

FALL/WINTER 2021

Municipal bserver

The Magazine for the **Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities**



**Extended Producer Responsibility:
A Sustainable Curbside Recycling Program for Nova Scotia**

THE ENVIRONMENT ISSUE



Insuring Resiliency

Introducing the Municipal Climate Resiliency Grants.

Municipalities play a critical role in protecting communities from the impacts of climate change. We want to help. Intact Public Entities and the Intact Foundation are investing \$1 million in cities and towns across Canada that are developing practical and effective solutions to protect communities from floods or wildfires. **Building climate resilient communities together.**

Connect with Paul Jewett, Regional Manager, Atlantic Canada

1 800 265 4000 | 506 866 1846 | paul.jewett@intactpublicentities.ca

**To learn more visit us at
intactpublicentities.ca**



5 President’s Message

By President Amanda McDougall

6 Chief Executive Officer’s Message

CEO Juanita Spencer

8 Legislation Forecast

Wesley Petite, NSFM Policy Advisor

10 Connecting the dots essential to economic growth

12 Canada Community Building Fund project spotlight

Debbie Nielsen, Infrastructure & Sustainability Officer, NSFM

14 Extended Producer Responsibility: A Sustainable Curbside Recycling Program for Nova Scotia

Nicole Haverkort, Waste Reduction Coordinator

18 Building Local Food Systems

Maxine MacLean P.Ag., Policy Analyst, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

22 Why Recycle with EPRA/Recycle My Electronics programs in Nova Scotia

Amy Victoria, EPRA Communications

24 Human-Bear conflicts in Nova Scotia Municipalities

26 Working together to build an affordable, clean energy future



NOVA SCOTIA
FEDERATION OF
MUNICIPALITIES

(Cover Photo by Kas Stone)

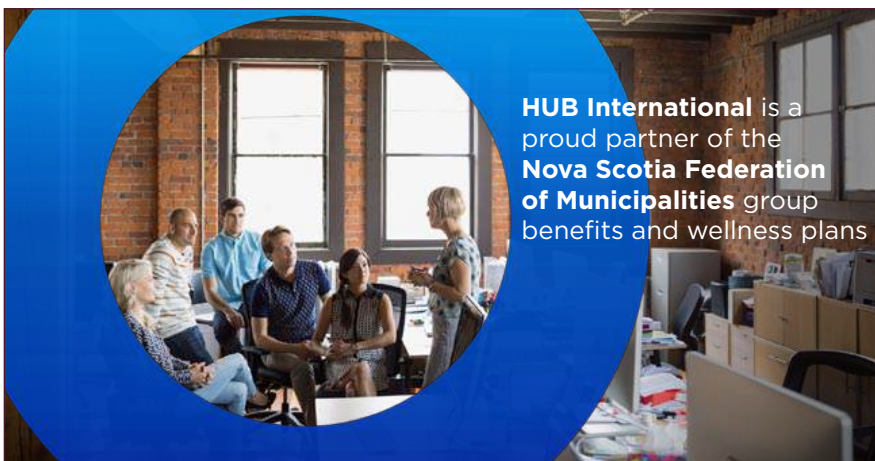


Building
healthier,
stronger
communities.



MEDAVIE

AD-O65 02/21 * Trade-mark of the Canadian Association of Blue Cross Plans.
* Trade-mark of Blue Cross Blue Shield Association



HUB International is a proud partner of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities group benefits and wellness plans

Continue to call on us as we work together to support employees’ evolving needs.

www.hubinternational.com

HUB

Cheryl Kane Senior Vice President
Office: 902-474-3282
Mobile: 902-456-9633
cheryl.kane@hubinternational.com

Janine McInnis Senior Consultant
Office: 902-474-3293
Mobile: 902-789-3003
janine.mcinnis@hubinternational.com

NSFM Board of Directors 2021/2022



Mayor Amanda
McDougall,
**Cape Breton
Regional
Municipality
President**



Councillor Eldon
MacDonald
**Cape Breton
Regional
Municipality
Regional Caucus
Representative**



Mayor Brenda
Chisholm-Beaton,
Town of Port
Hawkesbury
Vice-President



Mayor
Sandra Snow
**Town of Kentville
Towns Caucus
Representative**



Mayor
Emily Lutz
**County of Kings
Past-President**



Councillor
Andrew Tanner
**Town of
Bridgewater
Towns Caucus
Representative**



Mayor Carolyn
Bolivar-Getson
**Municipality of
the District of
Lunenburg
Rural Caucus Chair**



Mike Dolter, CAO
**Town of Truro
AMA
Representative**



Councillor
Paul Russell
**Halifax Regional
Municipality
Regional
Caucus Chair**



Mayor
Lennie White
**Town of Westville
Towns Caucus
Chair**



Deputy Mayor
Pamela Lovelace
**Halifax Regional
Municipality
Regional Caucus
Representative**



Councillor
Martha Armstrong
**County of Kings
Rural Caucus
Representative**



Councillor
Deborah Wadden
**Municipality of
Pictou County
Rural Caucus
Representative**



NOVA SCOTIA
FEDERATION OF
MUNICIPALITIES

Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

**Better government.
Stronger communities.**

The NSFM is a not-for-profit organization mandated to represent the interests of municipal governments across Nova Scotia. Total membership is 376 elected officials representing all 49 municipalities.

Contact NSFM at:
Ph: 902-423-8331;
Suite 1304, 1809 Barrington St.,
Halifax, NS B3J 3K8
www.nsfm.ca
info@nsfm.ca



Publication Information

Municipal Observer is the publication for the NSFM. It is a joint publication of the NSFM and CRE8 Art Centre Ltd. (Marketing). All rights reserved. Contents reproduced only with consent of NSFM and CRE8 Art Centre Ltd. (Marketing). Articles and information in this magazine represent the opinions of the writers and the information that, to the best of our knowledge was accurate at time of writing.

Published for the NSFM:
Suite 1304, 1809 Barrington Street,
Halifax, NS B3J 3K8
902-423-8331
info@nsfm.ca

Published by
CRE8 Art Centre Ltd. (Marketing)
304 – 40 Regency Park Drive
Halifax, NS B3S 1L4

Editor: Kevin Bottaro
Design: Allison Churchill
Sales Manager: Walter Niekamp



Try Local, Buy Local

By President Amanda McDougall

It feels like every issue of the *Municipal Observer* is, in some way, an environment and climate issue. This is because there aren't many topics of discussion where the environment isn't a factor. Be it the circular economy, waste diversion, energy conservation, or local food production, municipalities are leaders on the ground when it comes to adapting to climate change.

Watching our members become "greener" and seeing an increase in green-focused projects each year is a change that's been long coming. It only makes sense to invest in our planet when we can do so. There are now many ways to become more environmentally friendly, and we're only scratching the surface of what is possible.

Although it may be difficult at times to keep up with the buzz words, I'm sure most people have heard about the concept of a circular economy – a system that moves away from using and disposing of resources to one where those resources are remanufactured, repurposed, or recycled. The Centre for Local Prosperity provided elected officials with more information about the role of municipalities in the circular economy during our Fall conference.

Sourcing food products locally is another way we can promote environmental and economic sustainability. We're seeing our members find ways to encourage local growth and provide inroads for businesses in

their area to compete. Knowing the products you buy are helping to support businesses in your community is enough for most of us to look a little harder at the label in our hand.

Buying local also means reducing waste and carbon emissions. It's an advantage to us in Nova Scotia that apples grown in the valley travel a short distance

down the highway to Halifax where they become cider or are served in a boardwalk restaurant. The Annapolis Valley is one of several areas throughout the province that provide an array of high-quality, Nova Scotian products. Buying local gained traction during the pandemic and I think we're going to continue to see an emphasis on this practise as the climate crisis demands we look for solutions close to home.

Sourcing food products locally is another way we can promote environmental and economic sustainability.

Whether it's the becoming more actively involved in the circular economy or facilitating local food production and consumption, municipalities will have important opportunities to contribute. As we heard from climate change author Seth Klein in his keynote address at our fall conference – the time to act is now. We have the chance to make choices and changes in our communities that will breathe new life into the future.



Shaping Green Engagement

By CEO Juanita Spencer

We consistently hear from our members about the importance of the environment. Often when we reach out to engage on an issue, we know it ties back to our relationship with the natural world. This could be disaster mitigation, consultation on coastal protection, or funding for sustainable infrastructure. The impact of environmental change is going to become increasingly important to municipalities.

The question then becomes what does climate-focused engagement look like? We have the opportunity to focus on environmental issues at our conferences and our most recent event included a session with well-known activist Seth Klein. Mr. Klein presented on the *Climate Crisis and Municipal Governments: Mobilizing for the Climate Emergency*. We are looking forward to following up on this discussion with a future webinar aimed at reinforcing the practical ways municipalities can implement climate friendly practices.

Our own Infrastructure and Sustainability officer Debbie Nielsen is always busy connecting municipalities to the latest concepts in government greening. Topics such as facilitating the circular economy in procurement, reviving and sustaining our main streets to support the local economy, and the continued development of active transportation networks are all areas our members have responded to with enthusiasm. Along with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, NSFM will advocate for a permanent doubling of the Canada Community Building Fund. This federal funding supports many environmental projects that are

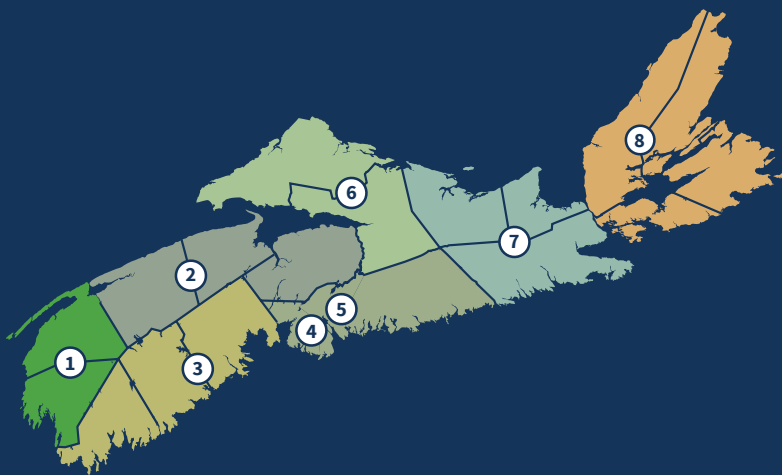
otherwise beyond the financial capacity of our municipalities.

We also work to celebrate those municipalities who have made a difference with their efforts to conserve energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and plan for a sustainable future. This year we recognized the work of three Climate Change Leaders. The District of Argyle for its net-zero administration building, the County of Kings for its Green Municipal Campus which will include a net-zero Engineering and Public Works Operations Centre, and Halifax Regional Municipality for HalifACT, its ambitious climate action plan.

NSFM works to recognize and mitigate our own contributions to greenhouse gas emission by collecting a nominal carbon surcharge fee from our conference participants. Funds from our Carbon Surcharge collection are then disbursed back to municipalities for their climate projects. This year's recipients were the District of St. Mary's for its Bike-Friendly Business Program and the Town of New Glasgow for its Electric Vehicle Project.

Finally, after many years of research, stakeholder consultation, and advocacy, NSFM welcomes recent legislation that lays the groundwork for expanded Extended Producer Responsibility in Nova Scotia. We will continue to engage with our members on climate issues, and we will continue to work with other levels of government to ensure environmental stewardship is evidenced in how we build, grow, and live in our communities.

Growing your business beyond Nova Scotia? We can help.



Our experienced team of **Regional Business Development Advisors** are here to help you connect to the right programs, services and solutions.

1 Digby and Yarmouth Counties

GILLES BABIN

e: gbabin@nsbi.ca t: 902.774.0208

2 Hants, Kings, and Annapolis Counties

SEAN COCHRANE

e: scochrane@nsbi.ca t: 902.798.6961

3 Queens, Lunenburg, and Shelburne Counties

MALINDA MATCHETT

e: mmatchett@nsbi.ca t: 902.523.5137

4 Halifax Regional Municipality Halifax & West

ROB BLACK

e: rblack@nsbi.ca t: 902.402.3250

5 Halifax Regional Municipality Dartmouth & East

BETH MCCORMACK

e: bmccormack@nsbi.ca t: 902.456.5047

6 Cumberland and Colchester Counties

DAVID COPUS

e: dcopus@nsbi.ca t: 902.893.6156

7 Pictou, Antigonish, and Guysborough Counties

LYNN COFFIN

e: lcoffin@nsbi.ca t: 902.755.7040

8 Inverness, Richmond, Victoria, and Cape Breton Counties

WANDA MACLEAN

e: wmaclean@nsbi.ca t: 902.227.7144

novascotiabusiness.com



n | s | b | i
Nova Scotia Business Inc.



Legislation Forecast

Wesley Petite
NSFM Policy Advisor

In 2021, all levels of government in Canada acknowledge the importance of environmental responsibility. In the most recent Speech from the Throne, Lieutenant Governor Arthur LeBlanc stated that “There is no debate over whether climate change needs to be addressed. The debate is only about how it should be addressed”. This characterization of the debate is demonstrated by the Houston administration announcing their intention to make Nova Scotia a world leader in sustainable development. Houston’s recognition of climate change as a priority is clear. However, there remain many questions about how exactly this effort will be accomplished. What role will municipalities be enabled to play in the current government’s effort to become a world leader?

Along with designating protected lands and natural resources, this effort will require the designation of responsibilities that ensure government efforts are effective, accountable, and financially sustainable.

Much of the new infrastructure, building standards, and retrofits necessary to meet climate change mitigation adaptation goals will take place within municipal jurisdiction. Legislation and other tools can support municipalities to plan, create, and regulate more sustainable communities. The costs involved in this important work will also require new sources of funding. The current government has mandated the

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to hire a Funding Navigator to work with business and individuals in identifying viable federal funding programs. NSFAM often engages with municipalities to provide information on sources of funding for their climate initiatives. Projects such as Energize Bridgewater demonstrate how federal funds can be utilized to address issues like exploring new and emerging energy solutions. What remains to be shown is what investment the province of Nova Scotia will make to support municipalities in this important work. Ideas on how the province can make important investments in sustainable development, including a dedicated Funding Navigator for municipalities, are found in the

Local Action on Climate Change Support Act (Bill No. 64), which was introduced during the last session of the legislature. We believe that these ideas should guide the strategies of the current government.

Sustainable waste management is another crucial aspect of environmental responsibility. Nova Scotian Municipalities hold much of the responsibility for curbside recycling programs and processing of solid waste. One of NSFAM’s five resolutions is for the province to establish Extended Producer Responsibility on Printed Paper and Packaging (EPR for PPP), legislation that is in place in many other Canadian provinces. EPR for PPP would require producers to shoulder some of the costs and risk currently held by municipalities.

Sustainable waste management is another crucial aspect of environmental responsibility.

Legislation proposing the establishment of EPR for PPP has recently been introduced (Bill No. 25).

NSFM influenced the creation of Nova Scotia's first recycling program prior to 1988. This enabled Nova Scotia to be the first province to meet the federal government target to divert 50 percent of solid waste from landfills by 2000.

NSFM continues to serve as a hub for the dedicated and insightful work of municipalities. In their response to the bills mentioned above, and in the

creation of the Enviro-Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act, the Houston administration will assist in defining the role that municipalities can play in making Nova Scotia a world leader in sustainable development. With the provision of adequate resources, municipalities are ready to reach ambitious and necessary goals.

Wesley Petite
NSFM Policy Advisor



Tessier
RÉCRÉO-PARC
Simple process
Thoughtful design
For a long time

SPLASHPADS

PLAYGROUNDS

SITE FURNISHING

1 800 838-8591 • www.tessier-rp.com

The advertisement features a background image of a modern playground with green metal frames and slides. A child is seen sliding down a slide. Overlaid on the left side are three white diamond-shaped icons: a water drop for 'SPLASHPADS', a playground structure for 'PLAYGROUNDS', and a bench for 'SITE FURNISHING'. The Tessier logo and tagline are in the top left corner, and contact information is at the bottom.

Connecting the dots essential to economic growth

The interdependencies associated with efforts to drive economic growth in any given region have become crystal clear in this rapidly paradigm-busting past year. The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting influx of people to Nova Scotia have caused home prices to skyrocket and brought vacancy rates to near zero. On the surface, this may seem like a nice problem to have. But most communities in rural Nova Scotia need to attract more people, doctors, nurses, skilled workers, and entrepreneurs. It's pretty hard to do that when there's no place for people to live. Here in the Truro Colchester region, doctors and other professionals have declined to join us because they can't find a place to live. Such a phenomenon has a significant impact on our efforts to grow the productivity, economy, and prosperity of our community. We read a great deal about low income and affordable housing. But the fact is that, in rural Nova Scotia, difficulty in finding a home runs across the demographic spectrum.

The rural skills gap is another sizeable challenge confronting regional economic growth. Obviously, the housing crisis contributes to the absence of much-needed skills in rural Nova Scotia. But other factors such as wage competitiveness, a lack of women taking up trades, and a lack of awareness of training opportunities are all contributing to labour challenges, particularly among the trades. Retailers, restaurants, and hospitality businesses are struggling to provide acceptable service levels due to understaffing. It is hoped that the discontinuation of COVID-related personal subsidies will entice people back to work.

The facilitators of the recent Atlantic Economic Development Conference in Charlottetown, PEI were surprised to hear local experts in economic and business development identify housing and workforce development as top priorities, considering that these are not the routine preoccupations of such people. But the reality is that these two challenges have become major obstacles to growing business ecosystems, so many of us have been challenged to add to our list of priorities.

The good news is that a lot of great ideas arose out of our two days of meetings, which were presented to the mayors and municipal officials who attended the Atlantic Mayors Summit. On housing, some of the insights and recommendations focused on the need for more open-mindedness on the part of municipal leaders (e.g. with respect to high-density living). As well as, updated by-laws that reflect

the realities of the time, greater collaboration between the province, municipalities and the developer community, connecting the dots between housing development and economic growth, risk mitigation schemes for developers who build on spec, opportunities for a community effort to provide temporary housing for family doctors and residents, and prioritizing climate-friendly approaches.

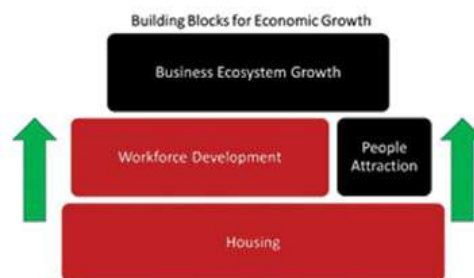
Regarding workforce development, the need for more data was identified as a barrier to success. We need to understand the root causes of skills gaps. Do the skills not exist in the community, or are skilled workers leaving the region in search of more competitive wages? Educating employers regarding living wages was identified as a high priority. Greater relationality between the academic curricula of community colleges, and other educational institutions, and the labour needs of the community is critical. Aggressive people attraction efforts, less cumbersome immigration policies, in-community talent development, programs to help employers develop skills in existing employees, promoting trades careers among women, and greater investment in Apprenticeship programs were also identified as essential opportunities.

In this rapidly evolving world that we find ourselves in, a few things become very clear:

1. The COVID-19 pandemic and climate change have presented both significant challenges and immense opportunities for Nova Scotia.
2. Business and economic development leaders in communities need to demonstrate agility and nimbleness in broadening the scope of their work in full awareness of unexpected realities.
3. Ideation and talk needs to move quickly to action.
4. Ruthless prioritization is essential in addressing the most pressing needs, even if it means putting other initiatives on the backburner.
5. Full collaboration across stakeholder groups is the only way forward.

Let's connect the dots and get moving!

J. David Phillips
Chief Executive Officer
Truro&Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity



Support local this Holiday Season.

Nova Scotia's Regional Enterprise Networks (REN) guide and navigate regional economic development while providing support to businesses, operate as a connector among economic development partners, support business growth and retention, and provide regional leadership on economic priorities.



Find your local REN contact



CumberlandBusinessConnector.ca
jonathan@cumberlandbusinessconnector.com
902-614-6912



PictouCounty.com
heidi.sinclair@pcren.ca
902-755-2244



ValleyREN.ca
jtufts@valleyren.ca
902-614-6912



CapeBretonPartnership.com
info@capebretonpartnership.com
902-562-0122



WesternREN.ca
aleblanc@westernren.ca
902-881-3008



TCPEP.ca
david@tcpep.ca
902-890-3120



Visit www.nsrens.ca
for more information.

Canada Community Building Fund project spotlight

By Debbie Nielsen, Infrastructure &
Sustainability Officer, NSFM

*The Village of Pugwash's Harbourfront Centre
Federal Canada Community-Building Fund
contribution to project: \$100,000
Total project cost: \$500,000*

The Pugwash Harbourfront Centre is an accessible, multi-purpose, outdoor venue in the beautiful Village of Pugwash. This cultural facility is ideally located in the centre of the Village, with the Pugwash Harbour as its natural backdrop. It is well equipped and well designed, with a proper back stage area that includes dressing and control rooms. When these spaces are not in use by performers and technicians, they double as community spaces for meetings or small events. The centre's back wall is curved to project sound, so voices hardly need any amplification.

In terms of possible offerings at the Pugwash Harbourfront Centre, the sky is the limit. This facility serves as a venue for local events (like the Gathering of the Clans), stage performances, art exhibits, outdoor movies and concerts under the stars, and tai chi and line-dancing classes!

The Pugwash Harbourfront Centre is a great example of how Nova Scotia municipalities are using the Canada Community-Building Fund to develop important cultural assets that serve as core infrastructure for increasing the vibrancy of local communities. For the Village of Pugwash, this important asset will be vital to enriching local cultural experiences for many generations!





Intact Public Entities and the Intact Foundation announce \$1 million to help protect communities from climate change

Canadian municipalities can now apply for Municipal Climate Resiliency Grants

TORONTO, October 4, 2021 – Across the country this past summer, Canadians have experienced the devastating impacts of climate change-induced extreme weather: from record-breaking heat waves to destructive wildfires to catastrophic flooding.

Municipalities play a critical role in protecting communities from the impacts of climate change. More than ever, investment is needed to support municipalities as they adapt to extreme weather. Intact Public Entities (TSX: IFC) and the Intact Foundation are here to help.

Through the Municipal Climate Resiliency Grant, they're investing \$1 million in cities and towns across Canada that are developing practical and effective solutions to protect communities from floods or wildfires.

“We need to enable municipalities across Canada to build resilient communities together. We're in a unique position to help bring plans to life so we can action change and make a difference,” said Larry Ryan, President, Intact Public Entities. “We all understand the urgency and these grants will help municipalities to protect people from the impacts of climate change we're experiencing today and build our resilience for the future.”

“Successfully adapting to extreme weather is key to fighting climate change and keeping our communities safe. We need to act urgently to implement adaptation solutions to limit the impacts of otherwise unrelenting extreme weather,” said Diane Flanagan, Chair of the Intact Foundation. “It will depend on taking collective actions, and the ability of governments to direct resources and implement proven solutions.”

The Municipal Climate Resiliency Grants will prioritize the following types of projects:

- **Shovel-ready projects:** greening and natural infrastructure solutions such as wetland restoration to reduce flood risk or vegetation management techniques to create a community fire guard.
- **Climate mitigation tools:** these could include incentives for homeowners to install sump pumps or fire-retardant roofing.
- **Research readiness and feasibility assessments:** these could include updating flood and/or wildfire-risk mapping or undertaking a flood or wildfire hazard assessment.
- **Awareness and education:** these could include distributing home flood and/or wildfire protection materials or creating an online portal for residents to obtain flood-risk information.

Over the years, the Intact Foundation has supported more than 90 projects through [climate adaptation grants](#) across Canada, committing more than \$16 million to support these practical solutions.

For more details about the Municipal Climate Resiliency Grant program, including the link to apply, visit [Intact Public Entities](#) or the [Intact Foundation](#) websites.



Extended Producer Responsibility: A Sustainable Curbside Recycling Program for Nova Scotia

By Nicole Haverkort, Waste Reduction Coordinator

Do you buy food, beverages, and other products? Of course, we all do. Do you consider in advance the waste that will be created as a by-product of your purchase? We each should. The items we chose to buy and how they are disposed determines our waste disposal rate and our overall impact on the environment.

The initial 1995 *NS Solid Waste Resource Management Strategy and Regulation* helped the province lead the country in solid waste reduction by introducing an advanced recycling and diverting system, achieving a fifty percent reduction in waste disposal for a short time.

Initially, the five municipal units within Antigonish and Guysborough counties, also known as the Eastern Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Committee, were hesitant to partner on the strategy. Following

consultations and a promise of funding to assist with extra costs, the required programs and infrastructure were added with faith the change would benefit Nova Scotians.

In total, there are now seven solid waste regions created to achieve efficiencies and economies of scale, among other things. Like each of the regions, committee staff positions are funded in part by Divert NS to deliver regional program coordination/development, education, and compliance across all sectors. Compliance promotion is an important role of the committee and is used to inform education campaigns.

This past summer, curbside audit results observed by our Clean Intern indicate 94 to 98 percent of residents are sorting and recycling right. For the most part, sorting rules are the same across the province, especially for regulated provincial programs, including

tires, beverage containers, paint, oil and electronics. Consistent rules contribute to the most efficient approach. Municipalities are responsible to operate programs for the remaining materials captured by the blue bag recycling program, including items such as cardboard, metal, glass, select plastic containers and film, also for other residential household special waste items and compostable organics.

Overall, waste items managed by municipalities make up the largest percentage of Nova Scotia's waste stream, municipalities also incur the majority portion of overall costs. These costs have increased significantly.

In 2015, the Solid Waste-Management Committee notified the provincial government that, without connecting industry to the end-of-life management of their products, we would be limited in further reducing waste. The need was stressed for government to effectively impact change by implementing a producer lead end-of-life management program for the recycling in our blue bag program and other items. Significant impacts to costs that resulted from global challenges with recycling markets are a growing concern for municipalities as managers and operators of the recycling program. The most recent global

impacts on our recycling programs were largely due to international restrictions, further impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

With government requiring a municipal consensus, continued concerns related to unsustainable costs and desire for industry involvement to encourage and drive social corporate responsibility, municipalities proposed a plan: "Preserving the Culture of Recycling" developed by the NS Regional Chairs Committee.

The plan proposes Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), an approach that shifts the responsibility and costs of managing specific wastes/recyclable materials from municipalities to the producers (i.e. brand owners and manufactures). The focus is on the disposal of post-consumer products such as printed paper and packaging (PPP) which includes the items in your curbside recycling program. Prior to submitting the plan, the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) confirmed through their membership that EPR for PPP is a priority for municipalities as it supports both the environment and economy.

This approach for the curbside recycling program, would take us from the current linear system, where

TD

TD Insurance | Ready for you | Meloche Monnex

Feel confident with preferred rates from TD Insurance.

Employees could save on car, home, condo and tenant's insurance.

Get a quote and see how much you could save!
Go to tdinsurance.com/NSFM

The TD Insurance Meloche Monnex home and auto insurance program is underwritten by Primum Insurance Company and distributed in Quebec by Meloche Monnex Insurance and Financial Services Inc., Damage Insurance Agency, and in the rest of Canada by TD Insurance Direct Agency Inc. Our address: 50 Place Crémazie, 12th Floor, Montréal, Québec H2P 1B6.

Due to provincial legislation, this car and recreational insurance program is not offered in British Columbia, Manitoba or Saskatchewan.

* The TD logo and other trademarks are the property of The Toronto-Dominion Bank or its subsidiaries.

8249-0320

an item is created, purchased by the consumer with the disposal paid by the municipal tax base; to a circular approach, where disposal or the end-of-life management of the product is the responsibility of the brands/manufacturers. This, along with government procurement policies for recycled content, drives a circular economy and contributes to reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

EPR is not a new concept. Over 80 percent of Canadians already live in areas where there is an EPP for PPP program. Through Regional Chairs and NSF, municipalities worked hard to prepare and submit a plan that mitigates concerns heard from both local governments and small businesses, so that Nova Scotians can also benefit.

Nova Scotia was the first Atlantic province to consult on a plan; it was submitted more than two years ago. New Brunswick consulted this past summer and is now leading on progress for Atlantic Canada with their approved amended act, expecting industry plans in less than one year. With the recent change in government, our committee sent a letter inviting our

local MLAs and Minister of Environment and Climate Change to a meeting and tour at the Guysborough Waste Management Facility to discuss EPR and provide a program overview.

When we began over twenty-five years ago, our focus was on the goal of waste diversion while saving natural resources, clean air, water, and landfill space. Since then, the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to impact climate change became more prevalent which is also directly impacted by decisions to reduce waste and product choices based on durability and recyclability.

Municipalities are encouraged to seek meetings with their MLAs to discuss the importance of EPR. If you have questions about EPR or the plan, contact your Regional Coordinator for more information. There is a fact sheet ready to share.

We will continue to seek opportunities for continued collaboration with government, advocating for EPR. Based on action following the provincial election, there is cause for optimism.



National Advanced Certificate in **LOCAL AUTHORITY ADMINISTRATION (NACLAA)**

Expand your knowledge in municipal administration. Learn from experienced instructors as they share their expertise in:

- municipal law
- accounting
- organizational design
- finance
- sustainability
- taxation
- policy planning
- citizen engagement
- ... and much more

The NACLAA program provides the opportunity for local government practitioners to enhance their skills, acquire a professional designation, and advance their careers.

Register today! **780.492.4315** uab.ca/NACLAA

NACLAA

Berg Ammonia Recovery Unit: A Safety Must-Have

Meet your ammonia concerns head-on

Municipalities and organizations using ammonia-based refrigeration systems can now safely remove the refrigerant from their cooling systems. Designed for optimal performance, mobility, and ease of use, Berg's purpose-built Ammonia Recovery Unit allows you to remove ammonia from your system without worrying about leaks or accidents.

With a Berg ARU in place, everybody breathes easier when working near ammonia. It's a must-have for every facility.

To learn more, call or visit:
902-334-2630
www.berg-group.com/aru



BERG
CHILLING SYSTEMS

Expert thermal
process energy
management



Building Local Food Systems

Maxine MacLean P.Ag., Policy Analyst, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

There have been a number of reports over the years indicating that local food systems are more sustainable and have less impact on the environment in the long term. However, local food systems don't just build themselves. They are supported through community initiatives and good municipal planning. In turn, local food systems provide economic spinoff (employees spending money in the local community, and rural services), rich landscapes, and healthy people leading to less stress on our healthcare systems. A food system that is built around local – local farmers, local processors, and local customers – is strong and sustainable. That's not saying that we won't im-

port food into Nova Scotia, but if we can we displace some of the imports with the same product that we can produce here in Nova Scotia, we can reap the benefits of a local food system.

Local food systems are more important now than ever before. Yes, there are stats demonstrating that Nova Scotians want to buy Nova Scotia product, but more importantly, a local food system is a critical piece of the puzzle when it comes to adapting to the risks of climate change. Climate change has and will continue to exacerbate the vulnerabilities of our food system. Everything from water quality and quantity, to soil erosion, to the growing season will be impacted. En-



contribute to farm employee retention, and part of that is community. We are starting to see an increase in first-generation farms throughout Nova Scotia and immigration is an avenue that some farms are exploring to reduce the chronic labour deficit. Services and navigation tools to support those new to your community will lead to better community integration. These services could be offered in partnership with existing organizations in your community. The more people who are aware of the community support services for those new to the area, the better. When trying to reach farm employers who will be interested in sharing information with their employees, consider reaching out to a local federation of agriculture or the NSFA.

Ensuring the right tools, policies, and supports are in place will lead to a stronger local food system. Every level of government has a role to play to support farms with climate change. That includes municipalities.

Growth and Attraction

Municipalities can support agriculture in workforce development. There are many variables that

THERE ARE 60 FULL TIME COMMISSIONAIRES SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT ACROSS NOVA SCOTIA SO SWORN OFFICERS CAN FOCUS ON THE JOB ONLY THEY CAN DO.

- FRONT LINE COUNTER DUTIES
- EVENT SECURITY
- PARKING ENFORCEMENT
- TRAFFIC CONTROL
- BYLAW ENFORCEMENT
- CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS
- INVESTIGATIONS
- MONITORING AND RESPONSE

commissionaires.ca **COMMISSIONAIRES**

Processing

Much of the food farmed in Nova Scotia needs to be processed. This includes but certainly isn't limited to meat, milk, or poultry. Additionally, valued added goods are taking off. Value-add is agriculture industry lingo for additional processing. This includes pre-made salads, pies, jams...anything that adds value to the primary products on farm. Municipalities can play a role in increasing processing by working with neighboring municipalities to plan for processing facilities. Make sure you engage with farmers and other stakeholders! Along with infrastructure, training is important when it comes to food safety – working with service providers to offer food safety and food handlers courses in your municipality is a way you can further support processing.

Cold Storage

Availability of cold storage at a reasonable distance from farms and at an affordable cost is needed to extend the quality of many primary agriculture products and thus the availability of these products later into the year. Also, many processed goods need freezer space for longer term storage. Planning for development of shared cold storage space for local food will provide farmers an opportunity to produce more as their selling season has expanded.

Climate Change

We would be remiss to talk about adapting to climate change by strengthening our food system without talking about mitigating against climate change. The policies to mitigate against climate change are every bit as complex as the science behind climate change. When it comes to agriculture, there seem to be two camps – one that agriculture contributes to climate change and the other that agriculture is a solution to mitigate against climate change. Whichever camp you lean towards, there's no arguing that we need food and thus need agriculture. With regards to mitigating against climate change, a big piece of the picture is supporting farmers where they are and recognizing that there is no one-size-fits-all solution. While the farm community tends to look to provincial and federal governments for funding to pilot projects that demonstrate the effectiveness of a practice or programs to fund broad adoption of practices, municipalities can implement policies and programs as well.

Rural beautification is an old buzz phrase that seems to have gone to the wayside. Such a program could incentivize intercropping or cover cropping which would leave lands barren for a shorter period of time. From an esthetics perspective, these practices provide greenery across rural landscapes but have a practical component to them too. Cover cropping and intercropping improve the structure of soil which means less soil is lost in wind, rain, or snow events. Adopting incentives for rural beautification also lend support to the greenhouse and ornamental industries and encourage broader rural health as families and citizens spend more time in their gardens.

The link between agriculture, the environment, and climate change are all big conversations that are only touched on here. While many of the solutions are high level, there are clear opportunities that have obvious benefits and tangible outcomes. Resources supported by municipalities to reduce the impacts of climate change by localizing our food and agriculture systems are needed now more than ever. Together, we can create vibrant communities that are economically viable all while building resilience against climate change.

Debt Affordability Model



Planning a large capital project in the next few years?

Wonder how it may affect your future tax rates?

Concerned about the sustainability of your municipality?

We can help with our Debt Affordability Model at no cost to you.

If interested, please contact

Bob Audoux (902) 424-7172 or

email: Bob.audoux@novascotia.ca

www.nsmfc.ca



Nova Scotia
MUNICIPAL
FINANCE
CORPORATION

EMERGENCY PREVENTION + EVERYDAY PROTECTION

TOROMONT

CIMCO



SMART TRANSFER
Refrigerant Transfer System
PATENT PENDING

Refrigerant hazards are hard to predict. But they can be easy to contain.

Even with the best designs and safety standards, there are decisions that staff and contractors need to make in regards to managing an unplanned refrigerant leak or isolating equipment to perform maintenance.

There are many safe practices and enhancements available for leak response or maintenance, but nothing is as fast and complete as SMART Transfer.

SMART TRANSFER PROVIDES:

- ✔ **Risk Mitigation** – Sensors automatically detect & diagnose leaks
- ✔ **Improved Safety** – Refrigerant is automatically transferred, so operators don't have to enter potentially contaminated areas
- ✔ **Fast and Complete Transfer** – The fastest method to safely remove all refrigerant from the system
- ✔ **Less Downtime** – Shorter maintenance time
- ✔ **Ease of Use** – No specialized training or external equipment required
- ✔ **True Peace of Mind** – For owners, operators and the community

To learn more about SMART Transfer, contact us today.

1-800-267-1418

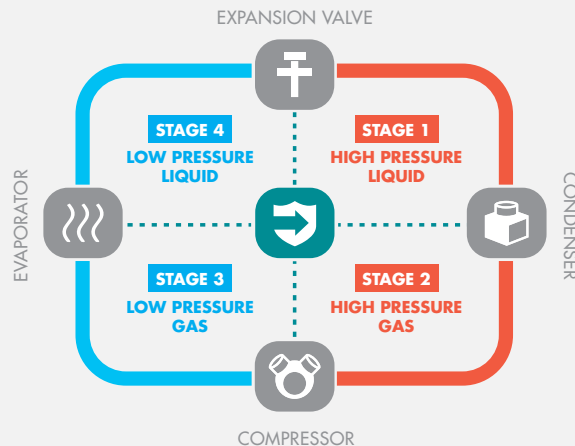
CIMCOrefrigeration.com/SMARTtransfer

TOROMONT

CIMCO

PROTECTION ON DEMAND

SMART Transfer allows you to isolate the four (4) system stages so that maintenance can be performed on any of the components while the refrigerant is safely contained. This greatly reduces potential exposure risks to your staff.



SMART Transfer Maintenance Protection Process



1. ACTIVATE

Manual button activation is used to start the transfer of the refrigerant from the system to the SMART Transfer.



2. HOLD

Refrigerant is contained within the SMART Transfer while maintenance is performed.



3. RETURN

Once the maintenance is complete, the refrigerant can be transferred from the SMART Transfer back into the system.



SMART TRANSFER
Refrigerant Transfer System
PATENT PENDING

Safety is every facility's #1 priority.

SMART Transfer isolates the charge in your refrigeration system, **automatically** when a leak is detected, or **on demand** while maintenance is performed. This provides safety for operators and peace of mind for everyone.



AUTOMATIC LEAK RESPONSE

Instead of relying on human decision-making to detect and/or diagnose the true severity of a potential refrigerant leak, SMART Transfer sensors use your pre-defined safety parameters to detect leaks. Then, the system can automatically transfer, hold and return the complete refrigerant charge as required, so there is no need for operators to enter potentially contaminated areas or risk exposure.

SMART Transfer Leak Response Process



1. DETECT

SMART sensors installed in the compressor room continually monitor the environment to detect leaks that exceed the predefined PPM threshold.



2. TRANSFER

If the leak reaches a predetermined severity level, or if the operator chooses to activate the transfer manually, refrigerant isolation is initiated.



3. RETURN

Once the leak has been resolved, the refrigerant can be transferred from the SMART Transfer back into the system.

Why Recycle with EPRA/Recycle My Electronics programs in Nova Scotia?

At Recycle My Electronics, we believe What's Inside Counts.™

Submitted by Amy Victoria, EPRA Communications amy.victoria@epra.ca

EPRA/Recycle My Electronics is a not-for-profit organization operating with private and municipal partners in Nova Scotia to provide regulated, critical e-waste management services. We take pride in working with municipalities and when it comes to recycling electronics – we believe, what's inside counts.

- Recoverable resources count: Many of the resources inside our electronics, including plastic, glass, gold, silver and copper can be recycled continuously without losing their properties.
- Safety and security counts: When you drop off electronics to an approved EPRA/Recycle My Electronics drop-off location,

devices are quickly processed/shredded. Safe for your personal data and the environment.

- Accessibility counts: EPRA/Recycle My Electronics programs have a vast network of over 78 drop off centers across Nova Scotia and we're committed to recycling electronics responsibly. In fact, 99% of Nova Scotia citizens have an EPRA/Recycle My Electronics drop-off centre within 30 km (rural) or 30 minutes (urban) of their home.

Learn more at: recycleMYelectronics.ca/NS

"I am proud of the work we are doing in Nova Scotia. Our program continues to evolve, thanks to our collaborative relationship between private and public sectors."

- Gerard MacLellan, EPRA Executive Director, Atlantic Canada.



Electronic Products Recycling Association
5750 Explorer Drive, Suite 301, Mississauga ON L4W 0A9
TEL: 1 (888) 567 4535
EPRA.ca | recycleMYelectronics.ca



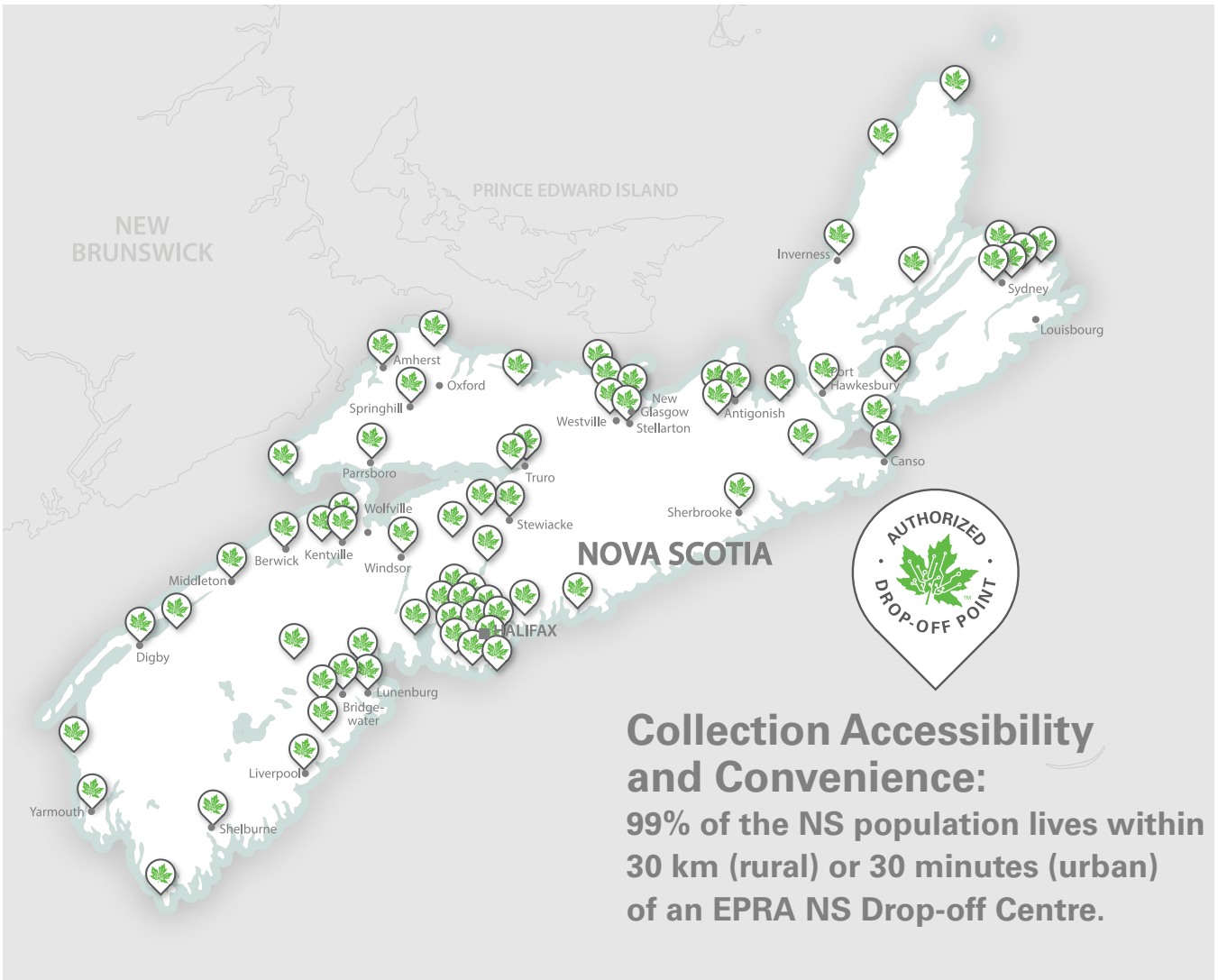
RECYCLE
MY
ELECTRONICS



NOVA SCOTIA

The future is in your hands.
Don't let it go to waste.™

recycleMYelectronics.ca/NS



A Trusted Partner
 Proudly providing customized insurance solutions and expert advice to NSFM members since 1996.

Darryl J. Wilson 902.752.8004
Darryl_Wilson@ajg.com

Arthur J. Gallagher Canada Limited
www.ajgcanada.com



Gallagher
 Insurance | Risk Management | Consulting



Human-Bear conflicts in Nova Scotia Municipalities

Summary of Bear and wildlife management information session. This session will be repeated March 2022. Registration information will be available in the new year.

Information delivery is our #1 priority when it comes to human-wildlife conflict. In May 2021, the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables hosted a webinar on human-bear conflicts in Nova Scotia municipalities. The webinar was attended by in-session municipal staff and elected officials.

Due to many factors including size, diet choices and habits, bears can quickly become a public safety risk causing damage and other issues for property owners.

Having a greater awareness of wildlife management, bear biology, human-bear conflicts, options to miti-

gate conflicts and who to contact when there's an issue keeps both bears and humans safe.

Our goal is to work with municipalities to address the root causes of human-wildlife conflict, reduce the number of bear conflicts and reduce the number of bears needlessly destroyed as a result of conflicts every year.

- Nova Scotians are reminded not to feed or make food available to wildlife.
- Human interactions with bears are always unpredictable and potentially dangerous.
- Report bear sightings to your nearest Department of Natural Resources

and Renewables office.

- Information on living with wildlife (including bears) is also available online - Black Bears Live Near You | novascotia.ca .

The reality is, many Nova Scotians share an interest in wildlife. When it comes to the management of wildlife and safety it's all hands on deck.

Bronwynne Conrad-Martin
Education Coordinator
Wildlife Division



continued from page 26

tool designed by local company SimpTek to prioritize and expedite building energy retrofits.

On Nova Scotia's south shore we are supporting the Town of Bridgewater on becoming a smart community through its "Energize Bridgewater Program", where energy services are clean, efficient, available and affordable to everyone. The goal is to develop a model that can be used in other municipalities, meaning other communities will benefit from this partnership.

At the same time, we are focused on continuing to build and strengthen our relationship with Mi'kmaq communities and the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs. We're promoting training and employment and providing the opportunity for communities to participate in our projects. Our hydro redevelopment work is a great example of how we are collaborating and providing a meaningful place for discussion and understanding Mi'kmaq areas of interest and potential concern.

These partnerships extend to businesses as well. Lynwood Inn in Baddeck is one example. We have installed fast charging stations there, promoting the use of electric vehicles in a busy tourist area. And we want to make it even easier for businesses to engage with us. We rely on their goods and services to ensure we are delivering safe, reliable electricity. Based on input from the business community, we now have a new vendor portal for businesses (nspower.ca/vendors) to provide their information for the opportunity to be involved in future procurement processes.

This type of collaboration will help us create a cleaner energy future while also ensuring affordable, reliable electricity for Nova Scotia families and businesses. It's an exciting time for us as a province as we all work together to achieve our climate goals and build a green economy.

Working together to build an affordable, clean energy future

In the spring edition, we shared our decarbonization journey with you. A look at the progress made over the last 15 years when it comes to cutting carbon and increasing the amount of renewable energy on our system. We also talked about our plans to accelerate that transition to cleaner energy. Our President & CEO Peter Gregg was able to continue that conversation with many of you this fall, during a webinar hosted by the NS Federation of Municipalities. We appreciated the questions asked and the interest shown in wanting to work together to build an affordable clean energy future. We'd like to keep that discussion going.

You are likely hearing some of the same comments in your communities as we're hearing from customers. They expect us to do our part to reduce our carbon footprint. A study by Narrative Research earlier this year showed three-quarters of Nova Scotians support the phasing out of coal by 2030. We support this too and are actively looking at ways to do it in a way that is affordable to customers.

We marked an important step in our transition away from coal this summer with the NS Block of hydro-electricity starting to flow over the Maritime Link. This clean electricity is keeping us on track to reach approximately 60% renewable in 2022 and it will also help us move to 80% by 2030.

The ability to tap into renewable energy from our neighbours in Newfoundland like we are with the Maritime Link, is critical in helping us move off coal. So are projects like the Atlantic Loop, which will connect Atlantic Canada to more clean power sources in other parts of the country. This, however, is only one part needed to accelerate our transition. We are also looking at a mix of wind, solar and battery storage and the role they will play in our future. It will take all of us working together – government,

local businesses and communities – to achieve these goals. We all have a role to play and together, we can build a green economy. We know you have your own ideas about ways to fight climate change in your respective communities across Nova Scotia. We'd like to work with you. We have the expertise to help you achieve your climate action plans and what's really exciting is to see the great work already happening in light of partnerships being established.

In the northern region, construction of our first community solar garden will be complete this fall thanks to our partnership with the Town of Amherst and Halifax-based Natural Forces Solar. The Amherst garden will be connected to the grid and produce about 2700 MWh of electricity a year – enough to power about 240 homes or 700 battery-powered electric vehicles.

In the Annapolis Valley we are installing and testing the first bidirectional charging station at Nova Scotia Community College's (NSCC) Middleton campus – the first in Atlantic Canada and one of the first in the country. This cutting-edge technology not only allows customers to charge their electric vehicles but also takes energy from the EV battery to power their home during an outage. The pilot is possible because of the partnership with NSCC.

We are working with the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) on exciting initiatives such as HalifACT 2050 and the electrification of Halifax Transit's bus fleet. Our work has focused on ensuring we have the infrastructure in place to support the extra load that will happen as HRM electrifies its bus fleet. This collaboration also includes the development of a data analysis

continued on page 25



POWERING A GREEN NOVA SCOTIA, TOGETHER

KERWIN HUSKINS
PLANT MANAGER, HYDRO AND WIND

Find out more about our clean energy journey at nspower.ca/clean

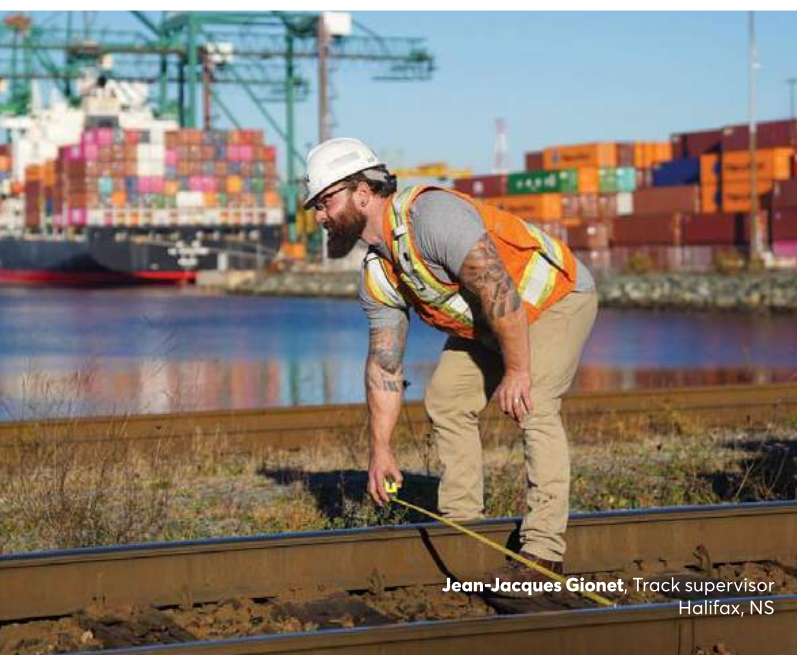




Port of Halifax, NS



Thomas Hunt, Conductor
Halifax, NS



Jean-Jacques Gionet, Track supervisor
Halifax, NS



Planting of the Cancer Survivors
Daffodils Garden in Dartmouth, NS



**Proud to
be your
neighbour**

*Delivering responsibly
for Nova Scotia's
communities.*

cn.ca



Halifax, NS