

This document was created using best practices in document accessibility. Should you need assistance reading or understanding this document, call 902-543-8181 or email [info@modl.ca](mailto:info@modl.ca).

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

**Tuesday, October 21, 2025 – 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. Announcements, Acknowledgements, Recognition**
  - 2.1 NS Nature Trust – Signing of Cape LaHave Conservation Easement Agreement  
- Bonnie Sutherland, Executive Director
- 3. Public Input (15 Minutes)**
- 4. Changes/Approval of Agenda (as circulated)**
- 5. Approval of Minutes – September 16, 2025 (as circulated)**
- 6. Business Arising from Minutes**
- 7. Presentations/Scheduled Times**
  - 7.1 Engage NS – Erin Wynn..... 9:15 a.m. 1-9
- 8. Referral from Committees/Council - Nil**
- 9. Staff Reports**
  - 9.1 Administration Department**
    - 9.1.1 Gender Based Violence Epidemic & Municipal Roles..... 10-17
- 10. Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters**
  - 10.1 Lunenburg County Senior Safety Committee Report – Councillor Smith..... 18-20
  - 10.2 South Shore Library Board Report – Councillor Smith ..... 21-24
  - 10.3 Committee Updates to Council – Councillor Hubley ..... 25
  - 10.4 Deputy Mayor's Update
  - 10.5 Mayor's Update
- 11. Added Items – Nil**
- 12. In Camera**
  - 12.1 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA
  - 12.2 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA
  - 12.3 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA
- 13. Adjournment**

# Quality of Life in Nova Scotia - MODL

**Engage Nova Scotia**  
October 21st, 2025




Erin Wynn, Director of Quality of Life Initiative  
ewynn@engagenovascotia.ca



1

## Overview

- Engage Nova Scotia**
  - Our Work
  - Quality of Life (QoL) Movement
- Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey**
- Municipalities and Quality of Life**
- Q+A**



---

Engage Nova Scotia 2025 | MODL Presentation

2

# About Engage Nova Scotia

Engage Nova Scotia is a non-profit, independent organization that works with partners to advance the quality of life of all Nova Scotia residents. We believe everyone should be included to share their story, seed our future, and influence change to improve their own wellbeing and the wellbeing of their communities.



## OUR VISION:

A more vibrant, inclusive, equitable, and resilient Nova Scotia for all.

## OUR MISSION:

Change the approach to improving quality of life - for everyone.

Engage Nova Scotia 2025 | MODL Presentation



3

# Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey



## METHODS

All residential addresses (433,000, approx) in Nova Scotia will receive two mail invitations to participate.

Community outreach team and partners host sessions across the province to improve access for underrepresented communities and those who require support

Broad media engagement and amplification

Engage Nova Scotia 2025 | Promotional Guide



4

# Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey



## OUTCOMES

Demographic and geographic information about neighbourhoods, villages, and municipalities across Nova Scotia

Specialized detail reports on regional economic areas, municipalities, demographic communities, and strengths and challenges across the province

Engage Nova Scotia 2025 | Promotional Guide



5

# 8 Domains of Wellbeing

COMMUNITY  
VITALITY

DEMOCRATIC  
ENGAGEMENT

EDUCATION

OUR  
ENVIRONMENT

HEALTHY  
POPULATIONS

LEISURE  
&  
CULTURE

LIVING  
STANDARDS

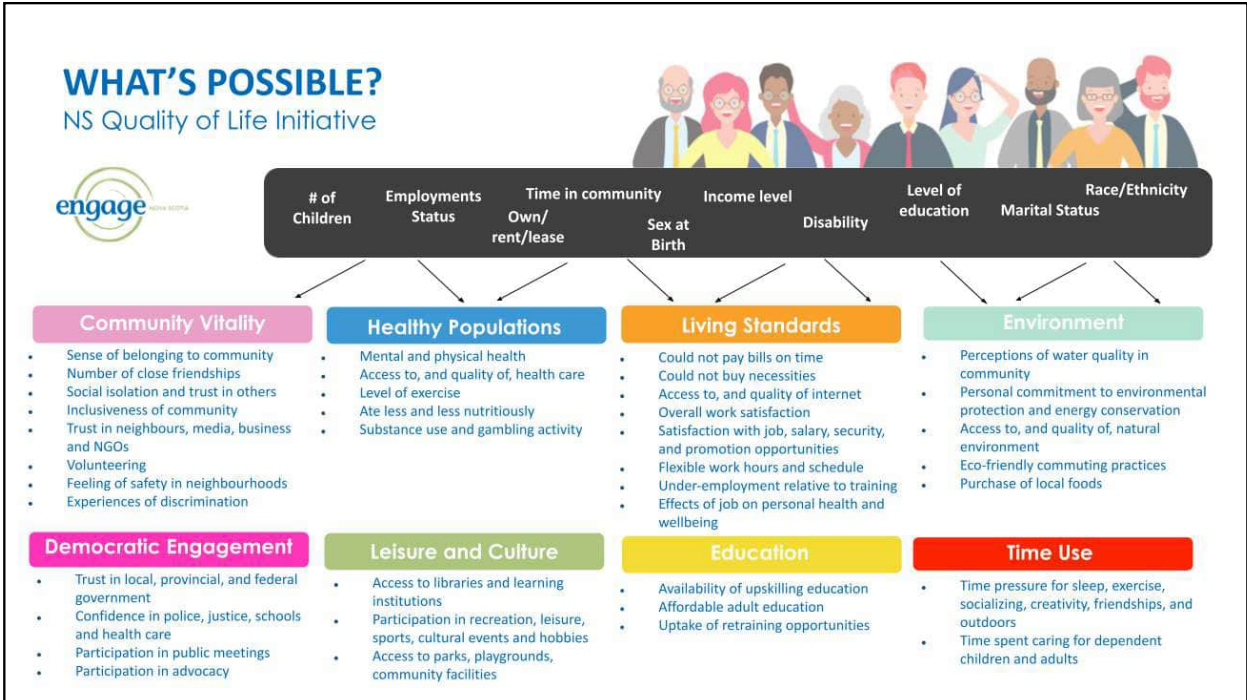
TIME USE



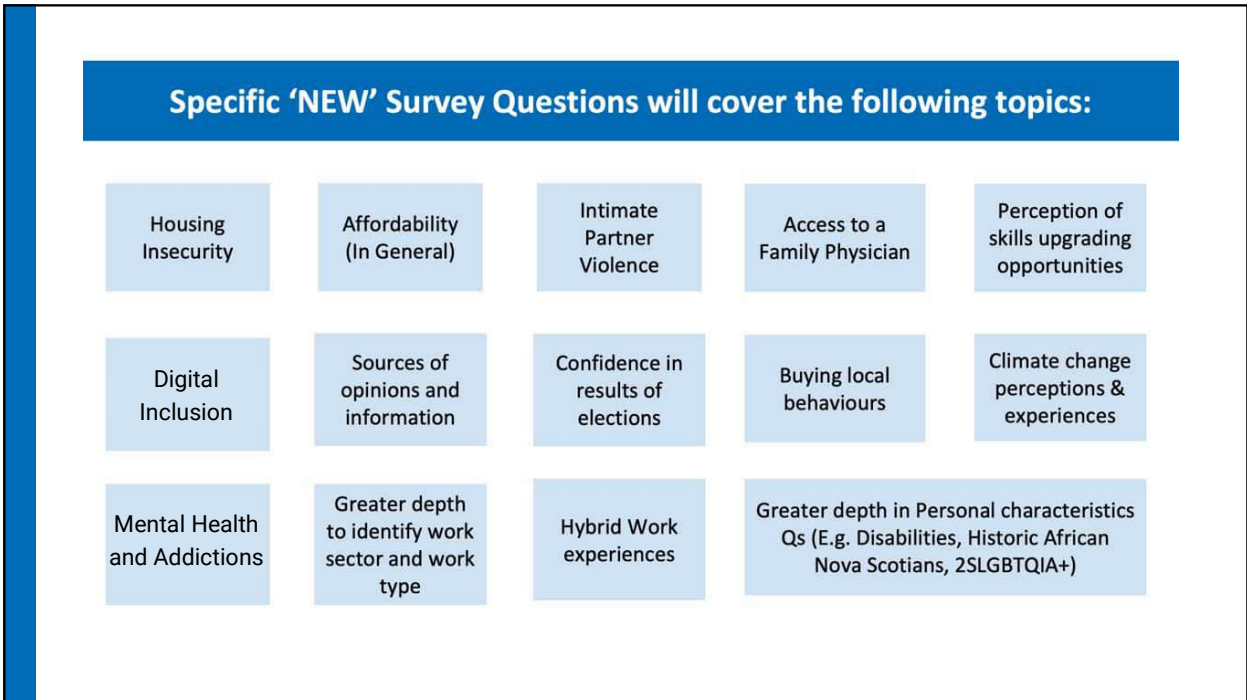
Engage Nova Scotia 2025 | CIW



6



7



8

## Municipalities and Quality of Life Data

- First of its kind comprehensive data on the villages, towns, and counties that comprise a municipality
  - Including neighborhood-level data
- Insights into demographic data, including age, gender, income, work sector, disability status, and racial/ethnic information
- Reports on specific strengths and challenges in your region

Engage Nova Scotia 2025 | MODL Presentation



9

## Municipalities and Quality of Life Data

I am a big fan of Engage Nova Scotia's work with their Quality of Life Survey! The Team at Engage have created a treasure trove of data that tells the story about **how Nova Scotians experience life in our communities.**

They've taken the lived experiences of everyday Nova Scotians and created tools for policy makers and service providers to learn more about our own communities. The impact of seeing the data presented through their analysis tools is jaw-dropping. It's one thing to hear statistics in the news, but to hear the stories of people in our own communities through their own responses to the survey is tremendously impactful.

We've been through a lot since 2019. The prospect of a deeper, richer pool of data from 2025, with the opportunity to see where quality of life has changed, makes me both excited and nervous.

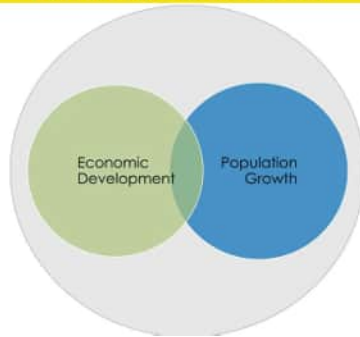
Jeff Gushue, CAO Town of Yarmouth



10

# CBRM Case Study

Cape Breton Regional Municipality  
Initial Strategic Vision, 2022-2023



Engage Nova Scotia 2025 | MODL Presentation



11

## WELLBEING ANALYSIS TOOL (2022 Launch)

Domain	Question	CBRM Overall	CBRM with income <\$40k	CBRM 16-35 Adults	CBRM Over 65 Adults	CBRM Single Parents	CBRM with a Disability
Living Standards	How often in past year: I could not pay my bills on time	-0.02	-0.42	-0.58	0.25	-0.62	-0.20
	How often in past year: I could not pay my mortgage or rent on time	-0.04	-0.53	-0.66	0.17	-0.62	-0.18
	How often in past year: I ate less because there was not enough food or money for food	-0.02	-0.44	-0.40	0.04	-0.42	-0.18
	How often in past year: I could not afford to purchase nutritious foods	-0.04	-0.53	-0.54	0.07	-0.56	-0.24
	How often in past year: I use a local food bank	-0.05	-0.37	-0.17	-0.08	-0.30	-0.06
	How often in past year: I could not afford to pay for transportation to get to where I needed	-0.06	-0.51	-0.27	-0.04	-0.52	-0.19
	How often in past year: I did not have enough money to buy the things I wanted	-0.02	-0.42	-0.68	0.19	-0.49	-0.18
	How often in the past year: I did not have enough money to buy the things I needed	-0.07	-0.59	-0.43	0.05	-0.61	-0.26

12

## Notables for Older Adults in CBRM Compared to the Provincial Average

### Assets

- Work life balance
- Time for others
- Time for own wellbeing
- Time for essential daily routines
- Able to pay bills on time
- Sense of Community
- Satisfied with life
- Infrequent experiences of discrimination
- Educational opportunities exist nearby

### Concerns

- Low perceptions of health care services
- Infrequent use of sport and recreation facilities
- Low trust/confidence in others/institutions
- Poor perceptions of environment
- Infrequent environment friendly practices
- Infrequent use of public library

13

## Notables for Younger Adults in CBRM Compared to the Provincial Average

### Assets

- Use of sport and recreation facilities
- Physical activity participation
- Positive perceptions of job promotion prospects

### Concerns

- Inadequate time for own wellbeing
- Inadequate time for essential daily routines
- Social isolation/Loneliness
- Low perceptions of health care services
- Inadequate time for others
- Low trust/confidence in others/institutions
- Difficulty making desired/needed purchases
- Difficulty paying bills on time
- Low self-assessed mental health
- Unsatisfied with life
- Financial barriers to educational opportunities
- Infrequent environment friendly practices
- No benefit from policy
- Barriers to recreation
- Food insecurity
- Childcare not available at recreation facilities
- Feel politically uninformed/unheard
- Poor support and services for families
- Infrequent healthy lifestyle behaviours
- Rarely buy local
- Poor work life balance
- Educational opportunities don't exist nearby
- Feels low responsibility for environment
- Financial insecurity; Transportation
- Experiences of discrimination
- Poor perceptions of environment
- Insecure employment
- Little leisure time at home
- Secure employment
- Infrequent use of public library
- Not engaged in arts and culture

14

## Notables for Households with less than \$40K annual income Compared to the Provincial Average

### Assets

Work life balance

### Concerns

Low perceptions of health care services

Insecure employment

Low trust/confidence in others/institutions

Difficulty making desired/needed purchases

Difficulty paying bills on time

Food insecurity

Financial insecurity: Transportation

Barriers to recreation

Social isolation/Loneliness

Job gives little meaning

Low self-assessed physical health

Infrequent healthy lifestyle behaviours

Low perceptions of job promotion prospects

Infrequent environment friendly practices

Financial barriers to educational opportunities

Poor work life balance

Unsatisfied with life

Poor perceptions of environment

Feel politically uninformed/unheard

Infrequent use of sport and recreation facilities

Feels low responsibility for environment

No benefit from policy

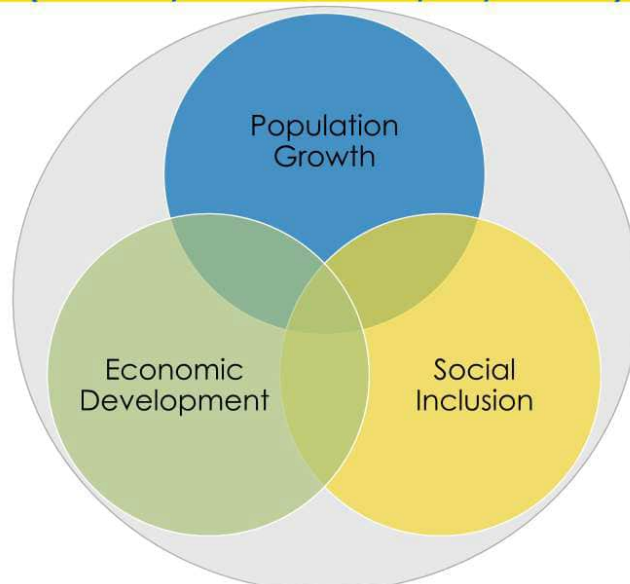
Inadequate time for others

Not engaged in arts and culture

Infrequent use of public library

15

## Cape Breton Regional Municipality Revised Strategic Vision (Community Inclusion Workshop May 10<sup>th</sup> 2023)




16



17


# Discussion

Join our email list!




engagenovascotia.ca

info@engagenovascotia.ca  
ewynn@engagenovascotia.ca



Engage Nova Scotia 2025 | MODL Presentation



18



## The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

### Request for Decision

**Report to:** Policy & Strategy Committee

**Submitted by:** Ella Gindi, Planner II & Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO

**Date:** October 21, 2025

**Re:** Gender Based Violence Epidemic & Municipal Roles

---

### Recommendation

1. Move that Council refer the Be the Peace Institute's presentation to Lunenburg County Anti-Racism & Anti-Discrimination Advisory Committee (ARADAC) for advice on how Lunenburg County Municipalities can best contribute towards eliminating gender-based violence.
2. Move that Council direct staff to investigate expanded support for the senior safety program and community grants to support gender-based violence education and prevention initiatives.

### Executive summary

On December 6, 2023, Municipal Council formally declared **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** an epidemic. This action was rooted in the findings of the *Mass Casualty Commission's* report, *Turning the Tide Together*, which identified GBV as a key systemic issue contributing to Canada's largest mass casualty event. The report called for a "whole-of-society" response, urging all levels of government to take coordinated and meaningful action.

The declaration acknowledged that GBV impacts women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals in every community including the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (MODL). It

October 21, 2025

Page 2 of 8

emphasized the need for education, culture change, prevention, and support systems that reflect the lived realities of those affected.

On February 28, 2025, **Be The Peace Institute** presented to Council, reinforcing the urgency of the declaration and recommending a range of municipal actions. Key recommendations included:

- Adopting a **Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens** across all municipal work;
- Investing in **prevention, inclusive services, and housing**; and
- Promoting **regional coordination and inter-agency collaboration**.

Staff have reviewed the presentation, community input, and current municipal initiatives. A number of actions are already underway, and further steps are recommended to advance the municipal response. Staff recommends Council to refer specific items related to policing, policy, and housing to the appropriate committees and consider formalizing the use of a GBA+ framework across municipal operations.

## **Background**

Gender-based violence includes all forms of violence rooted in gender norms and unequal power dynamics. It is perpetrated against individuals based on gender identity, gender expression, or perceived gender. GBV includes intimate partner violence, domestic abuse, family violence, sexual violence, and coercive control, and can take physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, and economic forms.

The impacts are most profound among women, girls, 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, and those in rural or marginalized communities. In Nova Scotia, underreporting remains a significant barrier. Causes of low reporting include fear, distrust in institutions, lack of access to support, and systemic discrimination.

Nova Scotia has:

- Higher-than-average GBV rates nationally.
- Seven femicides since October 2024.
- The highest self-reported rates of human trafficking in Canada.
- Less than 2% of GBV incidents reported to police, due to distrust, lack of services, stigma, and fear.

October 21, 2025

Page 3 of 8

The Mass Casualty Commission's "Turning the Tide Together" report identified GBV as a key systemic issue, requiring urgent, coordinated action at all levels of government. Municipalities, as local service providers and employers, have a critical role to play in prevention, response, and cultural change.

GBV imposes significant human and economic costs and is a recognized public safety and human rights issue. Council's declaration is both a call to action and an opportunity to lead with prevention and policy solutions.

## **Discussion**

The declaration of GBV as an epidemic signal a need for coordinated and sustained municipal action. There is an opportunity to act on key issues identified through community consultation, the Mass Casualty Commission, and the Be the Peace report.

The following section outlines the key GBA+ issues identified in the Be the Peace report, along with recommendations from the IDEA staff to address them.

## **Analysis of Key Issues and Recommendations**

### **1. Root Causes: Economic Dependency & Poverty**

Financial dependence and housing insecurity are significant barriers to leaving abusive situations. Survivors often remain in unsafe environments due to a lack of affordable housing, income security, or childcare. Currently, Roof 25 and South Shore Open Doors Association (SSODA), Harbour House, and the John Howard society provide emergency or transitional housing and housing support services in Lunenburg County. While not willing to share precise information about clients and occupancy rates, the organizations report that the transitional spaces are regularly at or close to full capacity.

### **Currently**

- MODL provides discretionary grants totaling \$10,000 to SSODA and local foodbanks annually
- Community non-profits serving MODL residents are also eligible for application-based grant programs provided by the Municipality.
- The Municipality is leading a regional effort to establish a regional economic development platform to catalyze economic growth

- The Municipality is in the process of developing a Housing Strategy to increase the supply of units and improve housing affordability.

**Options for Expanded Action:**

- Continue to support the development and implementation of a housing strategy, ensuring it includes consultation with GBV-informed civil society groups.
- Refer the need for middle-stage transitional housing to the Regional Equity & Inclusion Committee.
- Request the regional economic development platform explore initiatives to increase women's economic participation
- Explore inclusionary housing policies through the MPS/LUB review.

**2. Public Safety Beyond Policing**

Safety means more than emergency response. Advocates emphasized prevention, community services, transportation, and education. The GBV report noted gaps in mental health care, childcare, transportation, and rural crisis response. While the education and community services systems are squarely within provincial jurisdiction,

**Currently:**

- Council's work with Lunenburg County Wheels has resulted in point-to-point transportation service now provided throughout the municipality.
- Council has also prioritized the expansion of a fixed route transit service in Cookville, Hebbville and Wileville.
- Council currently provides \$25,400 in annual funding for the Seniors safety coordinator which provides invaluable support, prevention and education to vulnerable seniors.

**Options for expanded action:**

- Initiate a discussion with the Seniors safety initiative on possible expansion of their services.
- Promote inclusive use of libraries, community hubs, and LCLC.
- Encourage community grants for GBV prevention.

**3. GBA+ Lens in Municipal Work**

A GBA+ lens helps identify and address the impacts of gender and other identity factors on

municipal services, policy, and planning. The GBV report stressed the need for GBA+ to be applied in decision-making and budget processes.

**Currently:**

- Council has adopted a equity and inclusion lens to its decision-making process, to improve considerations of issues such as gender bias in municipal processes and decisions.
- As a result of the IDEA@MODL program all staff have completed training on implicit bias, crucial conversations and introductory anti-racism training. Further training is currently being prepared on gender and misogyny in the workplace.

**Options for expanded action:**

- Staff recommend referring GBA+ lens development to the Regional Equity and Inclusion Committee. The committee will be well positioned to identify tools, concepts and approaches to enhance the consideration of GBV-issues in the IDEA lens.
- Consider community partnerships to inform future municipal strategies through a GBA+ lens.

**4. Policing & Reporting Barriers**

Systemic issues such as underreporting, distrust in institutions, and harmful police culture were emphasized across all sources. Survivors—especially from marginalized groups —report being dismissed, blamed, or retraumatized by interactions with police.

Policing in Nova Scotia is at a point of significant change. The Province has announced its intention to work towards a provincial police force, in part as a response to the Mass Casualty Commission. They have also indicated that Police advisory boards will be replaced with new bodies focusing on community safety. Until the provincial direction for policing governance, standards, and delivery are clear, staff do not recommend further work on this area.

**5. Community Awareness & Strategic Partnerships**

Public education and multi-sector coordination are critical to prevention. The GBV report identified a need for broader awareness and better collaboration between government, frontline services, and community groups.

- A letter has been sent to the province requesting support and funding.

- Staff recommend referring regional awareness coordination to the Regional Equity & Inclusion Committee.

### **Summary**

Several current strategic priorities of Council are targeted at some root causes identified by the institute, in particular the Regional economic development platform, the draft housing strategy, and expanding public transit. Council should continue this important work.

Internally, Staff are pursuing training for gender bias, with the intention of changing personal attitudes, institutional policy and organizational culture. This work is very important in ensuring municipal staff are attuned to this issue and well positioned to be a positive force in the changes called for in the Commission's recommendations.

The establishment of the Lunenburg County Anti-Racism & Anti-Discrimination Advisory Committee (ARADAC) provides an idea forum for Council to receive expert advice on several matters raised by the institute. Not only will the committee have access to first voice perspectives and expertise, but they will also provide a regional view for a topic that clearly spans across municipal boundaries. Specific topics of value for referral include: Gender-Based Analysis (GBA+) lens development, middle-stage transition housing, training and regional awareness efforts.

In preparation for the 2026/27 budget deliberations, there are 2 specific funding areas that could provide significant community benefit. Staff recommend further investigation into the potential to increased funding for Senior Safety programming, and community grants focused on GBV prevention and response.

### **Strategic Focus**

Addressing gender-based violence and exclusion directly contributes to improved quality of life and economic development. Work in several strategic areas (housing, regional economic development and public transit) are focused on broad-based improvements that will also improve safety and well being for individuals at risk of experiencing gender-based violence.

### **Budget/Financial Implications**

No implications at this time; further financial information will be required if council wishes to further explore the expanded seniors safety program or community grants for GBV initiatives.

**Climate Change/sustainability**

Not applicable

**Inclusion Diversity equity and Accessibility (IDEA@MODL)**

- The GBA+ lens and consultation with affected communities align with MODL’s equity and accessibility commitments.
- Actions ensure policies are inclusive of women, girls, LGBTQIA+ people, and rural and marginalized populations.

**Strategic Communications**

- Not applicable at this time.

**Work plan**

The actions recommended for expanded response do not fall outside of established workplans. Further review would be required after receiving advice from the ARADAC.

**Alternatives**

- Maintain current initiatives and refer the presentation to the regional committee (ARADAC).
- Delay decisions pending further provincial guidance or funding commitments.
- Council could also direct staff to undertake further review on a particular area identified within the institute’s presentation.

**Conclusion**

Declaring gender-based violence an epidemic was an important step. To follow through meaningfully, Council should support concrete actions that reflect the urgency of this crisis. Staff recommend targeted referrals, policy development, and community investments to align municipal leadership with the call to end GBV.

<b>Report Preparation</b>	
<b>Department</b>	
<b>Report Prepared by</b>	
<b>Report Approved by</b>	
<b>Date Reviewed by C.A.O.</b>	

October 21, 2025

Page 8 of 8

APPENDIX

EMERGENCY AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING BRIDGEWATER, NS

**Roof 25**

**25 Phoenix St. Bridgewater, NS B4V 1M7**

*15 beds open to all adults (19+)*

Roof 25 opened two years ago and is an emergency shelter. Various times of the year they are at full capacity, last winter the average was 11 guests per night.

**Harbour House**

**P.O. Box 355 Bridgewater, NS B4V 2W9**

*15 rooms for women and children*

Harbour House is an emergency/ transitional shelter for women and children who have experienced domestic violence. Besides shelter, they provide outreach services, violence prevention programming in schools to name a few. Their rooms can accommodate women and their children. Harbour House serves Bridgewater as well as Lunenburg and Queens Counties. They would welcome speaking to Council in the fall about their work and the realities on the ground.

**John Howard Society of NS**

**King St. Bridgewater, NS**

*4 beds for male identifying clients*

The John Howard Society of NS opened less than a year ago and would be considered a transitional shelter. Each client has a private bedroom with shared facilities and access to support/ programming. They are at full capacity, with a waiting list.

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

TO: Chief Administrative Officer  
FROM: Alison Smith  
DATE: 09-29-2025

1. Agenda Item  
Committee Reports from Senior's Safety & South Shore Library Board.

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

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?  
They are committees assigned by Council.

5. What outcome(s) are you seeking?  
updating the Council on these committees.

Alisa S. Smith  
Councillor's Signature

09-29-2025  
Date

Approval for agenda: Yes  No

Reason for Denial:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## Lunenburg County Seniors' Safety Program Monthly Report –September 2025

Prepared: October 02, 2025

The LCSSP is a free confidential community-based non-profit service that works collaboratively with BPS, RCMP, and many community partners to help address the safety concerns of older adults (55 years of age+), residing in Lunenburg County. Service is provided through awareness campaigns, advocacy, community outreach projects, educational programs, community presentations and one to one service.

### LCSSP September highlights:

- **Geo Nova Scotia** is an organization that provides phones with a year plan for those in need. Lunenburg Senior Safety is being reviewed by the program as a possible community partner to this program as a conduit of delivery of this resource to seniors in need.
- **The United Way of the Maritimes Expression of Interest Funding Application** has been accepted with the invitation to submit a funding request application by October 10th.
- There's been an increase this summer in the volume of referrals with a higher degree of complex situations. **The current Postal Strike has impacted the ability for older adults to apply for/receive certain funding and benefits such as the Seniors Care Grant.**
- Sept. 8 -12 Training through Open Mind/MHCCs: Train the Trainer – **Mental Health First Aid for Supporting Older Adults Train the Trainer has been Completed.** Thank you to Aging Well NS for inviting/funding my participation. I look forward to teaming up with the other facilitators in bringing this resource to our communities. This is the first time this has been available in Nova Scotia. We will be able to present this certification virtually and in person.
- A Reminder that due to the high volume of need for one-on-one support the **Seniors' Safety Academy** has been postponed for the fall. Looking forward to planning an event in the spring.
  
- Please follow the link for important information on intimate partner violence.  
<https://www.bridgewaterpolice.ca/services/intimate-partner-violence>
  
- Follow this link for LCSS resources on Mental Wellness in older adults  
<https://www.bridgewaterpolice.ca/services/special-services/seniors-safety-learning-resources>
  
- Collaborative client specific meetings with Western Region Housing Authority, RCMP, CCC, Adult Protection and SSODA.
  
- Collaborations for clients also include SSODA, WRHA, RCMP, SSRH, MLA offices, BPS, Continuing Care.





# Lunenburg County Seniors' Safety Program

## Monthly Report –September 2025

Prepared: October 02, 2025

- Collaborative visits with BPS, RCMP and Continuing Care.

**Do to the volume of referrals Clients' needs are being triaged. Initial contact from LCSSP to client occurs within 48hrs upon receipt of referral to help accurately facilitate this process. This reflects in the having the ability/time to review files for possible appropriate closing.**

### Referrals:

New Referrals: **9** + Re Referrals: **2** Home/site Visits: **19** Active clients: **89** Closed files: **13**

New Referrals Service Area in Municipal Units (#'s have been rounded either up/down)	%
MODC	27%
MODL	45%
Mahone Bay	.5%
Lunenburg	.5%
Bridgewater	27%

### Referral Source:

Community Partner **18%** Self/Family **27%** RCMP **36%** BSP **19%** AP **0%**

**Areas of concern remain unchanged:** Safe/affordable/accessible Housing, Seniors' Mental Health/Addictions, Adult Protection, Hoarding, Scams/Fraud, Cost of living, Community resources/connections, Health Care (no primary care physician). LCSSP is seeing an increase of complex issues and concerns at the time of referrals/intakes. This translates into clients being active clients longer and collaboration with multiple disciplinaries.

### LCSSP Client Emergency Contingency Fund (CECF):

The CECF continues to serve the community in partnership with other organizations to help mitigate risk for seniors experiencing financial hardship. **The end of September balance \$371.44:** \$40 Gas Card for client.

*'Thank you to all Lunenburg County Seniors' Safety Program supporters.  
We couldn't do what we do without you.'*





---

## FW: Letter of Request - CORL

---

Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage <MIN\_CCTH@novascotia.ca>

Tue, Aug 19, 2025 at 2:51 PM

To: Ashley Nunn-Smith <ashley@ssplibraries.ca>

Cc: "Deputy Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage" <DM\_CCTH@novascotia.ca>, "Smith, Stephanie N" <Stephanie.N.Smith@novascotia.ca>

Ashley Nunn-Smith

Chair, Council of Regional Librarians

South Shore Public Libraries

[ashley@ssplibraries.ca](mailto:ashley@ssplibraries.ca)

Dear Ashley Nunn-Smith:

Thank you for your letter outlining the Council of Regional Librarians' (CORL) request for bridge funding to help address the financial challenges facing public libraries in Nova Scotia. The Province recognizes that public libraries are vital to the communities they serve and are highly valued by Nova Scotians of all ages.

I am pleased to inform you that \$800,000 will be provided to public libraries as bridge funding to offset inflationary pressures in 2025-26. The funds will be distributed to library regions using the current library funding formula.

The Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage understand the pressures that exist for libraries in managing resources and maintaining service levels. We will be reconvening the Library Funding Review Committee to further discuss current funding levels, mitigations, and sustainable funding into the future.

Sincerely,

Dave Ritcey  
Minister

Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

cc: Christopher Shore, Deputy Minister

Sara Halliday, Associate Deputy Minister  
Stephanie Smith, Executive Director, Museums



Ashley Nunn-Smith <ashley@ssplibraries.ca>

---

## FW: Letter of Request - CORL

---

**Ashley Nunn-Smith** <ashley@ssplibraries.ca>

Tue, Aug 19, 2025 at 3:01 PM

To: "Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage" <MIN\_CCTH@novascotia.ca>

Cc: "Deputy Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage" <DM\_CCTH@novascotia.ca>, "Smith, Stephanie N" <Stephanie.N.Smith@novascotia.ca>

Dear Minister Ritcey,

Thank you for the 2025-26 bridge funding in the amount of \$800,000. It will help to alleviate the most pressing operational pressures libraries are facing.

I look forward to working with you and the Library Funding Review Committee to investigate sustainable solutions to support the essential service we provide Nova Scotians.

Sincerely,  
Ashley Nunn-Smith  
CORL Chair

Ashley Nunn-Smith (*she/her*)  
CEO & Chief Librarian  
South Shore Public Libraries  
Bridgewater, Nova Scotia



*My work hours may not be your work hours.*

*Please don't feel obligated to respond outside of your normal work day.*

[Quoted text hidden]



April 30, 2025

The Honourable Dave Ritcey  
Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage  
1741 Brunswick St, 3rd Floor  
P.O. Box 456, STN Central  
Halifax, NS B3J 2R5

Email: [MIN\\_CCTH@novascotia.ca](mailto:MIN_CCTH@novascotia.ca)

Dear Minister Ritcey,

We, the undersigned Mayors and Wardens representing the municipalities served by South Shore Public Libraries, write to you with a shared concern and a unified voice. As leaders of our communities, we are calling on the Province of Nova Scotia to revisit and revise the library funding formula, which is no longer sustainable or reflective of the growing needs and realities of public libraries in our region.

Public libraries are a cornerstone of healthy, connected, and resilient communities. In our towns and rural areas alike, libraries serve not only as vital access points for books and information, but also as trusted community hubs—offering everything from early learning programs and digital literacy training to newcomer supports, public internet access, job-seeking assistance, referrals to social and government agencies and resources, and safe, welcoming spaces for all ages.

Despite the growing demand for these services, provincial funding for public libraries has remained largely stagnant since 2003. Rising costs—driven by inflation and tariffs—have steadily eroded the purchasing power of public dollars year over year. The longstanding funding formula does not account for these economic pressures, population growth, or the evolving role of libraries in our communities. As a result, libraries are being asked to do more with less, straining the system and, in some cases, threatening the sustainability of essential services.

We appreciate the support the Province has shown to libraries in the past, and we recognize that public resources are limited. However, in times of economic uncertainty, public libraries play an increasingly critical role in supporting individuals and families. Maintaining a flat or outdated funding model in the face of increasing needs risks undermining the very goals we share: vibrant communities, equitable access to information, and lifelong learning opportunities for all Nova Scotians.

We urge the Province to engage in meaningful consultation with regional library boards and municipalities to develop a fair, modern, and responsive funding formula. As an immediate step, we also respectfully request that the Province approve the emergency bridge funding request of \$1.6 million. This temporary support is critical to sustaining essential services while a long-term solution is developed.

This is not only a matter of dollars and cents—it is a matter of equity, community well-being, and our shared future. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further and look forward to working collaboratively with your department to ensure that libraries continue to thrive as essential public institutions in our province.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,



Allen Webber, Warden  
Municipality of the District of Chester



Jamie Myra, Mayor  
Town of Lunenburg



David Mitchell, Mayor  
Town of Bridgewater



Scott Christian, Mayor  
Region of Queens Municipality



Elsbeth McLean-Wile, Mayor  
Municipality of the District of Lunenburg



Suzanne Lohnes-Croft, Mayor  
Town of Mahone Bay

cc. Council of Regional Librarians  
Mayor Pam Mood, President, NSFMM  
Lynn Somers, Director, Nova Scotia Provincial Library, CCTH  
Stephanie Smith, Executive Director, Libraries, Archives, and Museums, CCTH  
Christopher Shore, Deputy Minister, CCTH  
Honorable John Lohr, Minister, Department of Finance and Treasury Board  
Honorable Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia

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

To	Chief Administrative Officer
From	Pam Hubley
Date	Oct. 15, 2025

1. Agenda Item

Committee updates to Council / Councillor's Matters

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

Next available. Preferably - Policy & Strategy - Oct. 21, 2025

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

If so, please attach it to this form. If no, please explain below.

Would like to discuss which committees verbally update council + which send committee updates by email.

4. What is its relevance to Council/Committee?

all councillors following the same guidelines.

5. What outcome(s) are you seeking?

a clear decision by all councillors

Pam Hubley  
Councillor's signature

Approved Yes  No

If no, reason for denial.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date