

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING
May 14, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:06 p.m., in the Conference Room, in the Administrative Centre, in Barrington, N.S., with the following members present:

- Lindsay (Eddie) Nickerson, Chair
- Jody Crook
- Shaun Hatfield
- Andrea Mood-Nickerson

- Chris Frotten, CAO
- Debbie Mader, Finance Clerk

- George El-Jakl – absent due to work commitments

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Being duly moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Being duly moved and seconded that minutes of the last meeting held April 16, 2024, be approved as circulated.

Motion carried unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no matters arising from previous meetings.

BARRINGTON LAKE WILDFIRE AFTER-ACTION REVIEW

The Barrington Lake Wildfire After-Action Review was provided to the Committee prior to the meeting. This is a standard exercise that is completed after any major event, providing an overview of the emergency and suggestions on what could be done differently for future emergency events. The review is attached and forms part of the minutes.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE DESIGN UPDATE

Harry Jost and Heather Sprague were in attendance to provide an update on the Community Health Centre Design. The update is attached and forms part of the minutes.

SHEDIAC 1ST ANNUAL LOBSTER ROLL CHALLENGE

Direction given to staff to send someone to Shediac to represent the Municipality of Barrington in the 1st Annual Lobster Roll Challenge.

008.

Page 2, Committee of the Whole Council Meeting, May 14, 2024.

DRONE DISPLAY

The drone display, an item that was in the budget for the Causeway's 75th Anniversary, was referred back to Committee of the Whole Council from Council for further discussion.

Warden Nickerson turned the Chair over to Deputy Warden Crook during this discussion.

Resolution COW240501

Being duly moved and seconded that it be recommended to Council that the \$26,000 budget amount for the drone display be removed from the budget and replaced with a budget of \$26,000 for a well at Stoney Island Beach to provide water for the toilets that are currently in the budget for this year.

AFFIRMATIVE

- Jody Crook
- Eddie Nickerson
- Andrea Mood-Nickerson

NEGATIVE

- Shaun Hatfield

Motion carried.

Warden Nickerson returned to the Chair.

NEW SERVICE EXCHANGE AGREEMENT

Provincial-Municipal Service Exchange Agreement was provided to committee members prior to the meeting. The agreement is attached to the minutes and forms part of the minutes.

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO POLICY 41 – LOW INCOME PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION POLICY

The draft amendment was provided to committee members prior to the meeting.

Notice was given that consideration of the adoption of the revised "Low Income Property Tax Exemption" would take place at the May 28, 2024, Council meeting.

IN-CAMERA SESSION RE: MGA SECTION 22(2)(e) - CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

At 8:50 p.m. members moved In-Camera, in accordance with Section 22(2)(e) of the Municipal Government Act, to discuss contract negotiations.

The regular meeting was called back to order at 9:05 p.m.

REPORT ON IN-CAMERA SESSION

Direction was given to the CAO to continue on with contract negotiations.

009.

Page 3, Committee of the Whole Council Meeting, May 14, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Chair

Secretary for the Meeting

Barrington Lake Wildfire After-Action Review (AAR)

Barrington and Town of Clark's Harbour Emergency Management Organization
Shelburne County East Emergency Management

April 2024

Table of Contents

Purpose & Objectives of the After-Action Review (AAR).....	3
Scope of the Review	3
Municipal Response.....	4
Strengths	4
Recommended Improvements	4
General Reflections of the Municipal Response and Incident	6
Municipal Recovery Activities	7
Strengths	7
Recommended Improvements	7
General Reflections of the Municipal Response and Incident	8
Resources	9

Purpose & Objectives of the After-Action Review (AAR)

An After-Action Review strives to answer the following questions: what was supposed to happen (if applicable), what actually happened, what went well, what did not go well, and what should be changed for next time. This review attempts to capture items that will document the successes of the municipalities, the challenges during the incident, and details that will support future reflection. It is important to document these reflections, and important to recognize that the complexity of the incident created challenges that by nature results in impacts that cannot always be prevented.

This AAR is not an exhaustive account of the emergency incident; rather, it is a critical analysis intended to inform internal discussions and decision-making within the Emergency Management Organization. The information presented should be considered in the context of continuous improvement, allowing the organization to learn from experiences and enhance its capabilities for future emergencies.

This AAR is not intended to assign blame or liability but is a tool for organizational learning and development. The EMO encourages open and candid discussions to foster a culture of continuous improvement and preparedness.

This document does not constitute official policy, and the EMO reserves the right to update, modify, or revoke any aspect of this AAR at its discretion.

Scope of the Review

This review includes the response and recovery of the Barrington Lake Wildfire. The largest recorded wildfire in the history of Nova Scotia spanned over two weeks - burning approximately 23,015 hectares (56,871 acres), requiring the evacuation of over 5,000 people and destroying 31 structures.

Municipal Response

Strengths

Common Strengths

- Staff performed amazingly and adapted to changing circumstances quickly.
- Leadership and engaging with specialists quickly. Utilizing the staff and volunteers effectively.
- External communication. Hiring of a communication firm.
- Early engagement of external partners Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), NS Department of Public Works (NSPW), Barrington and Area Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR), Provincial Coordination Centre (PCC), Nova Scotia Power (NSP), Red Cross, NS Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (DNRR).
- Animal rescue and shelter efforts by organizations, businesses and residents was excellent.
- Air quality monitoring was excellent but could have acted earlier on response.

Municipality of Barrington Specific Strengths

- Ability to quickly relocate operations.

Municipality of Shelburne Specific Strengths

- Early designation by CAO of a Director to manage continued municipal affairs and manage their own core staff affairs allowed the CAO and Emergency Coordination Centre team to focus exclusively on emergency matters.
- Early engagement of volunteer coordinator in Shelburne relieved a tremendous amount of pressure on core ECC team.
- Community kitchens provided essential services to emergency responders and ECC staff.

Recommended Improvements

Common Recommended Improvements

Improvement	Action Required
Create a dedicated Regional Emergency Management Organization email address.	By creating a dedicated REMO email address, every REMO team member that has the REMO email address will have access to the Outlook contact list as well. This will allow everyone to have instant access to new contacts when another member of the team adds a contact to the list.
More emergency management training for staff and Council so roles are better understood	More basic emergency management training for staff and Council.
Pre-developed forms/spreadsheets.	More basic EM training for staff and Council.

Consider inviting neighboring EMO / REMO coordinators to come and supplement the ECC team.	In the event of a shortage in trained staff, invite neighboring EMO / REMO coordinators to assist.
Waste handling was confusing and required considerable staff time to manage public inquiries and concerns.	Explore the possibility of having an emergency management plan with alternate pick up and disposal protocols. Consider waiving tipping fees for debris cleanup.
Unable to access relevant mapping for daily updates.	Establish pre-determined protocols or data sharing agreement to have access to that information when needed.
Training for staff in dealing with difficult/upset people.	Organize training for staff and Council.
Quicker access to mental health assistance for staff.	Create a list of local and remote/virtual mental health supports.
Create an emergency registration page on our municipal websites.	In order to avoid privacy concerns and the inability for the Municipality to obtain important contact information for the recovery phase.

Municipality of Shelburne Specific Recommended Improvements

Improvement	Action Required
Create a protocol of collecting and centralizing receipts for emergency related expenses.	Appoint a finance coordinator at the beginning of an emergency and communicate to all team members and volunteers that receipts are to be delivered to them.
Consider childcare arrangements for staff.	In order to free up staff forced to stay at home with children during an emergency, make arrangements for safe and secure childcare.
Subscribe to an alternate emergency alert system that does not solely rely on cell coverage access by the public.	The Municipality of Shelburne is currently testing Voyent Alert that provides five mechanisms for delivery of information.
Improve communications with emergency providers and first responders.	Emergency providers and first responders need to be educated further on the support that can be offered by the ECC.
Need to assign staff at the beginning to manage the public REMO phone lines.	In order to save ECC team member time, a staff member can staff the REMO phone lines to answer most of the public queries and direct more complicated matters to the correct ECC team member if required.
Make arrangements ahead of a future emergency for a qualified community group to accept financial donations.	Have an agreement in place with the community group ahead of future emergencies.
Inability to know what residents require special assistance in evacuation areas.	Investigate opening a vulnerable person registry that residents can choose to sign onto. Double check with legal.

Consider appointing a logistics coordinator earlier in the emergency.	A logistics coordinator can work in coordination with the volunteer coordinator to centralize delivery and dissemination of donated goods and supplies.
Have ECC team members work in pairs.	In order to avoid burn-out, have ECC team members work in pairs with overlapping shifts to ensure continuity of tasks.
Consider creation of an emergency volunteer list.	It would be beneficial if the ECC team had a list of names to call in the event they required volunteers in a hurry.
Keep Council informed.	Setup a regular Microsoft Teams meeting to inform Council as well as the local MLA & MP.
Create policy to reward volunteers.	Volunteers should be paid during an emergency.
Establish a communication & coordination protocol with Province.	In order to avoid the confusion created by the Province wanting to open Hwy 103 in the midst of a mandatory evacuation area, we need to establish a communication and coordination protocol with the Province.
Involve legal council earlier on in the emergency.	Legal advice would have been very helpful on a range of issues.
Establish One REMO phone number that can feed into multiple phone lines.	
Air quality response could have been quicker.	
Alert Ready did not provide visual maps for evacuation zones.	Currently testing Voyent Alert for mapping features to release to residents at the time an Alert Ready is issued.

General Reflections of the Municipal Response and Incident

Common Reflections

- Incident was handled well given the circumstances.
- Amazing amount accomplished by a very caring professional staff.
- Contacts made with external partners will be extremely beneficial in the future.
- Community assistance was phenomenal from volunteers to donations.
- Utilizing external supports via the Provincial Coordination Centre was extremely helpful.
- Access to community recreation facilities was extremely useful, highlighting the importance of these facilities in our community.

Municipality of Barrington Specific Reflections

- Ability to quickly relocate emergency coordination centre, municipal operations and evacuation center as well as plans for future moves.

Municipality of Shelburne Specific Reflections

- Communications need to be improved with Staff, Council, emergency providers and first responders.

Municipal Recovery Activities

Strengths

Common Strengths

- Bringing in external agencies, such as Task Force 2, with expertise to help develop re-entry and recovery plan.
- Ability to put everything in place and communicate with all partners quickly.
- Staff ability to get the contacting of residents done in a timely manner and getting necessary resources in place quickly.
- Assigning a dedicated ECC team to recovery activities.
- Assigning a dedicated space for the recovery team to work from.
- Good communications with the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing in regard to housing assistance.
- A phased approach for re-entry into evacuation zone was appreciated by victims.
- The recovery package for victims was very good.
- It was good that various fees for victims were waived, including water testing, building permits, demolition permit, etc.
- It was vital to have access to mental health resources after the emergency.
- Community and business response for alternate & temporary housing for victims and evacuees was outstanding and demonstrated the support and care for victims.

Municipality of Barrington Specific Strengths

- Ability to quickly relocate the emergency coordination centre, municipal operations and evacuation center as well as plans for future moves.

Municipality of Shelburne Specific Strengths

- An onsite Provincial Coordination Centre (PCC) representative was very useful.
- Excellent planning and execution of a victim notification process.
- Excellent advocacy on behalf of victims in navigating challenges arising with dealing with the Province and assisting agencies.

Recommended Improvements

Common Recommended Improvements

Improvement	Action Required
Need a trained professional to deliver traumatic news to victims.	We need to source or sign an agreement with a person or agency that will be on standby in the event we require a professional to deliver traumatic news.
Need to provide staff with access to mental health	Create a list of local and remote/virtual mental health supports.

professionals during the emergency.	
Recommend improvements in information sharing with Red Cross.	Establish pre-determined protocols or data sharing agreement to have access to that information when needed.
Investigate methods to limit media access to victims at vulnerable times (i.e. right after notification).	Organize staff training in communication and media relations and develop appropriate media policies and protocols.

Municipality of Barrington Specific Recommended Improvements

Improvement	Action Required
DOE water testing should not be left to municipality to look after.	Advocate for water testing to be administered by the NS Department of Environment and Climate Change or request more resources to assist the municipality.
Notification of residents with property damage in a timelier fashion.	Research best practices and develop clear procedures on how to notify residents.

Municipality of Shelburne Specific Recommended Improvements

Improvement	Action Required
Need a plan and better communication on waste management by residents.	Research best practices and develop a communication plan to notify residents.

General Reflections of the Municipal Response and Incident

Capture the general feel and comments about the incident, the response to the incident, and any other sentiments that come out of the AAR.

Common Reflections

- Putting together the re-entry plan and executing the plan in the timeframe was top notch. The logistics of this operation was an immense undertaking but was completed quickly and professionally and with care.
- Residents who suffered loss being able to have access to their properties before the general public was greatly appreciated by those affected.
- The water testing service was confusing and not particularly well supported by the Department of Environment and Climate Change. It was left to the municipalities to deal with.

Resources

List resources that worked well and were considered necessary and valuable, and resources you recommend as necessary for future incidents (I.E. equipment, people/positions, or other assets).

Resources that worked well/were necessary	Resources you would recommend or need for future incidents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Specialists ▪ Task Force 2 ▪ Red Cross ▪ Fire Departments ▪ RCMP ▪ BGSAR ▪ Our House ▪ Lions Club ▪ Staff ▪ DNRR ▪ TIR ▪ Alert Ready System ▪ PCC / EMO ▪ Air quality monitors ▪ Iris Communications ▪ Community Facilities (Arenas, Community Centres, etc.) ▪ Critical Incident Stress Management Team ▪ Starlink Satellite Internet ▪ Private Companies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Department of Environment and Climate Change personnel for water testing informing residents of the process and collecting of the samples. ▪ Better mapping. ▪ Cell phone boosters. ▪ Organized community resources ▪ Standing agreement for mental health professionals to arrive on scene upon request. ▪ Information access agreement with Red Cross. ▪ Emergency registration process (i.e., on our website) (Shelburne) ▪ Alternate emergency alert system – Voyent Alert (Shelburne)



BARRINGTON
COMMUNITY
HEALTH
CENTRE

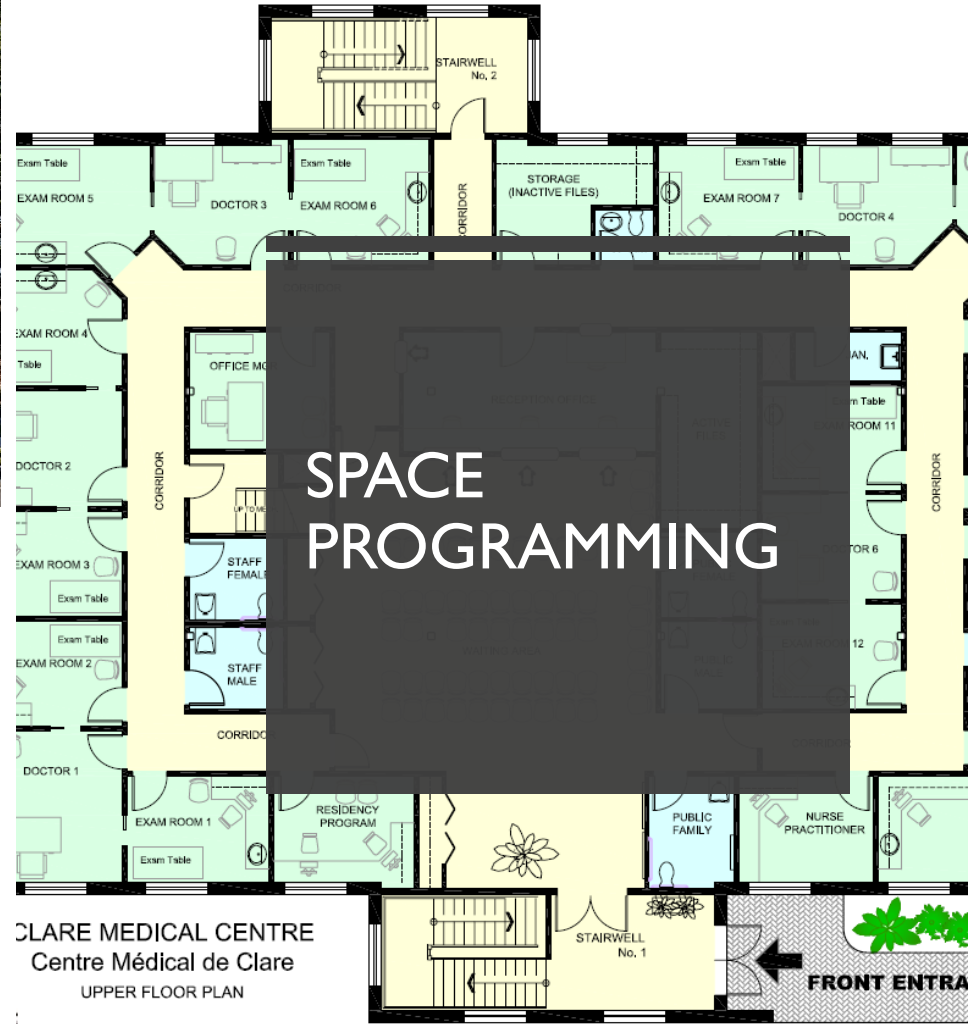
PRE-DESIGN PHASE

(Completed in 2022)

Space Programming

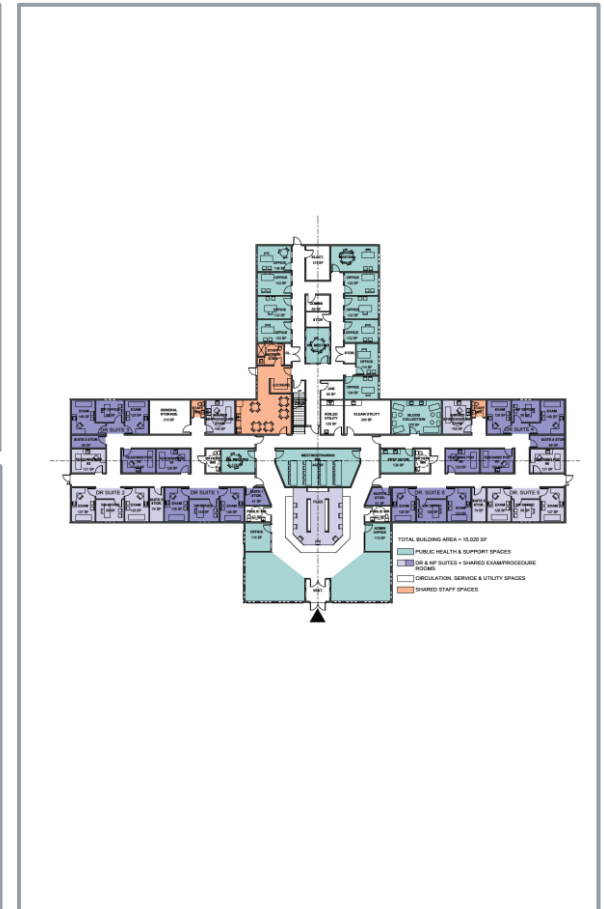
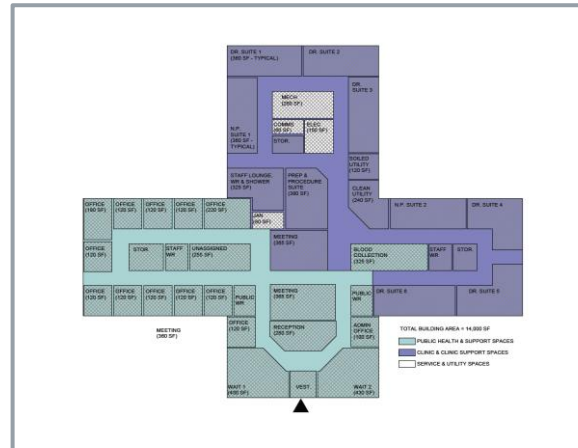
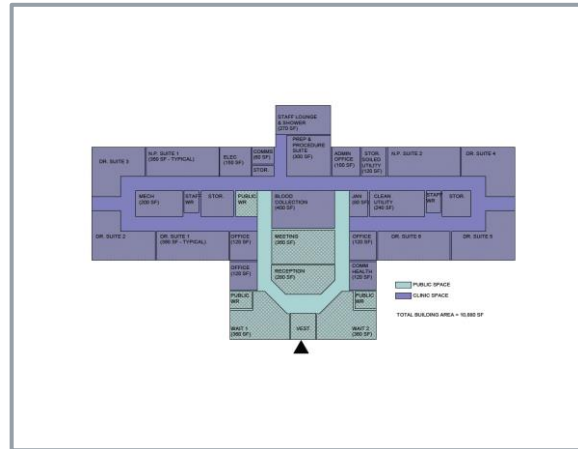
Pre-Design Concept & Budget





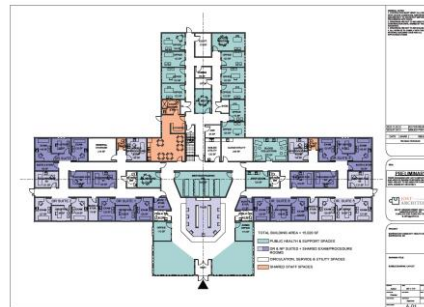
PRE-DESIGN CONCEPT & BUDGET

- Bubble Diagram I
- User / Owner Review & Feedback
- Bubble Diagram II
- User / Owner Review & Feedback
- Concept Floor Plan Submission



PRE-DESIGN CONCEPT & BUDGET

FINAL CONCEPT SUBMISSION &
BUDGET – NOVEMBER 2022



Opinion of Probable Cost

Project: Barrington Health Centre Date: 18-Nov-22
Location: Barrington NS Gross Building Area (S.F.): 15,020

Job Number: 2022031 Submission Stage: PreDesign

Construction Element and Sub-Division	Element Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Substructure				
Foundations	15020	SF	\$ 15.00	\$ 225,300.00
Structure				
Floor Construction	15020	SF	\$ 10.12	\$ 152,002.40
Service Attic	2375	SF	\$ 10.12	\$ 24,035.00
Roof Construction - Raised Roof	2375	SF	\$ 85.00	\$ 201,875.00
Roof Construction (Typical)	12645	SF	\$ 35.00	\$ 442,575.00
Exterior Enclosure				
Walls Above Grade (Does not consider openings)	15020	SF	\$ 47.04	\$ 706,540.80
Large Windows (3 Wide, Full Height)	25	EA	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 87,500.00
Medium Windows (2 Wide, Full Height)	8	EA	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
Small Windows (3 Small Windows) (10 Clear Story)	59	EA	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 88,500.00
Entrances (Typical Door)	2	EA	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 5,000.00
Entrances (1.5 Leaf Doors)	2	EA	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 7,000.00
Main Entrance / Vestibule (Paired Doors)	2	EA	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
Roof Covering	15020	SF	\$ 25.00	\$ 375,500.00
Interiors				
Partitions	15020	SF	\$ 13.98	\$ 209,979.60
Doors	69	EA	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 103,500.00
Interior Glazing	27	EA	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 27,000.00
Floor Finishes	15020	SF	\$ 8.44	\$ 126,768.80
Ceiling Finishes (Floor Area + Service Attic)	17395	SF	\$ 8.24	\$ 143,334.80
Wall Finishes (Floor Area + Service Attic)	17395	SF	\$ 9.09	\$ 158,120.55
Stair	1	LS	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
Casework	15020	SF	\$ 7.00	\$ 105,140.00
Mechanical				
Plumbing and Drainage	15020	SF	\$ 14.10	\$ 211,782.00
Fire Protection	15020	SF	\$ 3.86	\$ 57,977.20
HVAC	15020	SF	\$ 600.00	\$ 900,000.00
Controls	15020	SF	\$ 4.52	\$ 67,896.40
Electrical				
Service and Distribution	15020	SF	\$ 15.00	\$ 225,300.00
Lighting & Devices	15020	SF	\$ 15.00	\$ 225,300.00
Systems and Ancillaries	15020	SF	\$ 13.72	\$ 206,074.40
Site Work				
Access Road	685	LF	\$ 300.00	\$ 205,500.00
Driveways & Parking	36642	SF	\$ 12.00	\$ 439,704.00
Site Services - Electrical	1	LS	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Site Services - Water	1	Lump Sum	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Site Services - Lift Station & Sewer Line	1	Lump Sum	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Parking Lot Lighting	10	EA	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 25,000.00
Landscaping	1	Allowance	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
No cost carried for FFET				
				\$ -
SUB-TOTAL				\$ 6,616,489.95
G.C. O&P				15% \$ 842,474.93
SUB-TOTAL				\$ 6,458,974.34
Contingency				10% \$ 645,897.49
SUB-TOTAL				\$ 7,104,872.44
Soft Costs				10.0% \$ 710,487.24
OPINION OF PROBABLE COST (PRE-TAX)				\$ 7,815,359.68
HST				15.00% \$ 1,172,303.95
OPINION OF PROBABLE COST				\$ 8,987,663.63



PROJECT ACTIVITY 2022 – 2023

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL – DESIGN TEAM

ISSUED MARCH 2023

DESIGN AWARD

AUGUST 23, 2023

CONCEPT DESIGN PHASE (Current)

Site Investigation - Complete

User Group Engagement - Complete

Feedback Consolidation - Complete

Concept Design Revisions – Complete

User Group and Owner Review – In Progress

Concept Design Revisions

Final User Group and Owner Review

Final Concept Design

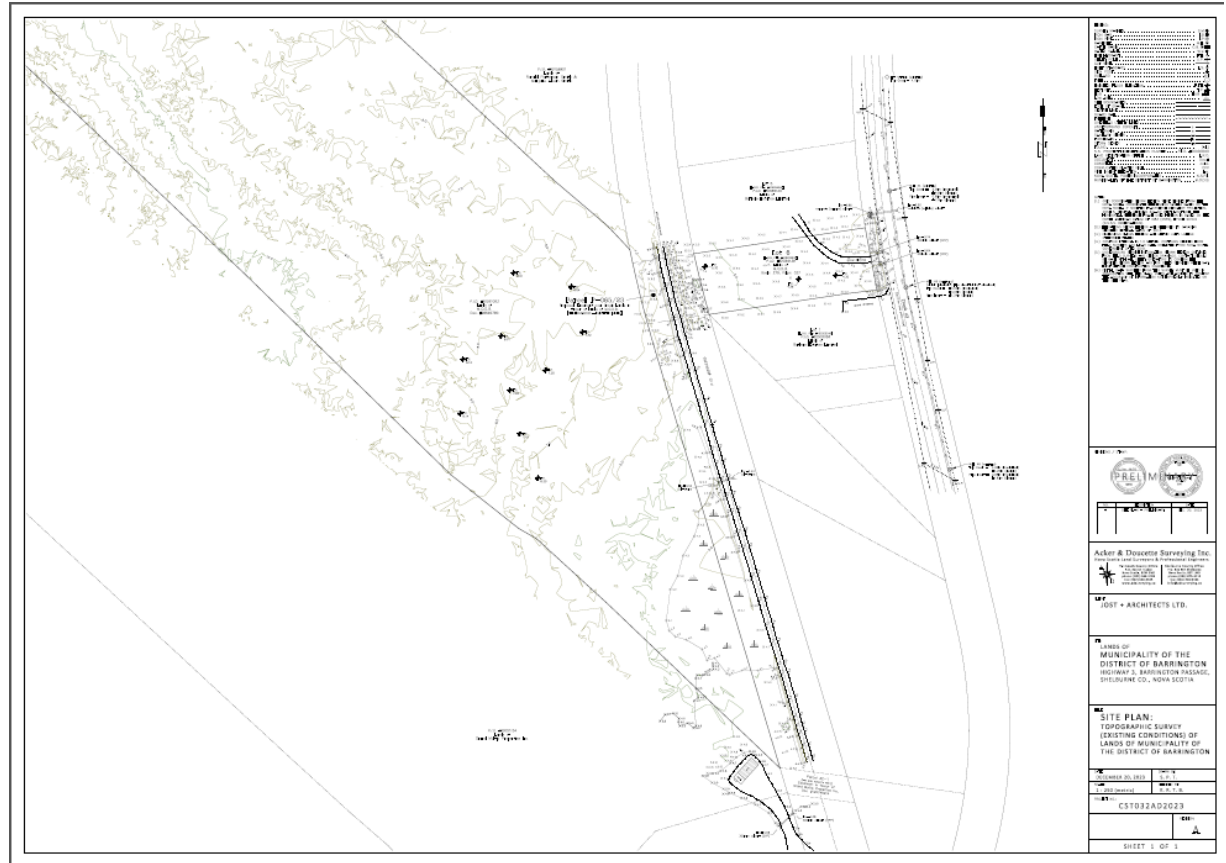
Class C Cost Estimate (Third Party)



SITE INVESTIGATION

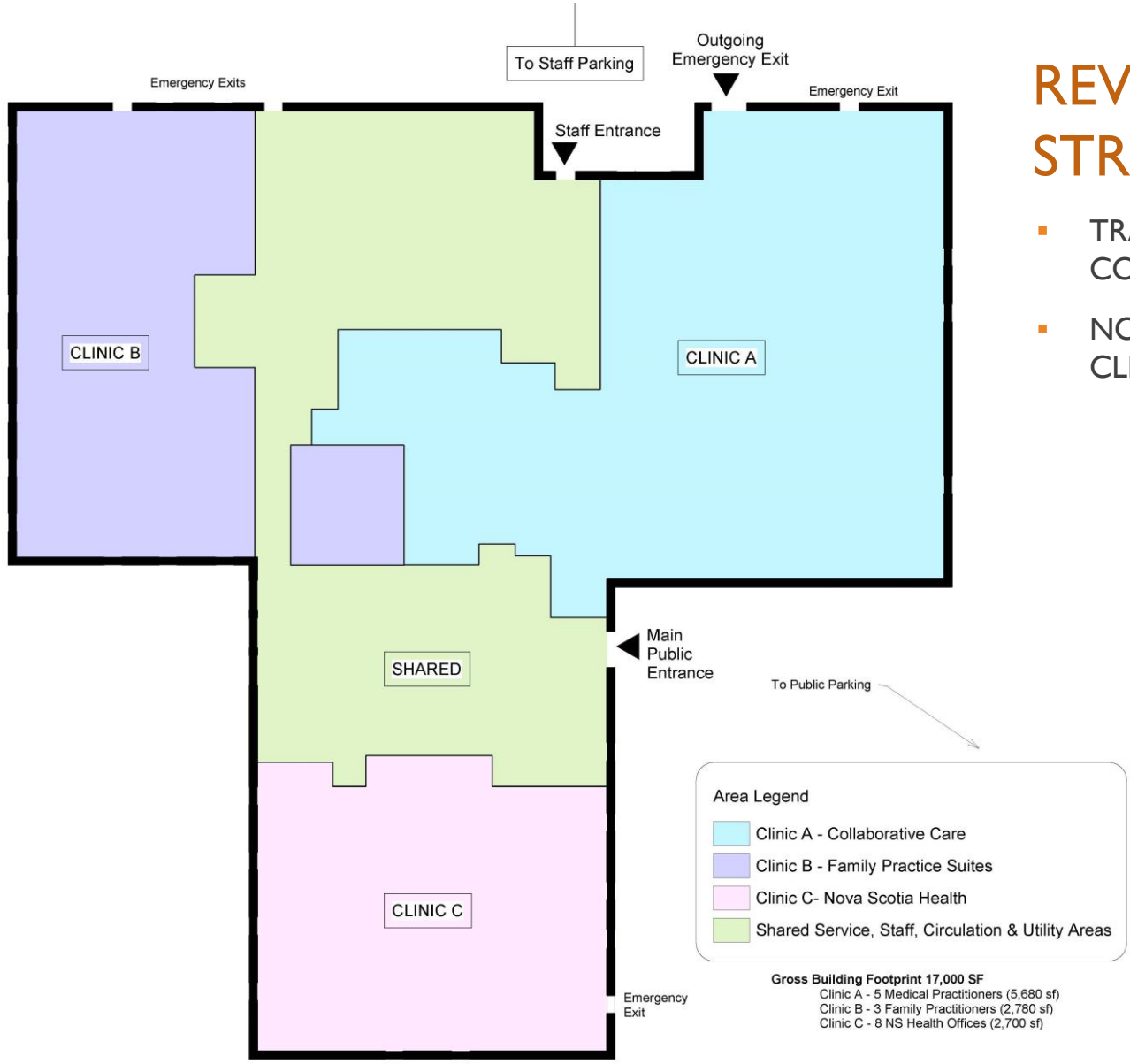
(Completed January 10, 2024)

Survey
Geotechnical Investigation

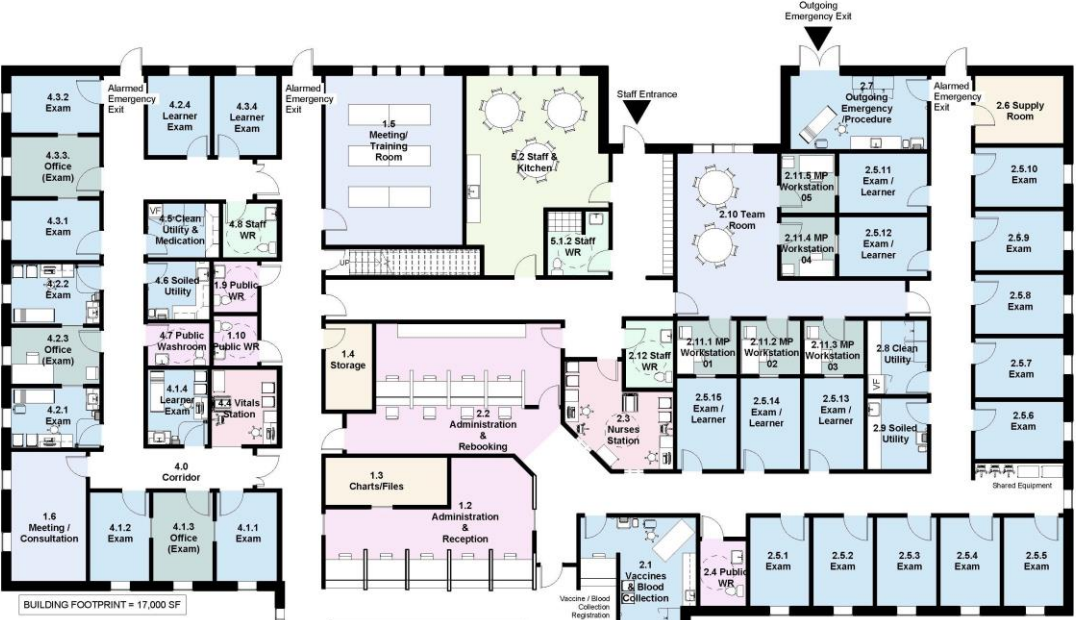


REVISED STRATEGY

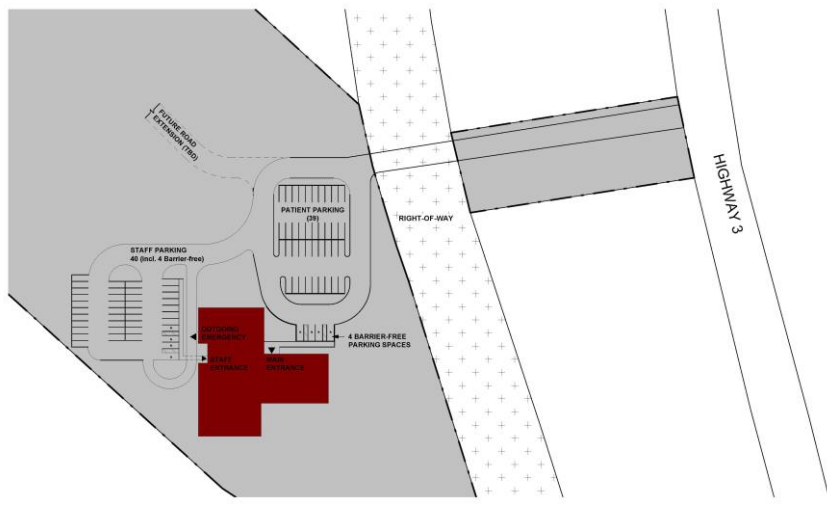
- TRADITIONAL & COLLABORATIVE CLINICS
- NOVA SCOTIA HEALTH CLINIC



CONCEPT SITE & FLOOR PLAN

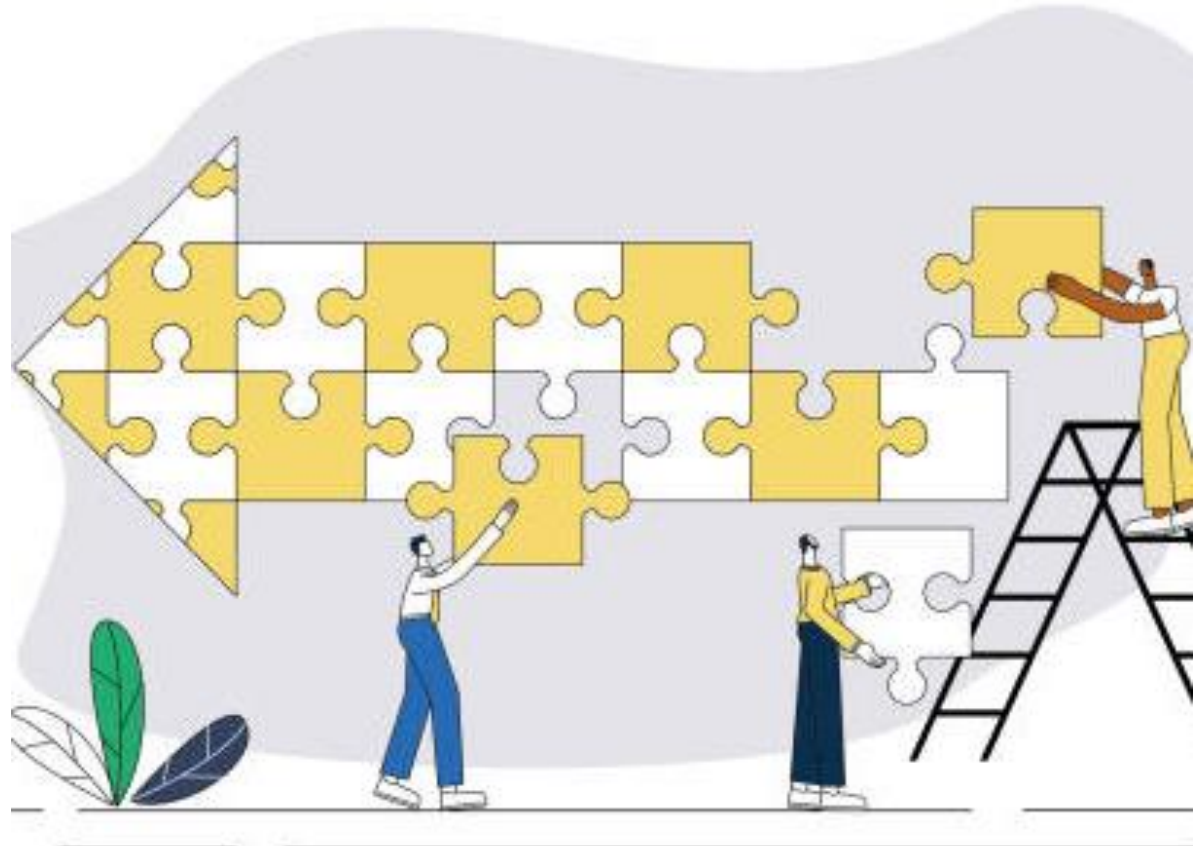


- Room Type Legend**
- Administration
 - Medical Practitioner Offices
 - Nurses Station
 - Clinical Support
 - Meeting & Consult
 - Public Washroom
 - Staff Room
 - Staff Washroom
 - Storage
 - Facility Rooms
 - Circulation



NEXT STEPS TO FINALIZE CONCEPT DESIGN

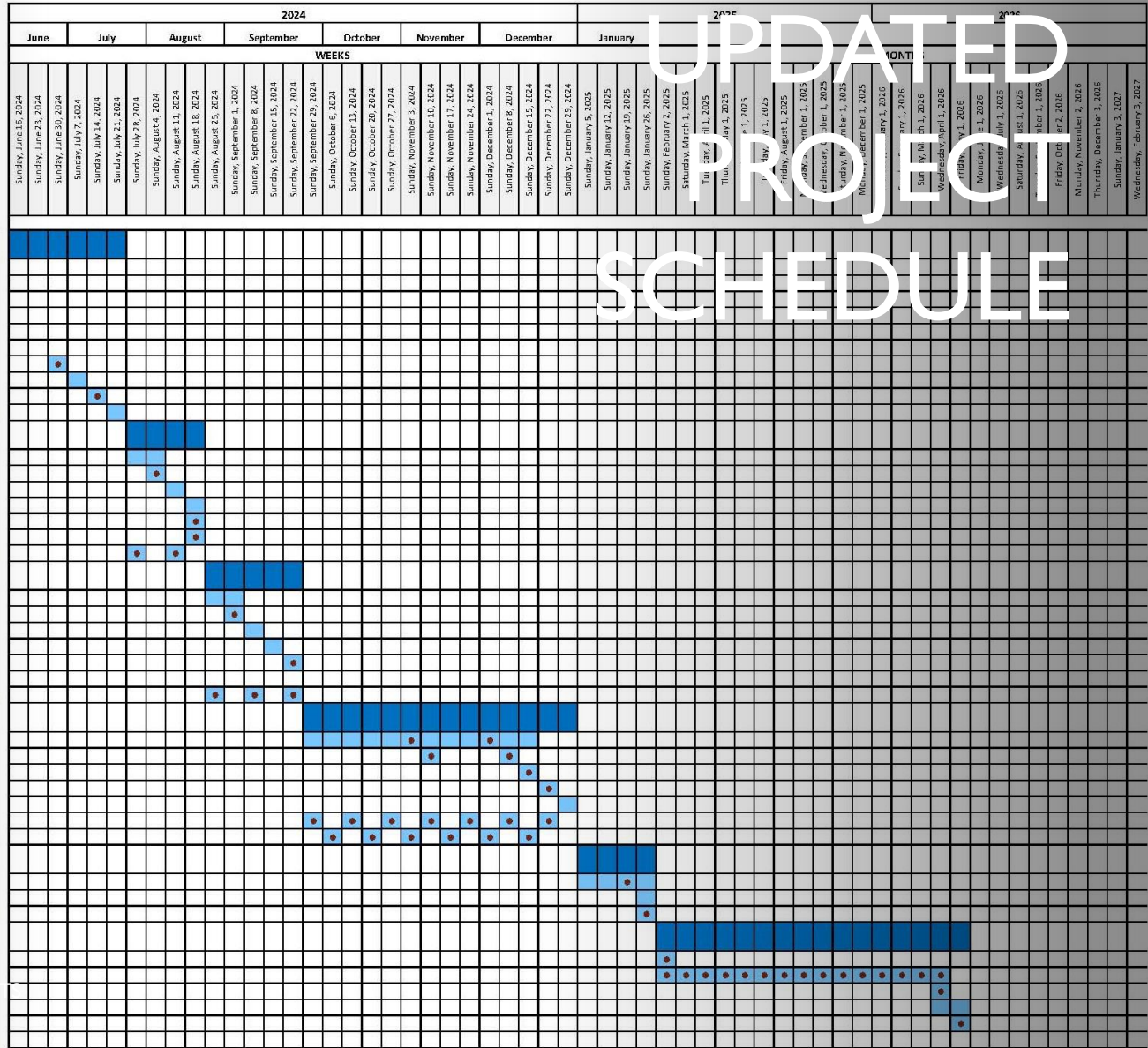
- User Group / Owner Feedback on Revised Site and Floor Plans
- Concept Design Submission including Exterior Elevations and 3D Image
- User Group and Owner Review
- Final Concept Design Submission
- Class C Cost Estimate (Third Party)





NEXT STEPS TO CONSTRUCTION

- Schematic / Design Development (Class B Estimate)
- Tender Documents (Class A Estimate)
- Tendering & Award
- Construction
- Substantial Completion
- Owner Take-Over
- Warranty



CONCEPT DESIGN REVIEW, UPDATE, & APPROVAL
Project Startup
Geotechnical / Topographical Survey
Gather Site Information
Client Program Review
Stakeholder Meetings
Revise Concept Design
User Group / Owner Review and Comment
Revise Concept Design
Final Concept Presentation
Client Concept Design Review & Approval to Proceed
SCHEMATIC DESIGN
Develop Schematic Design - assumes minor changes to current concept design
Preliminary Schematic Design Submission
Client Schematic Review
Schematic Design Revisions
Final Schematic Design with Class 'C' Estimate
Bi-Weekly Client Meetings
Bi-Weekly Consultant Coordination Meetings
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT
Design Development and Coordination
Preliminary Design Development Submission
Client Design Development Review
Design Development Revisions
Final Design Development with Class 'B' Estimate
Bi-Weekly Client Meetings
Bi-Weekly Consultant Coordination Meetings
CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS (Provisional)
Construction Documents (Submissions at 66% and 99%)
Client Review
100% Construction Documents (Tender Docs & Class 'A' Estimate)
Client Final Review
Final Revisions
Bi-Weekly Client Meetings
Bi-Weekly Consultant Coordination Meetings
BIDDING / NEGOTIATION (Provisional)
Tender Period - Issue January 2025
Tender Review
Contract Award - End of November
*CONSTRUCTION (Provisional)
Anticipated Construction Start - March 2025
Bi-Weekly Construction Meetings - Contract Admin**
Substantial Performance
FFE & Move In
Occupancy
Post Construction

*Anticipated Construction Period to be determined on Award



ANTICIPATED KEY DATES

- Issue for Tender – January 2025
- Award and Construction Start – March 2025
- Completion – Summer 2026



QUESTIONS



**Municipal Affairs and Housing
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 216, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2M4 • Telephone 902-424-5550 Fax 902-424-0581 • novascotia.ca

Oct 20/23

Juanita Spencer
Chief Executive Officer
Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
1809 Barrington Street – Suite 1304
Halifax NS B3J 3K8
Via email: jspencer@nsfm.ca

Dear Juanita Spencer:

I want to take this opportunity to confirm with you Government's plans with regards to the Service Exchange Agreement.

The intention is to complete regulations and approve programs in keeping with the proposed agreement negotiated with SERMGAR and which was presented during consultations this past summer.

To be clear, that means for the 48 municipalities covered by the renegotiated agreement, the legislation and eventual regulations will:

- remove the requirement under the *Corrections Act* for municipalities to make an annual contribution towards corrections;
- remove the requirement under the *Housing Supply and Services Act* for municipalities to pay a portion of the net operating losses for public housing;
- change the *Education Act* so that, in the future, ownership of schools built prior to 1981 would transfer back to the Province when they are deemed obsolete, with municipalities given the first right of offer to purchase the building at a negotiated price;
- update the *Municipal Grants Act* and move elements of the Municipal Financial Capacity Grant formula into regulation so it is more flexible and easier to adapt to the changing needs of municipalities and enabling government to implement the new formula agreed to by municipalities.

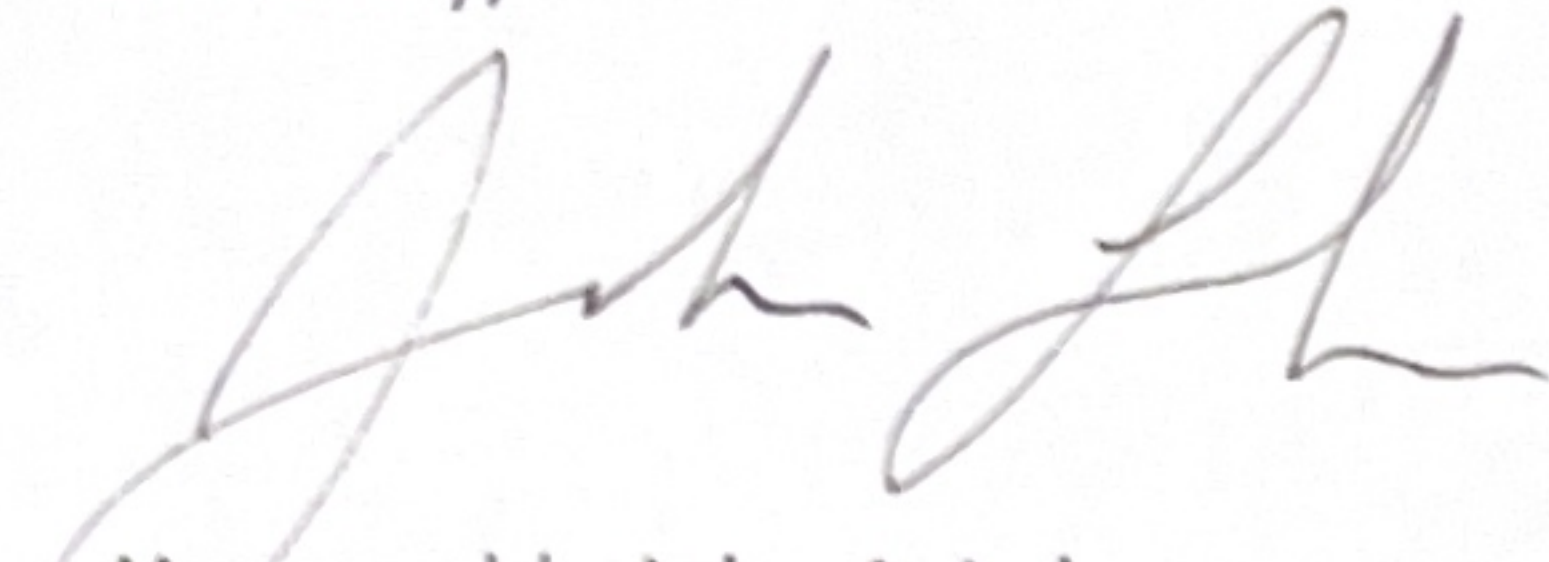
The new legislation and regulations will take effect April 1, 2024.

In addition, our plan is to create a new program for Infrastructure. The originally negotiated Roads Part A will also see a new program created. We have listened to the concerns of Municipalities raised during our consultation process and Part B of roads will be moved to Schedule A for further discussions. Both Infrastructure and Roads Part A will see programs open during the 2024/25 fiscal year.

Juanita Spencer
Page 2

I trust that this information is helpful.

Sincerely,



Honourable John A. Lohr
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

C: Byron Rafuse, Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing Municipal Affairs and Housing

July 31, 2023

Provincial-Municipal Service Exchange Agreement

Municipality of the District of Barrington

The renegotiated Service Exchange Agreement (MOU) establishes a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities between the provincial and municipal levels of government. Below you will find how the new agreement impacts the Municipality of the District of Barrington.

Municipal Financial Capacity Grant (MFCG)

The MFCG will be unfrozen with elements of the formula modernized. Those municipalities who see a decrease in their MFCG funding will receive non-renewable top-up funding for 5 years.

Frozen Funding Amount: \$151,335

New Amount: \$179,204

Corrections

The Province will absorb the costs associated with the mandatory contributions to corrections. This will save your municipality approximately \$87,504 annually.

Obsolete Schools

The Province will assume ownership of all pre-1981 schools closed after the Service Exchange is implemented. Municipalities will be given first right of offer.

Housing

The Province will absorb the annual costs associated with public housing losses. This will save your municipality approximately \$41,508 annually.

Infrastructure Funding

Municipalities will be able to leverage a new application based \$15M infrastructure program. The details of the program are still being set but will focus on provincial priorities.

Roads

The Province will create two application based funding programs for roads.

Stream A: \$6M will be available for 50-50 cost sharing for repaving trunks and routes which are municipally owned.

Stream B: \$10M will be available for any G, H, I and J class roads that municipalities have an interest in maintaining.

April 15, 2024

The Honourable John Lohr
Minister, Department of Municipal Affairs & Housing
PO Box 216
Halifax, NS B3J 2M4

Dear Minister Lohr:

Re: Service Exchange

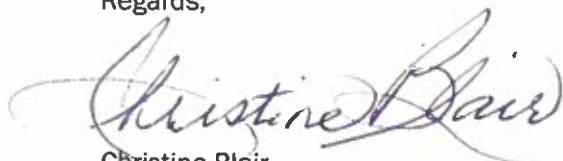
I would like to first acknowledge the extensive efforts to date to resolve longstanding issues by way of service exchange and municipal reform. I believe commendable progress has been made. However, as previously expressed, I remain concerned about how roads will be addressed moving forward.

Initial conversations concerning service exchange agreements involved J-class roads alone. For Colchester this would involve just over 111 kms. When additional classes of roads (G, H, and I) were added to the discussion, this brought our total to over 1,278 kms – quite a significant jump.

Our Council remains very concerned about the implications that proposed changes may have on our limited resources. The costs and logistics related to long-term maintenance, repair, and replacement of roads that could be transferred to our Municipality are still unknown. How will this affect our need for equipment, human resources, and supporting infrastructure required to house these additional resources? This is especially a concern as we continue to see rising costs on all products and services, labour shortages, and challenges sourcing equipment.

I know several other municipalities share similar concerns and feel it is important to bring this to your attention. I am hopeful and trust that future service exchange considerations concerning roads will involve extensive consultation, and ultimately have the best interest of all parties in mind.

Regards,



Christine Blair
Mayor

c. NS Mayors/Warden, CAOs
Colchester County Council



Municipal Financial Capacity Grant (MFCG) Fact Sheet

Highlight of Proposed Changes

The MFCG will be unfrozen, with elements of the formula modernized. Municipalities with a decrease in MFCG funding will receive a top-up in funding for a period of 5 years. An overview of changes follows:

① Standard expenditures

Currently, the calculation for standard expenditures includes protective services, transportation services (excluding public transit), and 50% of environmental health services. The calculation of standard expenditures is proposed to be expanded to include categories not previously considered under this definition. A comparison of the current and proposed revisions is shown below.

Expenditure Type	Current Funding Model	Modernized Funding Model
General Government Services	Excluded	Include 50%
Protective Services	Includes 100%	Include 100%*
Transportation Services	Excludes Public Transit	Include 100%*
Environmental Health Services	Includes 50%	Include 100%*
Recreation and Cultural Services	Excluded	Include 50%
Public Health Services	Excluded	Exclude
Environmental Development Services	Excluded	Include 100%

* Proposed changes would include interest on debt

② Uniform Assessment (UA)

Uniform Assessment will be subdivided into Residential and Commercial components. As a result, for each Class, Standard Tax Rate will be separated to become:

- Standard Residential Rate
- Standard Commercial Rate

Rather than the Standard Tax Rate for the Class multiplied by the municipality's UA, the modernized formula combines the following two parts:

- Standard Residential Rate for the Class multiplied by the municipality's Residential UA
- Standard Commercial Rate for the Class multiplied by the municipality's Commercial UA