

Section 1.3

Assistance Programs

In 1994, the then Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Affairs produced their 24th annual edition of Financial Assistance Programs for Nova Scotia Municipalities. This document provided a detailed listing of Provincial and Federal programs which would have been of interest to municipalities, their boards, commissions or organizations. This document proved to be a popular publication, and the following section provides a continuation of this earlier work.

Every effort has been made to make this guide as comprehensive and as current as possible. The reader is cautioned, however, programs may change at anytime and there may be some specialized programs which are not listed in this section. For these reasons, each municipality should check with the appropriate provincial and federal agencies for any changes, additions or deletions of programs.

The Province of Nova Scotia

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

WEED CONTROL

Under the Provincial-Municipal Service Exchange Program, effective April 1, 1995, the Weed Control Act became the sole responsibility of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. Provisions of the Weed Control Act, were amended by the Municipal Reform Act, 1994-95, which repealed sections pertaining to the appointment of municipal inspectors and their compensation. Under the revised Act, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries appoints district inspectors for any districts designated in the appointments.

Although not specifically for municipalities, there is provision made for financial assistance to property owners in the cost of original cleanup and maintenance of control of a number of noxious weeds as listed in Sections 8 and 9 of the Regulations to the Weed Control Act.

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Department of Energy

Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy and Climate Change

Department of Energy staff can assist municipalities in the planning and development of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, including those designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Staff are also prepared to assist with projects or programs directed at preparing for the impacts of climate change.

Residential Information

Information on retrofitting existing homes for energy efficiency, energy-efficient new home construction, and renewable energy opportunities in new and existing housing is available through the toll-free Energy Tips line 1-800-670-4636. This service is currently provided by Clean Nova Scotia with financial and technical support from the Department of Energy. The hotline is a good place to go for information about insulation, controlling air leakage, ventilation, windows, heating systems, domestic water heating, etc. The Department of Energy currently provides free publications and videotape loans on a variety of topics. Staff can also assist with organization and delivery of workshops and seminars on residential energy efficiency.

Other Programs

Department staff are available to provide advice and assistance in setting up a variety of energy related programs, including employee awareness programs and information programs. Literature and awareness programs are available upon request.

For more information, contact:

Allan L. Crandlemire

Director

Energy Management, Markets and Climate Change

Nova Scotia Department of Energy

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P.O. Box 2664

Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3P7

Phone (902) 424-6829

Department of the Environment and Labour

Departmental assistance to Nova Scotia municipalities has shifted from providing financial support to providing primarily professional and technical support, promoting the use and development of local environmental technologies and cooperating with the Resource Recovery Fund Board (RRFB) to implement solid waste management programs.

Resource Recovery Fund Board

These programs are made pursuant to the Solid Waste-Resource Management Regulations, made under section 102 of the Environment Act.

The Resource Recovery Fund Board (RRFB) is a not-for-profit entity established under the Environment Act. The RRFB is required by the Solid Waste-Resource Management Regulations to provide funding for municipal solid waste diversion.

Eligible programs include the following:

1. Municipal waste diversion programs, including source reduction, reuse, recycling and composting programs;
2. Municipal household hazardous waste programs;
3. Municipal waste management education programs; and
4. Market development, manufacturing and processing of recycled materials.

For more information contact:

Resource Recovery Fund Board
14 Court Street
Suite 305
Truro, Nova Scotia
B2N 3H7

Phone (902) 895-7732

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

ACCESS-ability Grants

This program provides support for non-profit community organizations or groups, and municipalities of up to two thirds of the direct and indirect costs of renovations, installations, and/or equipment, to accommodate persons with disabilities to a maximum of \$10,000, subject to funding availability.

- Contact: Karen Ramsland
(902) 424-7798
kramslan@gov.ns.ca

Canada/Nova Scotia Infrastructure Works

The Canada-Nova Scotia Infrastructure Works Program is a shared cost program with the federal, provincial, municipal governments and other funding partners. The program addresses the infrastructure needs and priorities of local governments.

- Contact: Marvin MacDonald, P.Eng.
(902) 424-3858
mrmacdon@gov.ns.ca

Municipal Drinking Water Supply Planning Assistance Program

The Municipal Drinking Water Supply Planning Assistance Program provides assistance to municipalities to conduct land use planning to protect municipal drinking water supplies.

- Contact: Andrew Paton, MCIP
(902) 424-7492
apaton@gov.ns.ca

Equalization Grant

The Equalization Grant is an unconditional grant which assists municipal units in providing a basic level of services with a reasonable level of taxation. The purpose of equalization is to reduce differences

in fiscal disparities among municipalities, enabling them to provide comparable levels of services at reasonably comparable levels of taxation and ensures local decision making as well as lower costs for the municipal taxpayer.

- Contact: Wendy Dauphinee
(902) 424-6338
wdauphin@gov.ns.ca

Farm Land Grant

Pursuant to Section 77 of the Assessment Act, the Department pays a grant in respect to exempt farm property equal to \$2.10 per acre for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2001. For each subsequent fiscal year the grant is indexed by the Consumer Price Index for Canada. This program is application based.

- Contact: Ed Fry
(902) 424-5676
efry@gov.ns.ca

Fire Protection Grants

The Fire Protection Grant is an unconditional grant paid to municipalities and villages as a contribution towards providing fire protection services to provincial properties not otherwise subject to payment of a grant-in-lieu of property taxes.

- Contact: Ed Fry
(902) 424-5676
efry@gov.ns.ca

Formula Grants

This program provides special assistance for municipalities facing fiscal challenges to cope with existing and emerging financial pressures and for initiatives designed to facilitate and/or promote excellence in local government.

- Contact: Wendy Dauphinee
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wdauphin@gov.ns.ca
- Contact: Maxine Wallace
(902) 424-2353
wallacem@gov.ns.ca

Grants-In-Lieu of Taxes

Section 3 of the Municipal Grants Act provides for the payment of grants-in-lieu of taxes on eligible provincial property. The grants paid are equal to the full taxes that would be paid if the property were taxable. The definition of Provincial properties excludes hospitals and health care facilities, educational institutions, facilities for the permanent display of art and cultural and historical information including historical sites, water and sewage systems (other than on-site systems), and property of an agency, authority, board, commission, or Crown corporation, or those of the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations pursuant to the Housing Act. In addition, a grant-in-lieu of taxes is paid in a ratio equal to 40 percent of full taxes with respect to the residential property of post-secondary educational institutions and hospitals. This program is application based.

- Contact: Ed Fry
(902) 424-5676
efry@gov.ns.ca

Inclusive Transportation Program

Facilitates the establishment of sustainable public transportation services that are accessible to all persons.

- Contact: Rene Frigault
(902) 424-2088
frigaurj@gov.ns.ca

Provincial Capital Assistance Program

The Government of the Province of Nova Scotia recognizes that the cost of undertaking water supply, sewer disposal, solid waste management and other priority municipal infrastructure projects can place significant financial burdens on municipal governments and taxpayers alike. The Provincial Capital Assistance Program is designed to enable the Government of Nova Scotia to contribute financially towards the cost of high priority municipal infrastructure projects in order that this cost burden might be reduced to an affordable level.

- Contact: Aileen Waller-Hebb, P.Eng.
(902) 424-7414
wallerae@gov.ns.ca

Special Projects - Community Grants

This program is intended to provide financial assistance for a variety of special municipal and community based projects. For example fire halls, sidewalks, revitalization, and other infrastructure.

- Contact: Maxine Wallace
(902) 424-2353
wallacem@gov.ns.ca

Special Projects - Local Government Studies Grants

This program is intended to provide financial assistance to encourage local governments to undertake studies designed to facilitate improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of local government service delivery and administration - intermunicipal partnerships, governance, organization structure, etc. - and to apply the findings, “best practices”, to other local governments

- Contact: Maxine Wallace
(902) 424-2353
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Urban Transport Program

This program provides partial operating and capital funding towards a diverse range of safe, affordable and accessible community-based transportation services to meet the needs of rural Nova Scotians, including persons with disabilities, seniors and the disadvantaged.

- Contact: Marvin MacDonald, P.Eng.
(902) 424-3858
mrmacdon@gov.ns.ca

Villages HST Rebate

The Department provides a partial offset of the impact of the HST on villages.

- Contact: Ed Fry
(902) 424-5676
efry@gov.ns.ca

The Government of Canada

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CANADA

HRDC has a number of programs and services directed towards helping individuals to integrate into the labour market. Although not directly targeted to municipalities, they may be of interest to councillors who wish to provide advice to constituents. Eligibility criteria for the various programs vary, depending on individual circumstances.

Some of the major HRDC labour market programs are:

- Local Labour Market Partnerships
Local Labour Market partnerships (LLMP) promote community partnerships to develop strategies that expand a community's employment base, hence enhancing the potential for local economic success.
- Job Creation Partnerships
Job Creation Partnerships bring together local partners to promote long-term employment development by linking the needs of unemployed workers with local economic development.
- Employment Assistance Services
Employment Assistance Services (EAS) are offered through agreements with coordinators, organizations and community groups to help unemployed individuals become employed.
- Targeted Wage Subsidies
Individuals who have been unemployed for a long time and are having difficulties finding work may be able to benefit from on-the-job work experience made possible through Targeted Wage Subsidies (TWS).
- Self Employment Benefits
Self Employment Benefits provide eligible individuals with financial assistance for a fixed period while they are starting up a new business. Eligible individuals currently on an EI claim continue receiving their regular EI benefits and these may be "topped-up" to a locally determined flat rate. Other participants negotiate a rate of income support or receive a locally determined flat rate.

Human Resources Centres of Canada in the Nova Scotia Region:**South Shore / Valley:**

HRCC Bridgewater
 77 Dufferin Street
 P.O. Box 3100
 Bridgewater NS, B4V 3J1
 Manager: Michael Martin
 Phone: 527-5525
 Fax: 527-5570

HRCC Digby
 Evangeline Mall
 P.O. Box 1540
 Digby, NS, B0V 1A0
 Manager: Christine McDowell
 Phone: 245-4382
 Fax: 245-6226

HRCC Kentville
 2nd Floor, 495 Main St.
 P.O. Box 150
 Kentville, NS, B4N 3W5
 Manager: Jennie Enman
 Phone: 679-5734
 Fax: 679-5786

HRCC Yarmouth
 13 Willow Street
 P.O. Box 249
 Yarmouth, NS, B5A 4B2
 Manager: Lisa Richard
 Phone: 742-0810
 Fax: 742-0815

HRCC Shelburne
 218 Water St.
 Shelburne, NS, B0T 1W0
 Acting Team Leader/Program Officer Barb Goulden
 Phone: 875-4792
 Fax: 875-3505

Northern Nova Scotia:

HRCC New Glasgow
 340 East River Road
 New Glasgow, NS,
 B2H 3P7
 Manager: Johnathon Vieira
 Phone: 755-7805
 Fax: 755-7814

HRCC Amherst
 26-28 Prince Arthur St. Suite 202
 Amherst, NS, B4H 1V6
 Manager: Judith Williston
 Phone: 661-6605
 Fax: 661-6637

HRCC Antigonish
 2nd Floor, Federal Bldg.
 325 Main Street
 Antigonish, NS, B2G 2C3
 Manager: Darryl MacDonald
 Phone: 863-7037
 Fax: 863-7053

HRCC Port Hawkesbury
 PO Box 699
 Port Hawkesbury, NS,
 B0E 2V0
 Manager: Musset Pierre-Jerome
 Phone: 625-4130
 Fax: 625-4137

HRCC Truro
14 Court Street
Truro, NS, B2N 3H7
Manager: Judy Haley
Phone: 893-0028
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Halifax Metropolitan Area:

HRCC Halifax
Tower 2, 7001 Mumford Rd.
PO Box 1800
Halifax, NS, B3J 3B1
Manager: Bev Young
Phone: 426-5607
Fax: 426-4096

HRCC Bedford
2nd Floor, Royal Bank Bldg.
1597 Bedford Highway
Bedford, NS, B4A 3Z8
Manager: Elizabeth Finck
Phone: 426-9214
Fax: 426-4096

HRCC Dartmouth
114 Woodlawn Rd.
PO Box 2400, DEPS
Dartmouth, NS, B2W 4A5
Manager: Nancy Mariotti
Phone: 4265996
Fax: 426-7301

HRCC Windsor
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Manager: Paul Innis
Phone: 798-6509
Fax: 798-5816

Industrial Cape Breton:

HRCC Sydney
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Manager: Bruce Reardon
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Fax: 564-7104

HRCC Glace Bay
633 Main St. Suite 201
Glace Bay, NS, B1A 5V4
Manager: Sandra Power
Phone: 842-2455
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HRCC North Sydney
105 King Street
North Sydney NS, B2A 3S1
Manager: Bernadette Theriault
Phone: 794-5877
Fax: 794-5724

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

Capital Contributions for Construction Projects

Capital contributions may be made by the Department of National Defence to provincial or municipal agencies responsible for providing municipal services to National Defence establishments. The intent of the contribution is to assist in the construction of works and facilities that are required for the effective and safe operation of a Department of National Defence facility and which are in excess of those normally provided by the agency. Typical projects are municipal infrastructure upgrades, road safety improvements, the connection of a Base or Station to the regional/municipal water or sewer system, the development of a regional waste disposal site, or the development of community recreational facilities such as a skating rink or swimming pool where appropriate.

The projects are funded on the basis of cost-sharing agreements, with the Department's portion expressed as a percentage of the total cost of the project. Payments are made directly to the authority responsible for the construction project in accordance with the terms of the related agreement.

Purchase or sale of Utilities

The Department may purchase from municipalities and provincial utility suppliers, the utilities and services required for the operation of departmental facilities. In other cases, in areas where no other source of supply of utilities is available, the Department may provide services such as water supply or sewage treatment to adjoining municipalities on a cost recovery basis.

Utilities and services (water, sewage, electricity, gas, and other similar miscellaneous services) are purchased in accordance with a formal contract or agreement which is subject to normal review as to rate and terms. Payment for purchases, and claims for utilities and services provided, are made directly between the municipality or provincial utility suppliers and the Canadian Forces Base or Station concerned.

For More Information Contact:

Base/Wing Construction
Engineering Officer at the
Canadian Forces Base or Wing Concerned,
Or

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Directorate Realty and Facilities Management Support (DRFMS 3)
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Fax (1-866) 422-0837
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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

National Police Services Program

The Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) system, part of the National Police Services Programs, provides a computer-based central repository for information on stolen vehicles, license plates and parts, vehicles used in the commission of a crime, abandoned or operated by a wanted person, wanted, charged and paroled persons. The information is sorted and retrieved by police agencies using terminals connected to a main frame computer via telecommunications lines from coast to coast.

The costs of the CPIC system are borne almost entirely by the Federal Government. The shared costs between the Provinces, Municipalities and the Federal Government include only the rental of the communication lines from the provincial data switcher to the police agency offices and the rental of their terminals.

In most cases where an agreement for policing exists between the Federal Government and a Province or Municipality, the rental of line and terminals is paid for at the applicable costs share ratio contained in the policing agreement but that the basic service is provided free of charge.

A number of other services under National Police Services Programs such as the National Fingerprinting Program, Registration of Firearms, the Forensic Laboratory Services at Halifax, Nova Scotia, are available to accredited municipal police forces on a similar basis.

Police Services Under Contract

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police provides law enforcement services to provinces and municipalities that have requested these services. A request for policing services must be approved by the Federal Solicitor General and by the Provincial Minister of Justice and the respective municipal authority.

Under Municipal and Provincial policing agreements, the Federal Government agrees to share with the provincial and municipal authorities the cost of providing law enforcement services. The calculation of the total cost to be shared by the Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments is determined through a direct costing formula which identifies the cost of policing in the Province during the previous fiscal

year and applies these costs with adjustments for inflation, increases/decreases in establishment, etc., to the current billings. Billings to Provinces and Municipalities are on a quarterly basis and are for services provided during the previous three months period.

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