

# TOWN OF DIGBY

PO BOX 579 DIGBY NOVA SCOTIA B0V 1A0

March 17, 2026

**Dear Premier Houston,**

**Re: Letter of Support for Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty**

On behalf of the Town of Digby, I am writing to express our support for the concerns raised by the Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty (ACEP) regarding the need to increase social assistance and disability support rates in Nova Scotia.

We are increasingly aware of the growing pressures facing residents, as the costs of housing, food, energy, and other essential needs continue to rise. Many individuals and families in our communities rely on social assistance and disability benefits to meet their basic daily needs.

While we acknowledge the announced 1.6% increase to social assistance and disability rates for 2026, Council shares the concern that this adjustment does not keep pace with inflation or the rising cost of living. Without more substantial increases, many individuals and families will continue to experience significant financial hardship.

The Town of Digby supports ACEP's call for a meaningful increase to social assistance and disability support rates, with the goal of ensuring that Nova Scotians are able to meet their basic needs and live with dignity. Addressing poverty strengthens not only individuals and families, but also the overall health and resilience of our communities.

We respectfully encourage your government to carefully consider these concerns and to engage in further discussion with community partners, including ACEP, to identify solutions that better support vulnerable Nova Scotians.

Sincerely,



Mayor Mike Bartlett  
Town of Digby

Cc: MLA Jill Balsler, all Nova Scotia Municipalities