate will be calculated by determining the cost of all hydrants and dividing that cost into the total taxable assessment in the hydrant charge district to determine the area rate to be applied. This area rate applies to all taxable assessment (residential, resource and commercial assessed property in the charge district).  
  
(2) Finance staff will maintain a continuity schedule to ensure annual under/over collection of hydrant rates is applied to the rate calculation in the following year.  
  
(3) The rate will be approved by Council yearly during budget deliberations and there will not be an administrative fee charged for this service.

(4) This charge will be included on and become part of the total taxes due on the interim and final tax bill. This charge is a first lien on the real property and may be collected in the same manner as taxes.

**Effective Date**

5 This policy will come into effect on April 1, 2024.

Policy Adoption	
Date of Original Passage	
Date of Notice of Intent to Amend/Repeal	N/A
Date of Council Approval	
Date of Effective Date (if different from council approval)	
I certify that this Policy XXX was adopted by Municipal Council as indicated above.	
Signature of Municipal Clerk	Date

Version	Amendment Description	Approval Date
Original V1	Hydrant Charge	<<date>>
		<<date>>

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

TO: Chief Administrative Officer  
FROM: Michelle Greek  
DATE: Nov 9, 2023

1. Agenda Item  
Elite Athlete Grant update

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

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.  
novalumberjacks.com

4. What is its relevance to Council or the committee?  
We are missing the opportunity to sponsor local athletes competing in a World Championship due to the wording of the grant criteria

5. What outcome(s) are you seeking?  
to update the Elite Athlete Travel grant to include all sports ~~that~~ that hold World Events such as Axe Throwing & Lumberjacks.

Michelle Greek  
Councillor's Signature

Nov 9, 2023  
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: Kacy DeLong  
DATE: November 12, 2023

1. Agenda Item  
Request for a declaration

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

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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.

In the body of the email, please find supporting written material

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

The worst mass murder in Canadian history was deemed to be perpetrated as a result of intimate partner violence. The Mass Casuality Commission has made many recommendations for how all levels of government can support ending gender based violence. A declaration from MODL to support this work will demonstrate council's commitment to building solutions in the face of this epidemic. Be the Peace could use its expertise to help draft the declaration

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5. What outcome(s) are you seeking?

A declaration by the mayor in support of council declaring Gender Based Violence to be an epidemic

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Kacy DeLong  
Councillor's Signature

Digitally signed by Kacy DeLong  
Date: 2023.11.12 22:02:13 -04'00'

November 12, 2023  
Date

Approval for agenda: Yes  No

Reason for Denial:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor or Chair of Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Joanne Powers

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**From:** Joanne.Powers@modl.ca  
**Subject:** FW: 2 Agenda Items - Policy & Strategy Committee - November 21, 2023, 1 for future agenda  
**Attachments:** Request to Add Agenda Items - Mayor-Deputy-Councillor Matters (009).pdf; Request to Add Agenda Items - Mayor-Deputy-Councillor Matters (007).pdf; Request to Add Agenda Items - Mayor-Deputy-Councillor Matters (005).pdf

**From:** Kacy DeLong <Kacy.Delong@modl.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023 9:21 AM  
**To:** Joanne Powers <Joanne.Powers@modl.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: 2 Agenda Items - Policy & Strategy Committee - November 21, 2023, 1 for future agenda

Hi Joanne,  
Please find attached two items for consideration for the upcoming Policy and Strategy agenda.

As well, please find an item for a future meeting (TBD) requesting a declaration on gender-based violence. Here is the supporting material for this item:

Text from Be the Peace Institute's newsletter:

Federal Justice Minister Arif Virani responded to the Supervising Coroner of the Renfrew County Femicide Inquiry with a declaration of GBV as an epidemic in Canada.

This, after the province of Ontario has refused to do so despite more than 40 cities and municipalities in Ontario having made this symbolic and powerful declaration already.

Minister Virani's letter also contained responses to some of the inquiry's 86 jury recommendations including, the federal government's intent to criminalize coercive control, review criminal harassment, increase data collection on femicide, government efforts to strengthen protections for victims of crime, as well as referencing the work and recommendations of the Nova Scotia Mass Casualty Commission and public inquiry into the mass shooting in 2020.

Funding and implementation commitments related to the National Action Plan to End GBV were also itemized.

Link to Toronto's actions in declaring GBV and intimate partner violence an epidemic:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.CC8.2>

Response from The Honourable Arif Virani, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada to the Office of the Chief Coroner which headed the inquiry into GBV in Ontario: [CKW- Justice Attorney General response.pdf\(Review\) - Adobe cloud storage](#)

The Guardian's Tracey Lindeman in Ottawa, August 16th, 2023  
[Canada calls gender violence an epidemic after triple femicide inquest | Canada | The Guardian](#)

The Globe & Mail's Molly Hayes, August 16th, 2023  
<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:6529a8b4-ef19-3669-9bf2-51d5aaefad82>