



THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF  
LA MUNICIPALITÉ DU COMTÉ DE  
**RICHMOND**

**Special Meeting  
Budget Deliberations – Funding Contributions**

Thursday, February 26, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

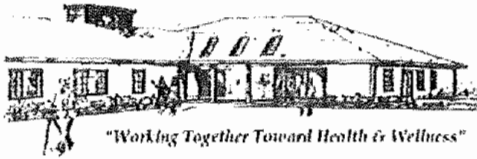
**Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Funding Contributions
4. Adjournment

BUDGET ITEMS  
MARCH 31, 2026

**FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS**  
**REGIONAL AND GENERAL**

	<u>MARCH 31</u> <u>2026</u>	<u>MARCH 31</u> <u>2025</u>	<u>MARCH 31</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>MARCH 31</u> <u>2023</u>
STRAIT AREA TRANSIT	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
ST. MARTHA'S REGIONAL HOSPITAL	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
ST. ANNE COMMUNITY & NURSING CENTRE	7,500	7,500	7,500	5,000
DR. KINGSTON MEMORIAL COMM HEALTH CENTRE	7,500	7,500	7,500	5,000
STRAIT RICHMOND HOSPITAL FOUNDATION	7,500	7,500	7,500	5,000
STRAIT RICHMOND PALLATIVE CARE SOCIETY	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
CBRH - CANCER CENTRE - CAPE BRETON REGIONAL	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
FOOD BANKS (4 Districts @\$2,000 - 1 @ \$4,000)	12,000	12,000	10,500	10,500
ADULT DROP IN CENTRE	3,000	3,000	3,000	1,000
STRAIT AREA GROUND SEARCH AND RESCUE	4,000	4,000	4,000	3,000
DESTINATION CB - FESTIVAL AND EVENTS	7,205	7,205	7,205	2,148
CELTIC COLOURS	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
SUPERPORT DAYS - VIBE CREATIVE GROUP	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
STRAIT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	2,500	5,000	2,500	1,250
LENOIR FORGE MUSEUM - AGREEMENT - ISLE MADAME HISTORICAL SOCIETY	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
NICOLAS DENYS MUSEUM - AGREEMENT - ST. PETER'S COMMUNITY CLUB	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
OCEANVIEW WILDLIFE MUSEUM ASSOCIATION	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
MACKASKILL HOUSE MUSEUM	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
BASIN RIVER INHABITANTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
HIGHLAND VILLAGE MUSEUM	2,500	2,500	2,500	0
RICHMOND ACADEMY - RICHMOND EDUCATION CENTRE/ACADEMY	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
ECOLE BEAU PORT	750	750	750	750
POTLOTEK EDUCATION CENTRE	750	750	750	750
PH PAPER TOURNAMENT - STRAIT RICHMOND MINOR HOCKEY	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
RICHMOND COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTRE	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
REGIONAL OCCUPATIONAL CENTRE*	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
CHILDRENS MAKE A WISH	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
DR. KINGSTON - SENIORS SAFETY COORDINATOR	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
DR. KINGSTON -CBSRFH	36,300	36,300	33,000	30,000
BRAS D'OR LAKES CEPI	2,500	2,500	2,500	1,500
PITU'PAQ PARTNERSHIP SOCIETY	2,000	2,000	2,000	0
PAN CAPE BRETON FOOD HUB	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
HARBOUR WARS ALAYNE'S LEGACY - CAPE BRETON REGIONAL	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
ST. RICHMOND HOSPITAL - CT SCANNER	25,000			
LOCH LOMOND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	10,000			
DISTRICT 10 VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	10,000			
FRAMBOISE FOURCHU VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	10,000			
GRAND RIVER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	10,000			
STRAIT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NON-PROFIT HOUSING	23,000			
SENIORS TAKE ACTION COALITION	20,000			
CAPE BRETON UNIVERSITY	20,000			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>424,505</u></b>	<b><u>299,005</u></b>	<b><u>291,705</u></b>	<b><u>266,398</u></b>
BUDGETED AMOUNT	<b>489,005</b>	364,000	356,000	326,898
SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING APPLICATIONS TIER 1/TIER 2	<b>64,500</b>	64,500	64,295	60,500



*St. Anne Community and Nursing Care Centre,*

2313 Hwy 206, P.O. Box 30, Arichat, NS B0E 1A0

Phone: 902-226-2826; Fax: 902-226-1529

January 22, 2026

The Municipality of the County of Richmond  
2357 Highway 206  
P.O. Box 120  
Arichat, NS B0E 1A0

Reference: 2026/2027 annual funding contribution list

Dear Richmond Municipal Council:

I am writing this to formally request that St. Anne Community and Nursing Care Centre be included on your 2026/2027 annual funding contribution list.

For many years, we have been very grateful to receive funding from The Municipality of the County of Richmond (2025 we received \$7,500). As a not-for-profit, budgeted entity, some of our costs are not covered and any contributions we receive toward our operations are greatly appreciated. Each year, we applied the funds received from The Municipality of the County Richmond toward our water, sewer and property taxes, the cost of which is not fully covered by our budget. This allows St. Anne Community and Nursing Care Centre to use these cost savings towards services for our residents. In the end, every dollar received helps provide resident services to benefit their daily lives and well-being. That is our focus...the residents.

Thank you for your many years of contribution to St. Anne Community and Nursing Care Centre. These funds have benefited many residents over the years and make a real difference. We appreciate your consideration for your contribution list this year.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Hall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharon Hall  
Finance Officer



## Strait Richmond Healthcare Foundation

138 Hospital Rd., Evanston, RR #1, Cleveland, NS B0E 1J0  
902-625-7234

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February 10, 2026

Lois Landry, Warden  
Municipality of the County of Richmond  
2357 Hwy 206, PO Box 120  
Arichat, NS B0E 1A0

### **Request for Municipal Funding Contribution 2026/2027 Fiscal Year**

Dear Warden Landry:

On behalf of the Strait Richmond Health Care Foundation, I am writing to formally request the Municipality of the County of Richmond's annual contribution for the 2026/27 fiscal year.

We are grateful for the continued support the Municipality has shown toward initiatives that strengthen our Community. This funding will allow us to purchase much needed equipment for our hospital. For example, a Blanket Warmer at a cost of \$7,289.00 and a Video-Laryngoscopy System costing \$22,798.00, just to name a few.

We are looking forward to your positive response.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Goyetche / RG".

Robert Goyetche, Chairman  
Strait Richmond Health Care Foundation

RG/AR

cc Diane Landry, Secretary  
cc Noah Landry, Vice Chair  
cc Pat Burns, Treasurer  
cc Diane Melong, Financial Adm.



January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Ms. Lois Landry

The Municipality of the County of Richmond  
2357 Highway 206  
P.O.Box 120 Arichat, NS B0E 1A0

Dear Lois:

**RE: REQUEST FOR FUNDING CONTRIBUTION FOR 2026**

Further to your notice for recipient organizations to submit a formal request no later than February 15, 2026, we are herewith asking for your consideration for a continued funding contribution for the **Strait Richmond Palliative Care Society**.

We thank the Municipality of the County of Richmond for your generous funding contributions over the recent past years. We have used your funding in the following way:

- Upgrading two Private Rooms at the Strait Richmond Hospital as designated Palliative Care Rooms for patients facing end of life care;
- Upgrading the 'People's Place' public room and the Palliative Care Family Room for the use of family, patients and volunteers.
- Providing for specialized equipment and other necessities not otherwise covered for patients facing end of life care at home.

In 2026 we have an objective to upgrade two more rooms at the Strait Richmond Hospital as designated Palliative Care Rooms and to continue our support of patients facing end of life challenges.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of our request for 2026.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Derrick B. Cameron".

Derrick B. Cameron

Chair – Strait Richmond Palliative Care Society

**Strait Richmond Palliative Care Society**

138 Hospital Rd RR1 Cleveland, NS B0E 1J0

[straitrichmondpalliative@hotmail.com](mailto:straitrichmondpalliative@hotmail.com) 902-625-7211

**From:** [Troy MacCulloch](#)  
**To:** [Kathleen Jeffrey](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 2026-27 Festivals & Events Program - Municipal Contribution  
**Date:** February 23, 2026 1:34:10 PM

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THE MUNICIPALITY OF RICHMOND COUNTY  
INCORPORATED 1871



**Troy MacCulloch, CMML, FSASc**  
Chief Administrative Officer

**Phone:** 902.226.3970  
**Mobile:** 902.631.4120  
**Email:** [cao@richmondcounty.ca](mailto:cao@richmondcounty.ca)  
2357 Hwy 206, P.O. Box 120  
Anchet, NS B0E 1A0  
[www.richmondcounty.ca](http://www.richmondcounty.ca)

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**From:** Jo-Lanna Murray <[jolanna@visitcapebreton.com](mailto:jolanna@visitcapebreton.com)>  
**Sent:** January 20, 2026 12:11 PM  
**To:** Troy MacCulloch <[CAO@richmondcounty.ca](mailto:CAO@richmondcounty.ca)>  
**Cc:** Terry Smith <[terry@visitcapebreton.com](mailto:terry@visitcapebreton.com)>  
**Subject:** 2026-27 Festivals & Events Program - Municipal Contribution

Good afternoon Troy,

As mentioned during our meeting last week, Destination Cape Breton is preparing an application to ACOA for the 2026–27 Festivals & Events Program.

To support this application, we are requesting confirmation that the Municipality of Richmond County will recommend to council its participation in the program at the same level of contribution as in previous years (**\$7,205**), resulting in a total commitment of **\$26,200** toward festivals and events within the municipality.

As in prior years, we understand that this contribution is subject to council approval as part of the overall budget process.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to hearing from you regarding your participation in the 2026–27 program.

Thank so much Troy,

Jo-Lanna

Jo-Lanna Murray  
Director of Destination Development  
Destination Cape Breton  
t: 1-902-563-4636 | m: 1-902-304-6896 | e: [jolanna@visitcapebreton.com](mailto:jolanna@visitcapebreton.com)  
[visitcapebreton.com](http://visitcapebreton.com)



Cape Breton  
Island

*your heart will never leave.*



Richmond County Council  
Richmond County Municipal Office

Dear Members of Richmond County Council,

Richmond County's continued support of Celtic Colours International Festival has a direct and meaningful impact on local communities, helping sustain community-led cultural events while strengthening the region's cultural and economic vitality.

In 2025, Richmond County's contribution of \$2,500 resulted in \$33,200 being returned directly to community groups hosting concerts and community cultural events within the county. This local investment is part of a much larger impact. Nine thousand one hundred forty-two (9,142) visitors travelled to Cape Breton Island for Celtic Colours in 2025, generating an estimated \$11.2 million in visitor spending, with the average Festival visitor staying six nights on the island. This activity supports local accommodations, restaurants, cultural venues, and small businesses, while also bringing audiences into community spaces across the region.

Celtic Colours is equally committed to nurturing the next generation of culture bearers. Through the Celtic Colours in the Schools Program, more than 400 students throughout Richmond County participated in school concerts in 2025, providing meaningful access to live traditional music and cultural learning.

As Celtic Colours approaches its 30<sup>th</sup> year in 2026, the Festival continues to build on three decades of community partnerships, cultural celebration, and economic benefit across Cape Breton Island. Richmond County's continued support is essential to making the Festival possible, and for 2026 we are respectfully requesting funding of \$5,000 to help ensure these cultural, educational, and economic benefits continue to reach local communities.

Please see attached the economic impact report from 2025.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mora Purcell and Jason Jardine  
Celtic Colours Management Team



ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

170 George Street Suite 321 Sydney Nova Scotia B1P 1J2 Canada  
902-562-6700 | celticcolours.ca



## Events Held in Richmond County in 2025 – Economic Impact

The figures below illustrate how Celtic Colours reinvests Festival revenues directly back into communities across the county. In Richmond County, five ticketed concerts generated \$8,936.25 in earned revenue for local concert hosting organizations, representing their 20% share of ticket sales. These funds help support the organizations' broader work and ongoing initiatives.

Community Cultural Events, hosted by local non-profit organizations, operate on a community-led fundraising model. Reported revenues from these events totalled \$24,285. One hundred percent (100%) of this revenue is retained by the host organizations with these funds supporting programs, activities, and ongoing community work.

Together, these approaches ensure that Festival activity delivers measurable financial benefit to local organizations while strengthening cultural and community capacity across the county.

Venue	Event	Capacity	Attendance	Total Sales including tax	Hosting Organization Share
La Picasse	French Connections	248	189	\$8,957.50	\$1,240.48
L'Ardoise	A Full Slate	285	284	\$10,556.00	\$1,637.08
D'Escousse	A Good D'Escousse for a Party	324	322	\$13,143.25	\$2,055.67
Riverdale	A Touch of the Irish	258	246	\$10,192.50	\$1,613.88
St. Peter's	We Remember You Well	395	395	\$15,369.75	\$2,389.14
	Community Events		946		\$24,285.00
<b>Richmond County Totals</b>		<b>1510</b>	<b>2382</b>	<b>\$58,219.00</b>	<b>\$33,221.25</b>



ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

170 George Street Suite 321 Sydney Nova Scotia B1P 1J2 Canada  
902-562-6700 | celticolours.ca



# ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT

FINAL REPORT

# CELTIC COLOURS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

## CAPE BRETON, NS

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NOVEMBER 28, 2025

**DEREK MAGER**, STC EI CONSULTANT

# SUMMARY | BY THE NUMBERS

**\$13.2M**

of initial  
expenditures

**\$11.2M**

of visitor  
spending

**143**

local jobs  
supported by  
the event

**9,142**

out of town  
visitors\* to  
Cape Breton

**\$5.1M**

of wages and  
salaries supported  
locally

**\$9.3M**

boost to  
provincial  
GDP

**\$5.6M**

in taxes  
supported across  
Canada

**\$18.2M**

overall economic  
activity in the  
province

# THE EVENT

Celtic Colours International Festival is a nine-day celebration of music and culture held each October on Cape Breton Island. Featuring a mix of local artists and culture bearers alongside their counterparts from across the country and around the Celtic world, the festival presents upwards of 50 concerts, and hundreds of wide-ranging cultural experiences, in communities all over the island.

Since its 1997 debut, Celtic Colours has become one of Canada's premiere musical events and a cultural highlight of Nova Scotia's fall season, collecting accolades from regional music awards to national and international tourism awards. Designated by the Canadian Tourism Commission as a Canadian Signature Event, the festival was most recently recognized for its economic impact on Cape Breton Island and its significant contribution to music education in the province.

Produced by a non-profit charitable society dedicated to promoting, celebrating, and developing Cape Breton's living Celtic culture and hospitality, the festival is rooted in community economic development through culture and is credited with extending the tourism season on the island.

**Celtic**  
**COLOURS**  
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL





## METHODOLOGY

The visitor statistics cited in this report were derived from an on-site survey that was conducted during the event. The survey was developed by STC, in conjunction with the client, specifically for this event and was administered onsite through a series of kiosks, and with a QR code provided to allow respondents to complete at their leisure. Additionally, an email blast with the link to the survey was sent to the ticketing database immediately following the event.

**1,105**

VALID ATTENDEE  
RESPONSES WERE  
COLLECTED

A total of **1,105** valid attendee responses were collected during this process which provides a margin of error of +/-3.0% at the 95% confidence level for the results contained in this report.

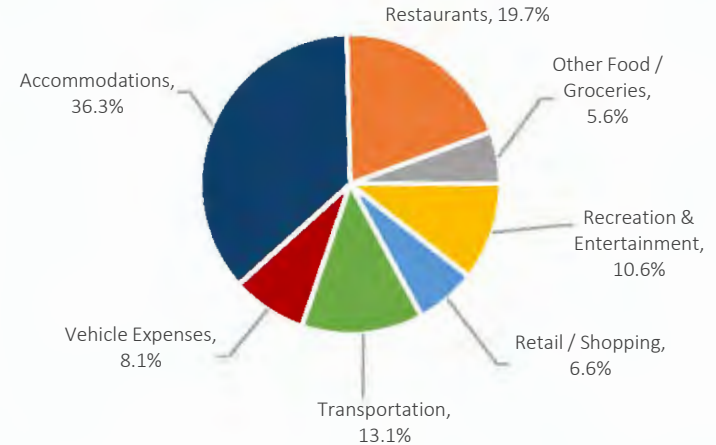
The survey included a variety of questions for the attendees with regards to their age, place of residence, days attended, event experience, etc., while respondents from out-of-town were asked about their length of stay in the local area, and the amount of money spent in various categories while in the area. Additionally, respondents were asked about their experience at the event as well as the likelihood of returning in the future.

# VISITOR SPENDING

ATTENDEES	PER PARTY	OVERALL
Accommodations	\$956.85	\$4,024,424
Restaurants	\$519.15	\$2,203,352
Other Food / Groceries	\$146.18	\$620,396
Recreation & Entertainment	\$280.46	\$1,190,290
Retail Shopping	\$174.12	\$739,004
Transportation	\$343.47	\$1,457,746
Vehicle Expenses	\$213.58	\$906,443
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,633.81</b>	<b>\$11,141,656</b>

AGGREGATE VISITOR SPENDING WAS

**\$11.2 Million**



Other visitor spending (i.e. participants, media, VIP's, etc.) was \$63,581

\*All spending figures shown in this report are those directly attributable to this event influencing visitation to the local area.



# OPERATIONAL & CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

To ensure the successful operation and staging of this event, the combined purchase of **goods and services** by the event organizers were **\$2,035,205**.

No money was spent on **capital projects** related to the future of hosting this event.



OPERATIONAL

**\$2.04M**



CAPITAL

**\$0**

These operational expenditures include, but are not limited to staff salaries, facility rentals, professional services, insurance, communication, food and beverage, accommodations, merchandise, and travel.

# THE EI RESULTS

The combined spending of out-of-town attendees, delegates, participants and other people who visited Cape Breton Island for the Celtic Colours International Festival, in combination with the expenditures made by the event organizers, totaled over \$13.2 million, supporting nearly \$18.2 million in overall economic activity in Nova Scotia, including nearly \$15.8 million of economic activity in Cape Breton.

These expenditures supported almost \$5.9 million in wages and salaries in the province through the support of 153 jobs, of which 143 jobs and over \$5.1 million in wages and salaries were supported locally.

The total net economic activity (GDP) generated by the Celtic Colours International Festival was:

- **\$12.3 million for Canada as a whole**
- **\$9.3 million for the province of Nova Scotia**
- **\$7.8 million for Cape Breton Island**

The Celtic Colours International Festival supported tax revenues totaling over \$5.6 million across Canada.

	Cape Breton	Nova Scotia	Canada
Initial Expenditure	\$13,240,443	\$13,240,443	\$13,240,443
GDP	\$7,750,568	\$9,326,168	\$12,301,856
Wages & Salaries	\$5,134,886	\$5,884,401	\$7,520,055
Employment	142.6	153.2	180.8
Total Taxes	\$3,557,349	\$4,085,310	\$5,649,458
Federal	\$1,426,335	\$1,619,580	\$2,462,604
Provincial	\$1,824,071	\$2,193,948	\$2,818,608
Municipal	\$306,943	\$271,783	\$368,246
<b>INDUSTRY OUTPUT</b>	<b>\$15,785,559</b>	<b>\$18,150,807</b>	<b>\$24,355,828</b>

# GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

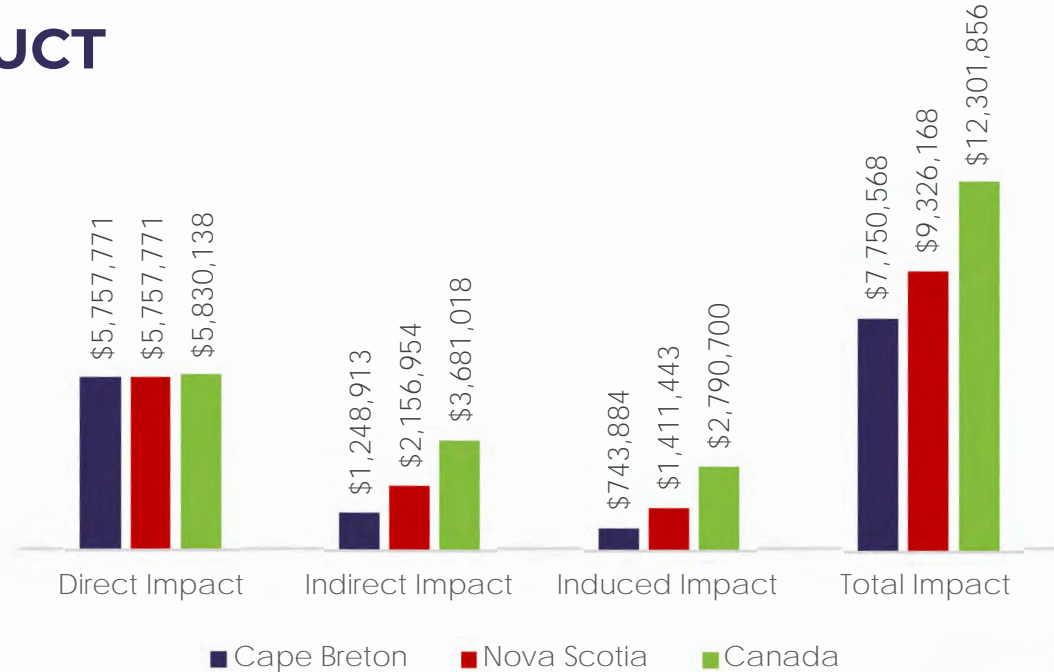
## GDP (at basic prices)

The hosting of the **Celtic Colours International Festival** on **Cape Breton Island** contributed **\$12,301,856** in GDP to the Canadian economy through direct and spin-off impacts.



IN GROSS DOMESTIC  
PRODUCT (GDP)

**\$12.3 M**



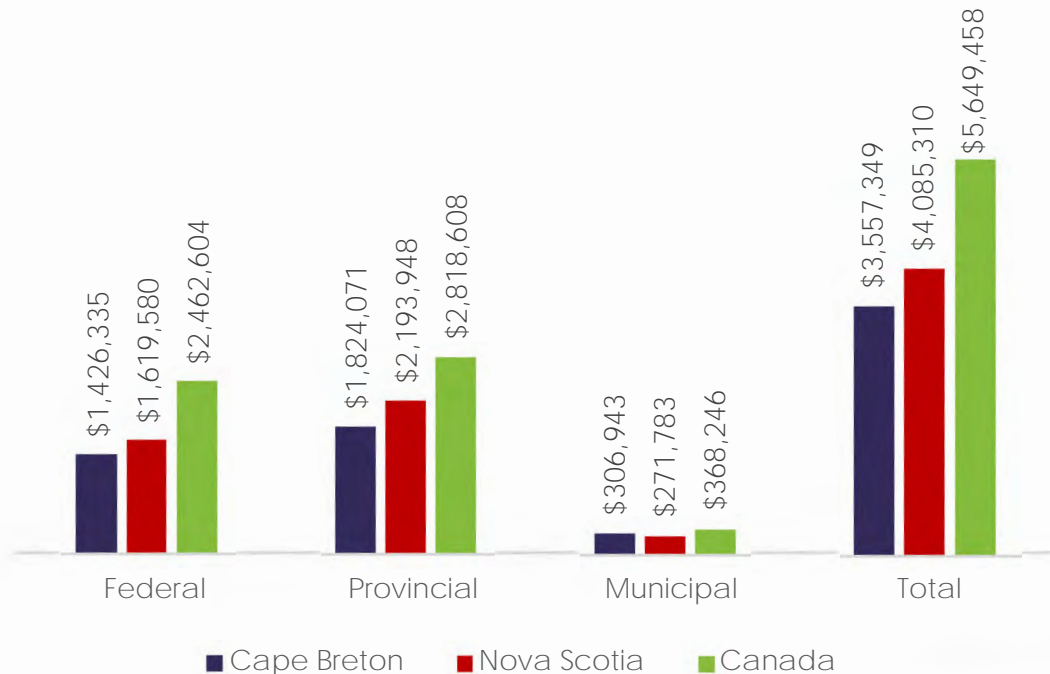
# TAXES

The **Celtic Colours International Festival** contributed **\$5,649,458** in federal, provincial, and local taxes through direct and spin-off effects throughout Canada.



**IN FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL  
& LOCAL TAXES**

**\$5.6 M**





## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

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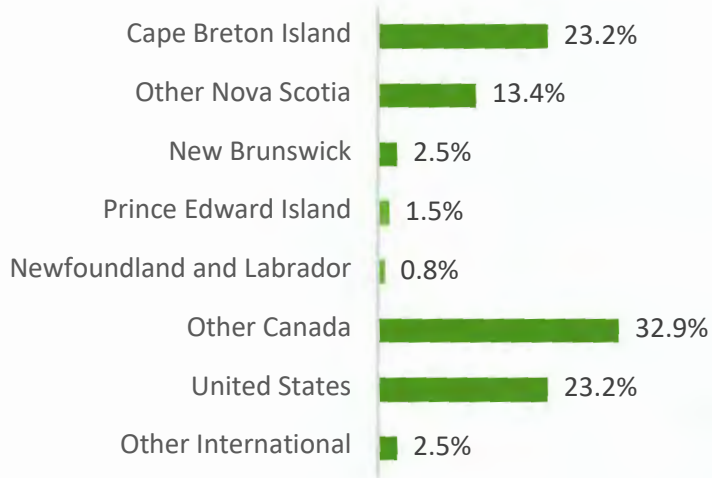
# Celtic COLOURS

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

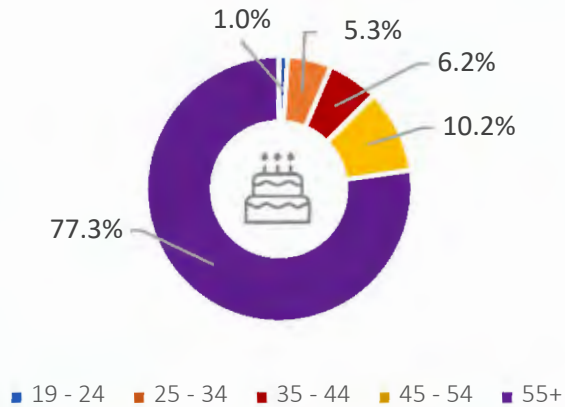
The following pages summarize the results from questions that were included as part of the survey but were not all necessarily required for the economic impact analysis calculations.

# DEMOGRAPHICS

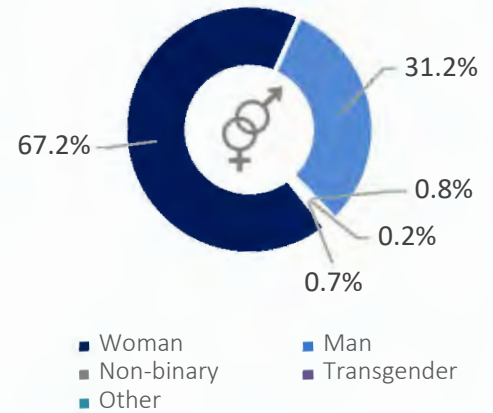
## Place of Residence



## Age Range

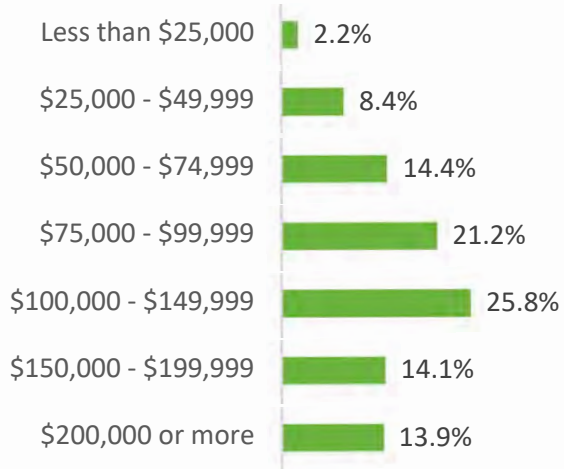


## Gender

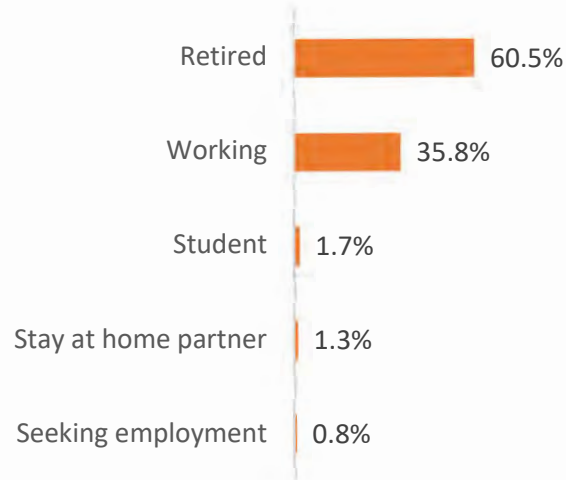


# DEMOGRAPHICS

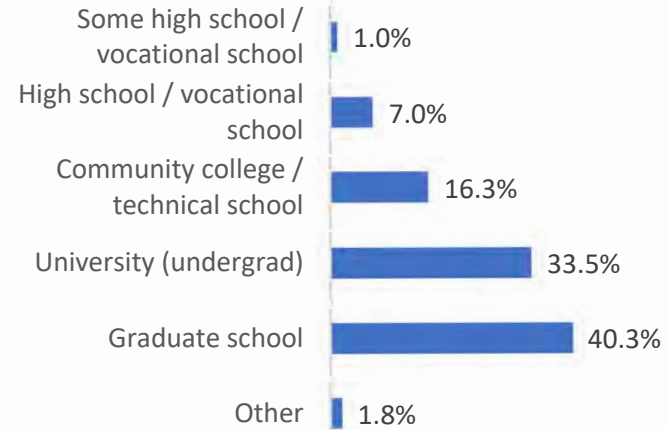
## Household Income



## Employment Status



## Education Level



# TRAVEL CHARACTERISTICS

Overall, the importance of this event in influencing visitation to Cape Breton was

8.9/10



2.1

Average travel party size



6.0

Average nights in Cape Breton



1.0 DAY TRIP

1% of out-of-town attendees made an average of 1 day-trip to Cape Breton



60%

of attendees indicated that this event was the sole reason for their visit to Cape Breton

4.1

Average nights in other NS



99%

of out-of-town attendees stayed overnight during their visit to Cape Breton



OF THOSE THAT STAYED OVERNIGHT

52%

Stayed in a hotel / motel

24%

Used a short-term rental

12%

Stayed with friends/family

7%

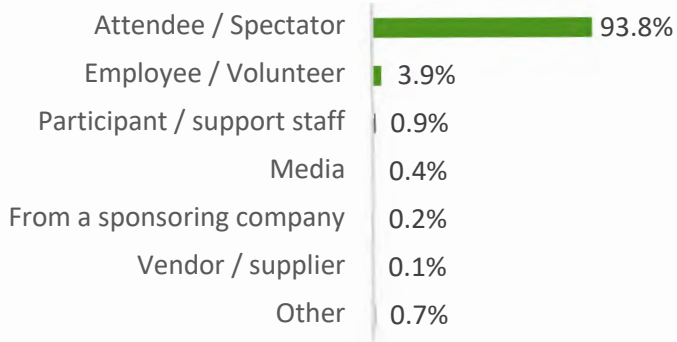
Camped

5%

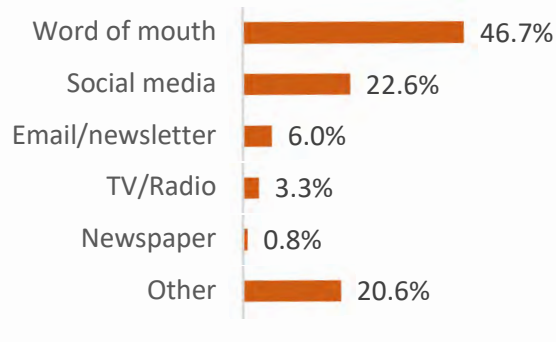
Made other arrangements

# ATTENDANCE CHARACTERISTICS

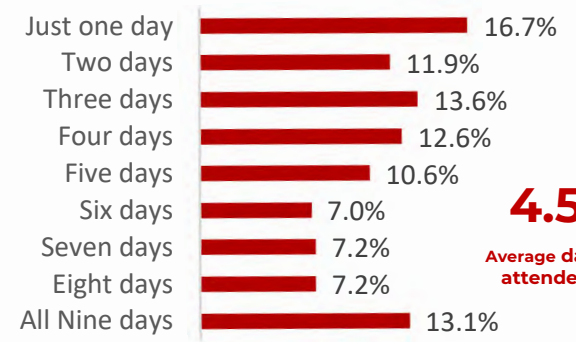
## Role at Event



## Learned About Event

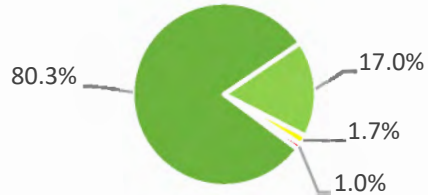


## Days Attended



**4.5**  
Average days attended

## Likelihood of Returning



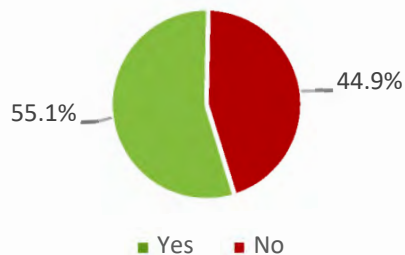
Very likely Somewhat likely Somewhat unlikely Very unlikely

## Average Number of Events Attended

Concerts	3.9
Community Events	2.4
Community Meals	1.6
Festival Club	1.1

# TOURISM RELATED

## Extended Trip Before/After



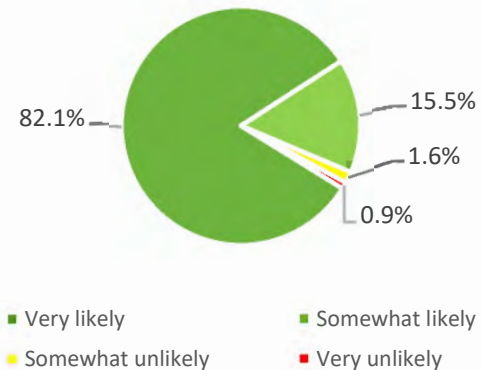
**3.2**

Extended days in Cape Breton

**4.5**

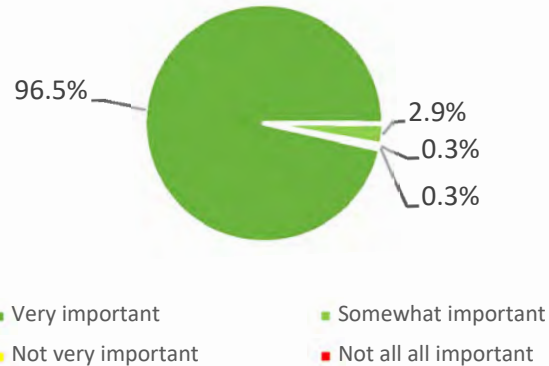
Extended days in other parts of Nova Scotia

## Likelihood of Returning to Cape Breton



# SUPPORT & IMPROVEMENTS

## Importance of Supporting Events by the Province



*\*Answered only by respondents from Nova Scotia*

## Improve Experience

Respondents were given the option of providing open-ended feedback regarding “what would improve your experience at future events like this”.

Those comments have been provided verbatim in a separate document.



## APPENDIX

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- What is EI?
- How do we Measure it?
- Reliability of the Model
- Model Outputs
- How it Works
- Glossary of Terms
- Contact Information



# WHAT IS EI?

Economic Impact Assessment (EIA) studies measure the positive change in economic activity resulting from hosting an event in a specific city/town. There are three factors:



## OUT-OF-TOWN VISITORS SPENDING

The spending of out-of-town visitors while they attend the event.



## EVENT ORGANIZERS EXPENDITURES

The expenditures of the event organizers in producing the event(s)



## CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS

Capital construction costs that are directly attributed to hosting the event(s).

An EI study calculates the amount of new money being spent in the host community as a direct result of hosting the event(s), and then the impact these new monies have on the regional, provincial and national economies as a whole.



## HOW DO WE MEASURE EI?

Sport Tourism Canada (formerly the Canadian Sport Tourism Alliance) has developed three tools called **STEAM**, **STEAMPRO** and **FESTPRO** to predict, collect, measure and analyze event data across the three primary channels.



**STEAM** is designed specifically as a predictive model to determine the expected economic impact of hosting a sport event, while **STEAMPRO** is utilized to generate the economic impact from actual spending data during the sport event itself.

STC's latest tool, called **FESTPRO**, is the sister model to **STEAMPRO**. It measures the economic impact of non-sport events like festivals, exhibitions and fairs using actual spending data collected during the event.

Our economic impact services empower event organizers and host cities to accurately assess economic impact resulting from hosting a specific event in a specific location.



# RELIABILITY OF THE MODEL

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To produce economic contribution assessments that are robust and reliable, STC has partnered with the **Canadian Tourism Research Institute (CTRI)** at **The Conference Board of Canada**. The CTRI serves the travel and tourism industry in providing sound economic forecasts and models with timely and insightful interpretation of data specifically relevant to travel.

The findings in this report make use of the most current and detailed input-output tables and multipliers available from Statistics Canada and leverages the credibility and robustness of sector specific tax data available from Statistics **Canada's Government Revenues Attributable to Tourism (GRAT)** report.

The Conference  
Board of Canada



Statistics  
Canada



Government Revenues  
Attributable to Tourism

# MODEL OUTPUTS

The elements (outputs of the model) used to measure the economic impacts are:



**GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)**



**WAGES & SALARIES**



**JOBS (FTE)**



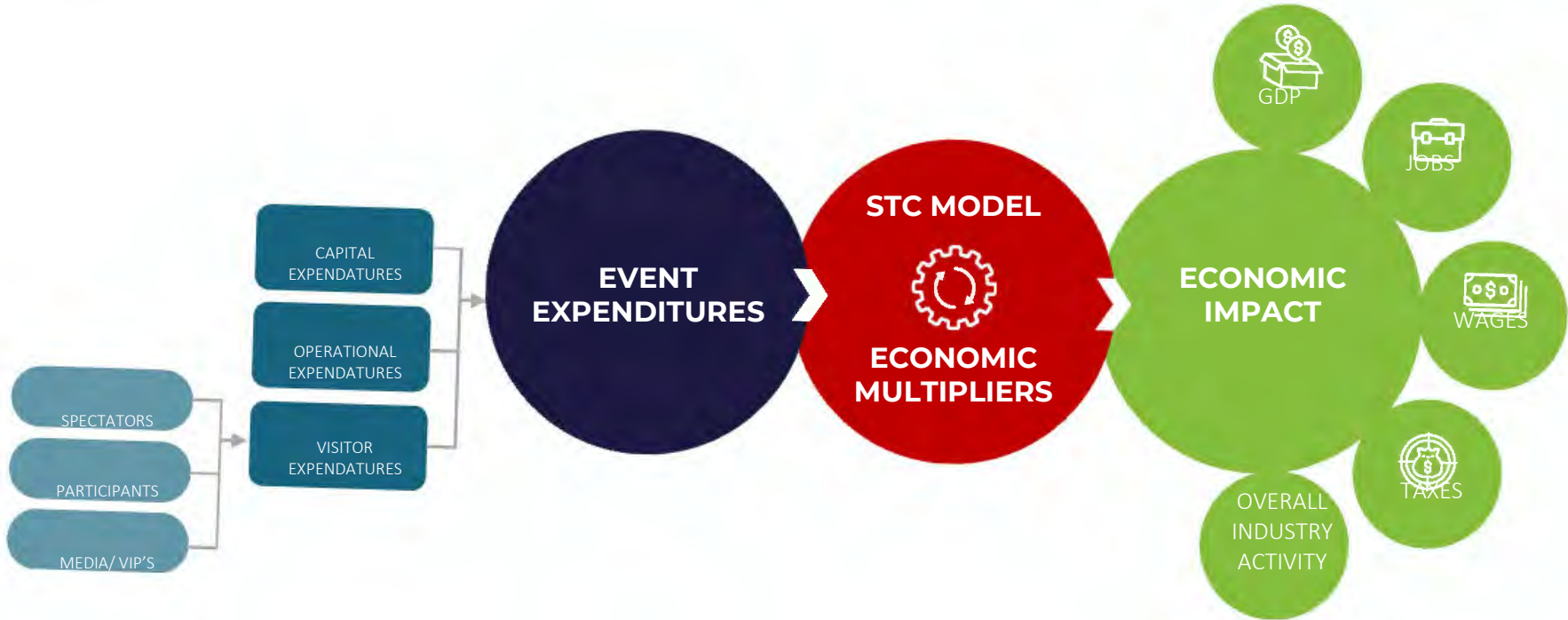
**TAXES**



**INDUSTRY OUTPUT**

STC's **STEAMPRO** measures the direct, indirect & induced effects for each of these elements and the **total impacts** are conveyed throughout this report.

# HOW IT WORKS



# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Initial Expenditure** - This figure indicates the business of initial expenditures used in the analysis. This heading indicates not only the total magnitude of the spending but also the region in which it was spent (thus establishing the "impact" region).

**Direct Impact** - Relates ONLY to the impact on "front-line" businesses. These are businesses that initially receive the operating revenue or tourist expenditures for the project under analysis. From a business perspective, this impact is limited only to that business or group of businesses involved. From a tourist spending perspective, this can include all businesses such as hotels, restaurants, retail stores, transportation carriers, attraction facilities and so forth.

**Indirect Impact** - Refers to the impacts resulting from all intermediate rounds of production in the supply of goods and services to industry sectors identified in the direct impact phase.

**Induced Impact** - These impacts are generated as a result of spending by employees (in the form of consumer spending) and businesses (in the form of investment) that benefited either directly or indirectly from the initial expenditures under analysis.

**Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** - This figure represents the total value of production of goods and services in the economy resulting from the initial expenditure under analysis (valued at market prices). **GDP (at factor cost)** - This figure represents the total value of production of goods and services produced by industries resulting from the factors of production. The distinction to GDP (at market prices) is that GDP (at factor cost) is less by the amount of indirect taxes plus subsidies.

**Wages & Salaries** - This figure represents the amount of wages and salaries generated by the initial expenditure. This information is presented by the aggregate of direct, indirect, and induced impacts.

**Employment** - Depending upon the selection of employment units (person-years or equivalent full-year jobs) these figures represent the employment generated by the initial expenditure. "Equivalent Full-Year Jobs", if selected, include both part-time and full-time work in ratios consistent with the specific industries.

**Industry Output** - These figures represent the direct & indirect and total impact (including induced impacts) on industry output generated by the initial tourism expenditure. It should be noted that the industry output measure represents the sum total of all economic activity that has taken place and consequently could involve some double counting on the part of the intermediate production phase. Since the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) figure includes only the net total of all economic activity (i.e. considers only the value added), the industry output measure will always exceed or at least equal the value of GDP.

**Taxes** - These figures represent the amount of taxes contributed to municipal, provincial, and federal levels of government relating to the project under analysis.



## CONTACT

**Derek Mager**

STC EI Consultant

[derek@thedatajungle.com](mailto:derek@thedatajungle.com)

604.787.3605

If you would like to conduct another EI study using **STEAM**, **STEAMPRO** or **FESTPRO** on any other type of event, please contact [research@sporttourismcanada.com](mailto:research@sporttourismcanada.com)





**RICHMOND COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

**St. Peter's ECE Centre**  
9359 Pepperell Street  
PO Box 88, St. Peter's NS  
B0E 3B0  
Phone: (902) 535-3446

**Administrative/Head Office**

2359 Highway 206  
PO Box 474, Arichat, NS  
B0E 1A0

Phone : (902) 226-2481

**La Garderie des Petites Étoiles**  
2359 Route 206  
Arichat NÉ  
B0E 1A0  
Téléphone: (902) 226-2481

January 29, 2026

Municipality of the County of Richmond

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Richmond County Early Childhood Education Association to respectfully request to be included on your 2026/2027 annual funding contribution list. We are extremely appreciative of the funding we have received over the years, your ongoing contributions have helped to support childcare in Richmond County.

With two licensed childcare centres in Richmond County our impact extends far beyond daily child care. We play a vital role in supporting families, strengthening the local workforce, and contributing to the long-term health of our community. Access to reliable, high-quality childcare is essential for parents' ability to work, pursue education, and remain active participants in the local economy. For many families in Richmond County, our centres are the only accessible option that provides consistent, developmentally based care aligned with Nova Scotia's Early Learning Curriculum Framework.

For the upcoming year, the funds we are requesting will be used to support operational needs, covering essential costs such as materials, equipment, and facility resources that allow us to maintain safe, engaging learning environments.

Thank you for your continued support and for considering our request. We value our long-standing partnership with the Municipality and look forward to continuing our shared work in strengthening the well-being of Richmond County.

Please feel free to contact me at 902-226-2481 or [rceceadaycare@hotmail.com](mailto:rceceadaycare@hotmail.com) if further information is required.

Sincerely,

Gina Embree

Senior Director, ECE Services

Richmond County Early Childhood Education Association



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**Richmond County Council**

2357 Highway 206

P.O. Box 120

Arichat, NS B0E 1A0

Dear Members of Richmond County Council,

I am writing on behalf of the Regional Occupational Centre Society (ROC Society) to request your support as we align our services and strategic direction with the transformational changes underway through the Nova Scotia Human Rights Remedy.

For over 50 years, ROC has been committed to “creating unity as we embrace our many abilities.” Our work has always centered on inclusion, independence, and community-based opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Today, these values are more important than ever. The Human Rights Remedy sets a clear provincial mandate to move away from institutional models and ensure that people with disabilities have real choice in where they live, how they participate in their communities. Supports and opportunities for individuals with disabilities can vary across the province. We are proud that the last 50 years ROC have been committed to providing our members the opportunity to try new things and participate in community events. Today, the values that guide our organization are more important than ever.

To meet this historic moment, ROC is strengthening and expanding our community-based programming. This includes meaningful day programming, employment focused opportunities, social participation supports, and individualized planning that helps people live, learn, and contribute fully within Richmond County. As residents transition into more independent, community centered living arrangements under the Remedy, local supports like those offered by ROC will be essential programming. This includes meaningful day programming, employment-focused opportunities, social participation supports, and individualized planning that helps people live, learn, and contribute fully within Richmond County.

Richmond County has always been a valued partner in building an inclusive community. Your investment at this time will have a direct and lasting impact by helping us:

- Expand opportunities for inclusive employment and skills development
- Increase access to individualized community participation programs
- Strengthen supports for people transitioning from institutional settings
- Enhance collaboration with families, caregivers, and local service providers
- Ensure our programs keep pace with new expectations and rights-based standards

Below are examples of ROC programs that directly support the Remedy and reflect our ongoing commitment to residents of Richmond County:

### **Community Inclusion Day Program**

Fostering social engagement, community participation, volunteerism, and self-confidence. Over the past year, members have participated in local Cora group activities, floor curling at St. Mark's Church, shared social events with other agencies, and enjoyed visits from local artists and musicians. They have taken part in L'Arche Cape Breton markets, volunteered at community events such as Ceilidhs and garbage clean-ups, and attended concerts, sports events, parades, and other community activities.

### **Supported Employment & Workplace Skills Program**

Helping individuals pursue meaningful work through job coaching, training, and partnerships with local employers.

Currently, 10 individuals hold paid employment for one hour per week, and with additional funding we hope to expand these hours. Two individuals are employed directly at ROC through a partnership with NS Works.

### **Life Skills & Daily Living Support Program**

Teaching practical skills such as cooking, budgeting, transportation, and personal organization. We aim to expand this program to support more members, including those in the Independent Living Support (ILS) program. Participants can choose from activities such as book club, library visits, baking, or outings to local businesses. Members have also expressed interest in technology and social media skills development.

### **Community Connections & Social Participation Program**

Supporting friendships, community involvement, and participation in local events. Additional funding would allow members to enjoy outings that many of us take for granted—movies, hockey games, bowling, Highland Village, the beach, trail walks, and simple trips to places like Dollarama or A&W. For some, these experiences would be first-time opportunities.

### **Person-Directed Planning & Individualized Support Coordination**

Ensuring that individual's goals, hopes, and choices guide their support plan. Through one-on-one conversations, Member Council, and strategic planning, members share their needs, desires, and dreams. Their voice is central to everything we do.

[REDACTED]

We are requesting your continued financial support to help ROC evolve our services in alignment with both the Human Rights Remedy and our long-standing mission. Your contribution will ensure that residents of Richmond County with disabilities can fully benefit from the new choices and opportunities emerging across Nova Scotia.

We would welcome the opportunity to present to Council, answer any questions, or discuss this request in more detail.

Thank you for your continued commitment to inclusion and community leadership. Together, we can build a future where every person can live a full and meaningful life here in Richmond County.

Warm regards,  
Karen

Karen MacLean  
Executive Director  
ROC Society  
3 MacQuarrie Drive Extn  
Port Hawkesbury, NS  
B9A3A3  
902-631-4038 Cell  
902-625-5344 Fax

*Rachael LeBlanc*

**Richmond County-Seniors' Safety & Social Inclusion Coordinator**

*Dr. Kingston Memorial Community Health Centre*

*seniorsafetycoordinator.dkmchc@gmail.com*

Phone: (902) 587-2800 ext: 3

Fax: (902) 587-2813

Sherry Sampson

Managing Director

Dr. Kingston Memorial Community Health Centre

40 School Rd, L'Ardoise, NS

Phone: (902) 587-2800 ext:1

Fax: (902) 587-2813

January 6, 2026

Re: Request for Municipal Funding to Support Community-Based Senior Safety and Social Inclusion Programs

Dear Warden Lois Landry and Richmond Municipal Council,

I am writing to request municipal funding to support and strengthen the community-based programs delivered through the Senior Safety and Social Inclusion Program. As our senior population continues to grow, so does the need for accessible, preventative, and relationship-based supports that help older adults remain safe, independent, and socially connected within our community. This includes safe spaces for people with memory challenges and their caregivers to remain connected to their communities.

We have strengthened our collaboration with community partners, first responders, health services, and local organizations. This enables us to work directly with older adults who are experiencing hardships. These relate to unsafe housing, food insecurity, inability to afford basic household expenses, etc. Seniors are faced with inflation, social isolation, financial vulnerability, safety concerns, mobility challenges, and/or barriers in accessing essential services. The support we provide plays a vital role in reducing preventable crises, minimizing emergency service calls, and promoting healthy aging in place.

To continue meeting the increasing demands of our older adults, through the Dr. Kingston Memorial Community Health Centre's Senior Safety Program, we are requesting municipal funding in the amount of \$30,000 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. This funding will be used to:

-Support vulnerable seniors who require navigation assistance, safety planning, or connection to essential services.

-Expand outreach and prevention-based home visits, and provide services that meet people where they are, in a dignified and respectful manner.

-Enhance community programming focused on social inclusion, nutrition, safety education, mental health, and mind-engagement as well as opportunities for physical engagement.

-Continue to work collaboratively with the Team at the Dr. Kingston Memorial Community Health Center, a variety of social clubs throughout the county, as well as speaking directly with clients to identify community needs and develop new initiatives targeting isolated or at-risk older adults.

-Provide partial salary for the Senior Safety & Social Inclusion Coordinator, ensuring sustainable, consistent program delivery and dedicated dependability.

Investing in senior safety and social inclusion programs benefits not only individuals, but the municipality as a whole by reducing emergency response demands, encouraging community participation, and supporting the overall well-being of our aging population.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this request in more detail and to provide any additional information required. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to supporting the seniors in our communities.

Respectfully,

*Rachael LeBlanc*

***Richmond County-Seniors' Safety & Social Inclusion Coordinator***

*Dr. Kingston Memorial Community Health Centre*

*40 School Rd L'Ardoise, NS*

Phone: (902) 587-2800 ext: 3

Fax: (902) 587-2813



Warden, Lois Landry  
2357 Highway 206  
P.O. Box 120  
Arichat, Nova Scotia  
B0E 1A0

January 26, 2026

Dear Lois:

This letter is a request for financial support from Richmond County for the continued backing of the Bras d'Or Lakes Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative's (CEPI) Notional work plan for 2026/27. We greatly appreciate your in-kind contributions, particularly from staff members who play a crucial role in advancing the CEPI initiatives, bringing energy and expertise to the table. Along with these in-kind donations from our partners, your financial contribution of \$2750 is vital for implementing our annual work plans.

We look forward to Richmond counties' continued participation in the CEPI and your organization's valuable contributions to these initiatives. To sustain and enhance our efforts in the upcoming work plan, we are very grateful to our supporters, and it is with their support that the CEPI continues to do great work around Bras d'Or Lake and collaborating with the people surrounding it.

This coming March 10th-12th, we will be hosting a workshop, "Listening to the People of the Bras d'Or," and we would like to inform you that registration will open soon on our new website. We would appreciate any support your council can provide and hope to see you there.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Beth Doucette". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

Dr. Mary Beth Doucette, Co-Chair  
CEPI Management Committee



Cape Breton Food Hub  
1415 Highway 105  
Bras d'Or, NS  
B1Y 2N5

February 13, 2026

Shelley David, Municipal Clerk  
Lois Landry, Warden  
Municipality of the County of Richmond

Dear Ms. David and Warden Landry,

On behalf of the Cape Breton Food Hub, I am writing to respectfully request consideration for inclusion in the Municipality of the County of Richmond's 2026/2027 annual funding contribution list.

We are grateful to have been a previous recipient of municipal support, having received \$2,000 in the last funding year. That contribution directly supported our ability to continue serving residents and producers in Richmond County, and we sincerely appreciate the Municipality's ongoing commitment to strengthening local food systems.

For the 2026/2027 fiscal year, we are requesting a contribution of \$5,000 or more to help offset the rising transportation and operational costs associated with serving Richmond County communities.

The Cape Breton Food Hub currently operates pick-up locations in St. Peter's and Arichat, ensuring residents have consistent access to fresh, locally produced food. In addition, we travel through Richmond County weekly to collect products from local food producers, including Matos Apiary, Porter River Farm and Forage, Hens and Honey, A1 Cape Breton Sausage, and Fire & Stone Coffee Roasters. These partnerships support local agriculture and food production, keep food dollars circulating within the region, and strengthen rural economic development.

Beyond our regular pick-up routes, we also engage with Richmond County communities in other ways. Last summer, we travelled to Louisdale to participate in the Community Health and Wellness Showcase/Expo of Community Service Providers for Older Adults in Richmond County,

connecting directly with residents and local service organizations about food access and local purchasing opportunities.

As fuel, vehicle maintenance, and general transportation expenses continue to rise, municipal funding plays an important role in helping us maintain regular service to Richmond County. A contribution at the requested level would directly support:

- Weekly transportation and logistics costs for product pick-up and delivery
- Coordination and staffing required to operate pick-up locations in St. Peter's and Arichat
- Ongoing collaboration with Richmond County producers
- Community outreach and participation in local events within the Municipality

Our goal is to ensure that residents have reliable access to high-quality local food while providing meaningful market opportunities for producers within the Municipality.

We value our relationship with the Municipality of the County of Richmond and would be pleased to provide any additional information required to support this request. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of local food infrastructure in Richmond County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leah Noble". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Leah Noble  
Executive Director  
Cape Breton Food Hub



# Annual Report 2024

Growing Stronger Together!



# Table of Contents

- 01** Welcome & Vision for the Future
  - Message from Board Co-Chairs
  - Message from Executive Director
  
- 02** Our Year in Review
  - Key Achievements & Milestones
  - Growth & Impact: Numbers That Matter
  
- 03** Empowering Local Producers
  - Our Producer Members: The Heart of the Hub
  - Supporting Sustainable Farming
  
- 04** Expanding Access to Local Food
  - Share the Harvest: Addressing Food Insecurity
  - Making Local More Accessible
  
- 05** Innovations & New Initiatives
  - The Evolution of Our Retail Store
  - Value-Added Products & Kitchen Creations
  - Enhancing Our Distribution Network
  
- 06** Community & Collaboration
  - Volunteer Contributions & Their Impact
  - Partnerships That Strengthen Our Mission
  
- 07** Financial Health & Funding Highlights
  - Where Our Support Comes From
  - Strategic Investments for Growth
  
- 08** Looking Ahead
  - 2025 Goals & Future Projects
  - How You Can Get Involved
  
- 09** Our People & Governance
  - Meet the Team
  - Board of Directors 2024
  
- 10** Acknowledgments & Gratitude
  - Celebrating Our Sponsors & Supporters



# Welcome & Vision for the Future

## Message from Board Co-Chairs

Alix Redden and Katie MacLeod

This past year has been one of incredible growth and determination for the Cape Breton Food Hub. None of it would have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our staff, board, volunteers, producers, partners and loyal customers. Every step forward - from expanding production and distribution, to re-opening the store and diversifying our kitchen offerings - has been a true team effort. We're so proud of what we've accomplished together in our ongoing work to build a more sustainable and secure food system here in Cape Breton.

Our organization has had the honor of joining many community conversations this year. A clear theme continues to emerge: the need for stronger food support systems in our region. Nova Scotia still experiences the highest food insecurity rate in the Atlantic provinces, underscoring the importance of supporting farmer livelihoods and investing in community-based solutions. That's why we're so proud of the partnerships we've formed this year - with support from the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage, the Community Economic Development Fund (CEDF), the Department of Agriculture, ACOA, CBRM, and United Way of Cape Breton, we've been able to grow our impact and expand our reach.

A major milestone in 2024 was welcoming Leah Noble, a longtime member of the Cape Breton Food Hub, as our new Executive Director. Leah brings both heart and experience to the role, and her leadership has already been a steady force through a time of transition and rapid growth.



We're also so grateful to Estelle Levangie, who stepped up as Interim Executive Director and is now continuing to make a big impact in her new role as Logistics Manager, keeping things running smoothly and getting our processing facility into full swing.

The growing momentum behind buying local gives us hope. When you choose locally grown food, you are investing in our local farmers, our local economy, and in a stronger and in more resilient Cape Breton.

This is the last year on the board for the both of us, and we just want to say thank you. It's been a privilege to be part of the Food Hub's journey, and we're so proud of how far it's come. We'll both be cheering it on as the organization continues to grow and thrive.

# Welcome & Vision for the Future

## Message from Executive Director

Leah Noble



As we reflect on 2024, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride for the incredible resilience, dedication, and community spirit that defines the Cape Breton Food Hub. This past year was marked by a deepening of our impact, the strengthening of our operations, and the continued evolution of our work toward a more just and sustainable food system.

Our team supported over 120 households through our Share the Harvest program, ensuring that food-insecure individuals and families had access to fresh, locally-sourced food. The program's expansion to 21 community partners and 13 pickup locations would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our staff, volunteers, and the unwavering support of our community.

In our food distribution operations, we processed and distributed over \$600,000 worth of local food from more than 40 producers. The logistics and coordination behind this work are complex, and I want to recognize our Operations and Logistics teams for ensuring quality, efficiency, and care in every step of the process—from farm to table.

A major highlight of the year was the re-opening of our retail store. This initiative has grown rapidly and brought fresh energy and visibility to our mission. Its success has required an incredible amount of effort, adaptability, and collaboration from all staff, and I'm deeply proud of what we've accomplished together.

2024 also marked a significant year for building capacity. We continued to invest in our staff, offering professional development and nurturing leadership within our organization. Our work in local food processing has grown, and our shared kitchen has become a vital space for innovation, collaboration, and entrepreneurship.

We couldn't do this work without our funders, donors, and the many individuals who contribute their time and resources. I extend my deepest thanks to our Board of Directors for their strategic leadership and to the many community members who support us, whether by purchasing from the Food Hub, volunteering, or sharing our mission.

As we look ahead, I am excited about the possibilities that lie before us. We are laying the groundwork for new partnerships, deeper impact, and long-term sustainability. Together, we are sowing more than seeds—we are cultivating community, harvesting equity, and nourishing hope.

# Our Mission

The Cape Breton Food Hub Co-op provides a distribution linkage between local food producers and consumers, creating a more sustainable food system by increasing the viability of local producers while improving access to high quality local food.

# Our Vision

A healthy food economy that supports a growing diversity of producers and consumers on Cape Breton Island.

# Achievements in Food Access & Distribution

The Cape Breton Food Hub envisions a **healthy food economy** that supports a growing diversity of producers and consumers on Cape Breton Island.



# Our Year in Review

## Key Events in 2024

### December 2023/January 2024

Re-opened retail store in Bras d'Or



### May 25, 2024

Grand Re-Opening of the Food Hub



### Summer 2024

Processing veggies in our facility



### Fall 2024

Highest online order numbers since COVID



### December 2024

Hitting \$174,236 in sales from retail store

Over the past year, the Cape Breton Food Hub has achieved several significant milestones:

- **Reopening of The Hub Retail Store:** In December, we celebrated the reopening of The Hub, our community retail space dedicated to supporting local producers and providing customers with access to a diverse range of Cape Breton-made products.
- **Leadership Transition:** Leah Noble joined as Executive Director in July 2024, bringing her expertise and passion for local food systems to the organization. Additionally, Estelle Levangie stepped in as Interim Executive Director before Leah's arrival, ensuring a smooth transition in leadership, before taking on the Logistics Manager role.
- **Food Processing & Preservation:** This year, we processed over 8,000 pounds of vegetables, helping extend the availability of local food throughout the year. Products included:
  - IQF (Individually Quick Frozen)  
Vegetables: Carrots, Turnip, Potato, Beets, String Beans, Squash, Garlic Scapes
  - Fruits: Rhubarb, Strawberries
  - Preserves: Chow, Pickled Beets, Pickled Cucumbers, Hot Sauce, Relish, Blueberry Jams
- **Continued Commitment to Food Security:** We sustained our *Share the Harvest* program, which assists low-income and food-insecure families in accessing locally grown and produced food. This initiative underscores our dedication to making local food accessible to all members of our community.

These accomplishments reflect our ongoing efforts to strengthen Cape Breton's local food economy and foster a resilient, connected community.

## Growth and Impact

### Numbers That Matter

**34**

new members

**7**

new producer members

**8000**

pounds of vegetables  
processed

**187**

Share The Harvest  
participants

**14**

jobs created

**9**

distribution locations

# Empowering Local Producers

## Our Producer Members: The Heart of the Hub

At the Cape Breton Food Hub, our producer members are more than just suppliers—they are the heart and soul of our local food system. From small-scale farmers and artisan bakers to fishers and foragers, these passionate individuals bring fresh, high-quality products to our community while fostering sustainability and food security. By choosing local, we're not just supporting businesses—we're strengthening our island's economy, protecting our environment, and celebrating the incredible diversity of food grown and crafted right here in Cape Breton.



- 59 Producer Members in 2024.
- 26.92% increase in local producers from 2023
- \$805,790 total food sales in Food through Food Hub
- 93.41% growth in sales from 2023

**Want to become a producer member?  
Join our growing network and help strengthen  
Cape Breton's local food economy!**

For more information visit  
<https://www.capebretonfoodhub.com/producer>  
or contact [logistics@pancapebretonfoodhub.ca](mailto:logistics@pancapebretonfoodhub.ca)

# Empowering Local Producers

## Supporting Sustainable Farming

Sustainable farming is more than a trend; it's the future of food. At the Cape Breton Food Hub, local producers prioritize eco-friendly practices such as organic growing methods and regenerative agriculture. By supporting these farmers, we invest in a food system that nourishes both people and the planet.

Improving farmer livelihoods is crucial for community food security and rural development. Globally, small-scale food producers face economic, social, and climatic volatility. In Nova Scotia, competition with imported foods has led to approximately three-quarters of Cape Breton farmland falling out of production. Small-scale farmers operate within a global trade regime that promotes export-based agriculture, with little support for local food systems. Their livelihoods are threatened by concentrated control over food systems in Canada, rising farm input costs, and increasing climatic risks, making it difficult for local products to compete with low-priced imports.

Key sustainable practices include regenerative farming to improve soil health and biodiversity, minimal tillage to reduce soil disturbance, pollinator-friendly crops to support bees, crop rotation and organic methods to avoid chemicals and enhance soil fertility, and water conservation through smart irrigation and rainwater harvesting. Choosing local food helps our producers farm in more sustainable ways.

**“We do not farm for ourselves, we farm so that there will still be farms left for the next generations. We want to leave a legacy for our children and their children.”**

-Tim Levangie, Thyme for Ewe Farm

# Expanding Access to Local Food

## Share the Harvest: Addressing Food Insecurity

In 2024, the Cape Breton Food Hub Co-op's Share the Harvest program worked to provide individuals and families with limited disposable income access to fresh, local food. Our goal was to make nutritious, locally-grown food more accessible to those who needed it most, helping to reduce food insecurity in our community.

Through the program, we were able to serve 187 households and 2 not-for-profit organizations. These participants, selected based on need and interest in local food, were provided with account credits to order food weekly for 22 weeks at a time. The credits could be used to shop through our online marketplace, and purchases were either delivered directly to homes or made available for pick-up, depending on location.

The Share the Harvest program was open to both current Food Hub customers and members, as well as new customers who met the eligibility criteria. We ensured that all personal information was kept confidential, respecting the privacy of our participants. This initiative was made possible through the generous funding from the NS Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage and the United Way. Their support enabled us to continue offering this essential program, helping to ensure that local food remained accessible to those facing financial challenges.

Through Share the Harvest, we were able to strengthen our community, support local farmers, and make a tangible impact on food security for the families who participated.

*"I was a big buyer of the meat available. The beef and chicken from you doesn't make us sick. When we used to buy grocery store beef we'd get very sick. This program honestly helped us so much. As a single mom with a spinal injury I can only work part time at my small business. It was nice to not have to worry about not being able to buy meat because I don't often have enough money for everything. I'd absolutely love to participate again whenever possible, thank-you so much for everything I was given. The kids loved every single product we were given."*

-Share The Harvest Fall 2024 Participant

# Expanding Access to Local Food

## Making Local More Accessible

In 2024, the Cape Breton Food Hub Co-op focused on making local food more accessible to our community by addressing key barriers such as affordability, convenience, and inclusivity.

### Enhanced Delivery & Pickup

We expanded our delivery and pick-up options, making it easier for customers across Cape Breton to access fresh, local food. With home delivery and additional pick-up locations, we ensured that more people could enjoy local products without traveling far.

### Stronger Local Partnerships

By working with a wider range of local farmers and producers, we offered more variety and seasonal options to our customers. These partnerships not only supported sustainable farming but also brought the best of Cape Breton's agricultural products to our community.

### Community Education & Outreach

Through workshops and outreach, we raised awareness about the benefits of supporting local food systems, helping individuals make informed choices about their food and its impact on health and the economy.

### Looking Ahead

As we move forward, we are excited to continue expanding our access initiatives, reaching more households, and supporting more local producers to build a more inclusive, sustainable food system.



## December 2023



The Food Hub Retail Store officially opened in December 2023 and held a Grand Opening in May 2024. In over 1 year in operation, the store has experienced great growth and success, reaching \$175,000 in sales.

This success is directly linked to the increase in products made in-house such as breads, preserves, frozen vegetables and ready-to-eat meals which we sell in store as well as online.



May 2024



December 2024



## Innovations and New Initiatives

## The Evolution of Our Retail Store

The Food Hub Chef, Marc Lyons, has been creating a wide range of foods using as many local products as possible. From pre-made meals, to bagels and bread, to jams and preserves, and more; by using local ingredients and supporting our producer members we are showing the community what is possible when having a focus on local.

The Food Hub also started processing local grown fruit and vegetables, allowing their reach and shelf life to be extended. The processing of products also opens up a new level of learning for employees, and offers the potential for more job opportunities.

The revenue made from these Food Hub products are reinvested into the Food Hub and helps support a larger local food network in Cape Breton.



## **Innovations and New Initiatives**

### **Value-Added Products and Kitchen Creations**



At the Cape Breton Food Hub, we expanded our distribution to new locations across the island, enhancing access to local food. In 2024, we had 9 distribution points, and with the help of volunteers and local business and organization connections, we were able to get local products to a large area of Cape Breton.

We added refrigeration to the existing van and will be introducing a new van to the fleet in 2025.

We streamlined the packing and distribution processes in order to accommodate the increase in orders and to improve efficiency.

New Locations opened in 2024:

- Louisbourg
- St Peter's
- Glace Bay
- Cheticamp
- Inverness

And more in 2025:

- Whycomomagh
- Margaree Forks



## Innovations and New Initiatives

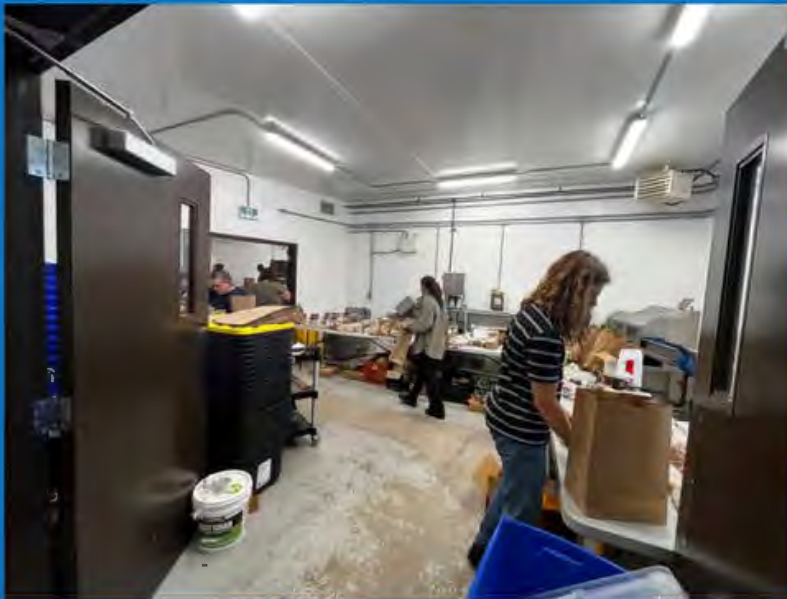
### Enhancing Our Distribution Network



Volunteers in action!  
Handing out orders at Eltuek



Gleaning Day - Fall 2024. Picking  
leftover veggies in farmer's fields  
that would have gone to waste.



Packing orders on Wednesdays.

**We are so grateful  
to our volunteers for all  
they do at the Food Hub!**

## **Community and Collaboration**

# **Volunteer Contributions & Their Impact**

### Local Farms and Food Producers

- Partnerships with local farms and food producers are at the heart of your mission to support sustainable agriculture. Key partnerships with Quinn Farm, Eyking Farms and others have enabled us to glean fields and purchase excess produce for processing, bringing more fresh, local produce to the Food Hub.

### Government and Community Organizations

- We partnered with Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage and the United Way to offer Share the Harvest to an expanded population including collaboration with the Jane Paul Centre and the Louisbourg Legion Food Pantry.

### Education and Outreach

- Board Co-Chair, Alix Redden presented on our Share the Harvest program and expanded distribution efforts at a Food Security Forum in Inverness County.
- Board Co-Chair, Katie MacLeod, presented about Share the Harvest at CBU's Health Research Conference: Collaborative Approaches to Healthy Rural Communities.
- Logistics Manager, Estelle Levangie attended the IONS Exchange 2024: Reciprocity in Practice

### Collaboration with Like-Minded Organizations

- Attended Seedy Saturday, an event hosted by the Zucchini Wives and Nectar
- We continually foster our relationship building with WFM2Go
- Collaborated with Richmond River Roots on a project through Feed Nova Scotia to bring nutritious local meals to area seniors

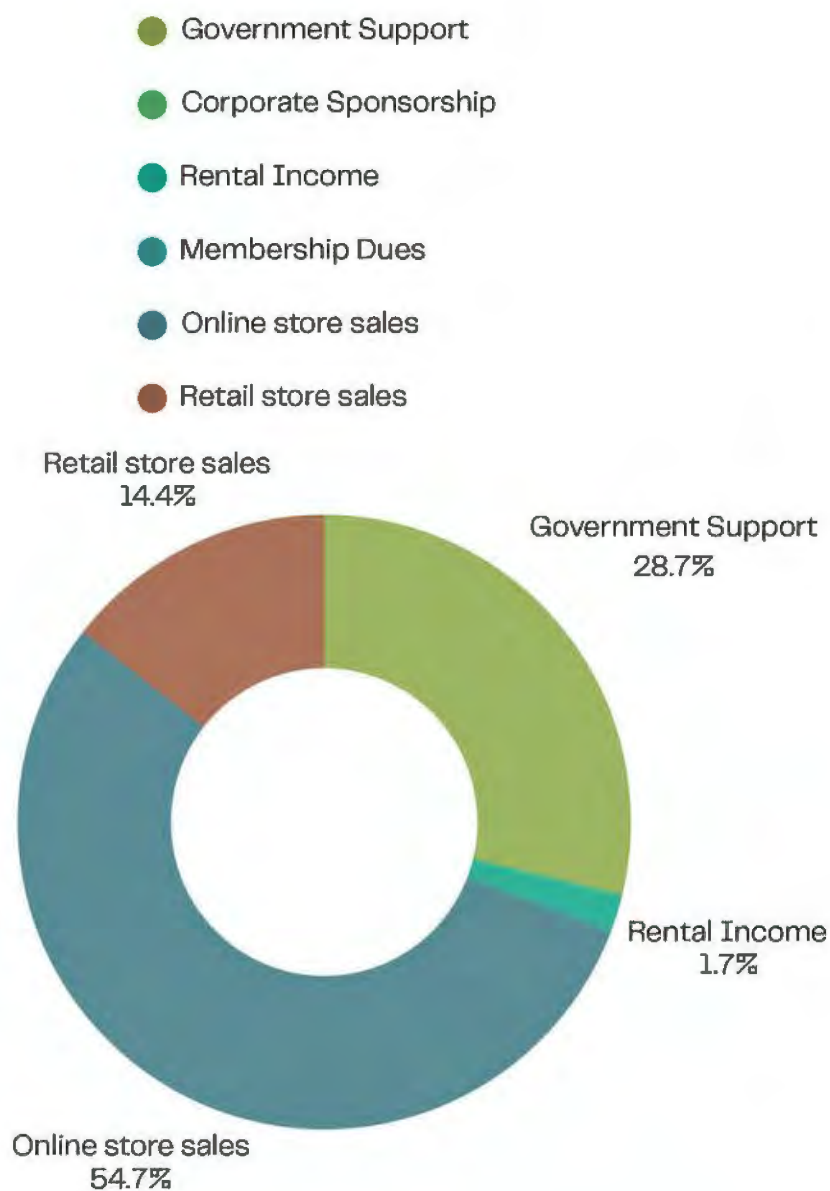


**Community and Collaboration**  
**Partnerships that Strengthen our**  
**Mission**

# Financial Health & Funding Highlights

## Where Our Support Comes From

The Cape Breton Food Hub Co-op is sustained by the generous support of a diverse group of funders, partners, and community members. Our funding comes from government grants, corporate sponsors, individual donations, and more—each contributing to our ability to create a more sustainable and accessible food system.



In 2024, the Cape Breton Food Hub formed several key partnerships to advance its mission of addressing food insecurity and promoting a sustainable food system in Cape Breton. The Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage provided \$500,000 to expand the Share the Harvest program, significantly impacting low-income families and enabling operations to expand. The provincial Community Economic Development Fund (CEDF) and the Department of Agriculture contributed to various initiatives supporting the Food Hub's mission. In June, the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) contributed \$190,000 to expand the Food Hub's food processing capacity. Feed NS also contributed to our Gleaning Project where we rescued vegetables from farmers' fields that would have gone to waste. Farmers got compensated for the veggies rescued and these were donated to Food Bank and other organizations working on Food security. These partnerships have been instrumental in advancing the Cape Breton Food Hub's goal of creating a sustainable food system and addressing food insecurity in the region.

# Financial Health & Funding Highlights

## Strategic Investments for Growth

Strategic investments are key to the Cape Breton Food Hub's growth and success. In 2024, we made intentional decisions to invest in areas that will allow us to expand our reach, enhance our infrastructure, and strengthen our community impact. These investments ensure that we continue to meet the evolving needs of our members and the broader community.

Sustainability

Program Expansion

Infrastructure

Distribution Expansion

Technology

Staff Development



The Cape Breton Food Hub's key investment areas include infrastructure upgrades, technology enhancements, program expansion, staff development, and sustainability initiatives. These investments aim to strengthen operations and promote a sustainable food economy on Cape Breton Island.

**Pan Cape Breton Food Hub Co-operative Ltd.**  
**Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets**

<b>Year ended December 31</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Sales</b>		
Online store	\$ 661,175	\$ 374,180
Retail store	174,236	1,889
Delivery fees	28,486	17,951
	<u>863,897</u>	<u>394,020</u>
<b>Cost of sales</b>		
Food purchases	615,712	295,936
Freight, trucking and supplies	46,240	50,186
	<u>661,952</u>	<u>346,122</u>
<b>Gross profit</b>	201,945	47,898
<b>Expenditures (Schedule 1)</b>	369,940	175,334
<b>Deficiency of sales over expenditures before other items</b>	- 167,994	- 127,436
<b>Other items</b>		
Amortization of property and equipment	- 92,730	- 82,014
Amortization of deferred contributions	85,911	75,615
Membership Dues	4,308	7,507
Grant funding	347,580	120,332
Corporate sponsorship	2,000	3,544
Rental income	20,414	23,607
Building operating costs	- 67,626	- 45,177
Other income	1,282	24
	<u>301,140</u>	<u>103,438</u>
<b>Surplus (deficiency) of sales over expenditures</b>	133,146	- 23,998
<b>Deficiency, beginning of year</b>	- 78,994	- 54,995
<b>Surplus (deficiency), end of year</b>	<u>\$ 54,152</u>	<u>-\$ 78,994</u>



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## Pan Cape Breton Food Hub Co-operative Ltd.

### Schedule of Expenditures

Year ended December 31

2024

2023


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Advertising and promotion	\$ 11,600	\$ 11,695
Bad debts	580	2,036
Conferences	288	963
Insurance	2,459	1,673
Interest and bank charges	14,192	9,266
Interest on long-term debt	9,357	9,559
Meals and entertainment	300	47
Office	10,269	5,200
Professional development	1,151	170
Professional fees	30,327	6,510
Rent	3,134	7,400
Research and development	4,031	55
Supplies	3,854	1,318
Travel and automotive	121	105
Volunteer expenses	-	55
Wages and benefits	278,276	119,282
	<u>\$ 369,940</u>	<u>\$ 175,334</u>

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**Pan Cape Breton Food Hub Co-operative Ltd.**  
**Statement of Financial Position**

<b>December 31</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash	182,521	140,353
Accounts receivable	146,516	5,368
Inventory	26,708	1,226
Prepaid expenses	9,172	7,428
Harmonized sales tax receivable	8,460	3,388
	<u>373,377</u>	<u>157,762</u>
<b>Long term</b>		
Property and equipment	<u>1,302,856</u>	<u>1,309,257</u>
<b>Total assets</b>	<u>1,676,233</u>	<u>1,467,019</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Payables and accruals	49,632	25,957
Deposits	396	200
	<u>50,028</u>	<u>26,157</u>
<b>Long term</b>		
Long-term debt	141,544	185,597
Deferred revenue	269,526	149,522
Deferred contributions	1,160,984	1,184,737
	<u>1,572,053</u>	<u>1,519,856</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<u>1,622,081</u>	<u>1,546,013</u>
<b>Surplus (deficit)</b>	54,152	- 78,994
	<u>1,676,233</u>	<u>1,467,019</u>



# Looking Ahead

## 2025 Goals and Future Projects

**Winter/Spring 2025**  
Strategic Plan



**Spring 2025**  
Second van to arrive



**Summer 2025**  
Retail store to be open  
longer hours



**Fall 2025**  
Gleaning Days



**December 2025**  
Hitting another record in  
sales at Retail Store!

In 2025, the Cape Breton Food Hub remains dedicated to supporting local producers and fostering a robust sustainable food economy on the island. We recently hosted a strategic planning session for staff and board that prioritized key initiatives for the next four years. The Strategic Plan is still being drafted, but priorities will include:

- focusing on enhancing producer support
- expanding distribution capabilities
- increasing community engagement

To facilitate these goals, we have purchased a second van and hired an additional driver. This van will be converted into a refrigerated vehicle, allowing us to extend our reach to more distribution locations and ensure the freshness of our Producers' products.

Building on the success of our 2024 gleaning project, we plan to expand our gleaning efforts in 2025. This initiative will involve multiple days and sites, enabling us to rescue more surplus produce from local fields and distribute it to those in need. By increasing our gleaning activities, we aim to reduce food waste, support local farmers, and provide fresh, nutritious food to our community. These efforts are part of our broader commitment to creating a sustainable and resilient food system on Cape Breton Island.



# How You Can Get Involved

Be a Part of the Local Food Movement – Every Action Counts!

The Cape Breton Food Hub thrives because of the collective efforts of our members, volunteers, and community partners. Whether you're a local producer looking to sell your goods, a passionate foodie eager to support sustainable agriculture, or someone who simply wants to help strengthen our local food system, there are many ways to get involved! Become a member to gain access to fresh, local products, volunteer with us to support food distribution and events, or donate to initiatives like Share the Harvest, which helps provide local food to those in need. Businesses and organizations can also partner with us to expand our impact. However you choose to contribute, your support helps create a stronger, more resilient food system for Cape Breton. Visit our website or reach out to our team to learn more!





Leah Noble  
Executive Director



Estelle Levangie  
Logistics Manager



Marc Lyons  
Chef & Kitchen Manager



Sebastian Bock  
Bookkeeper



Colleen Reilly  
Distribution Co-ordinator



Jill Cloud  
Retail Lead



Peter Finch  
Driver



Monica MacLean  
Financial Administration

Throughout the year, the Food Hub has also had numerous dedicated part-time, casual, and student employees that have played essential roles in retail operations, distribution, processing and more! We are thankful for your work.



## Our People & Governance

### Meet the Team

Alix Redden, Co-Chair & Consumer Member

Katie MacLeod, Co-Chair & Consumer Member

Isabelle Lalonde, Vice Chair & Community Partner Member

Craig MacEachern, Treasurer & Consumer Member

Mike MacSween, Secretary & Community Partner Member

Rhonda Ferguson, Consumer Member

Andrew Walker, Producer Member

Keith Rudderham, Producer Member

Mark Jantunen, Producer Member

Alison Giovannetti, Ex-Officio Member



## **Our People & Governance**

### **Board of Directors 2024**



**Atlantic Canada  
Opportunities  
Agency**



**CAPE BRETON  
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**



**United Way  
Cape Breton**



**Farm Credit Canada**

**CELTIC CURRENT**  
COMMUNITY WIND DEVELOPMENT



**MEMBERTOU**  
TRADE & CONVENTION CENTRE

**ISLAND FOLK**  
cider  house

**Acknowledgements & Gratitude**

**Celebrating Our Sponsors & Supporters**



## **Thank You!**

To our farmers, producers, staff, volunteers, funders, partners, customers, and community members—thank you. The Cape Breton Food Hub is a reflection of your hard work, passion, and belief in a stronger local food system. Every order packed, vegetable grown, shelf stocked, donation made, and moment shared has contributed to the incredible impact we've had together in 2024. We are so grateful for your continued support and collaboration as we look toward another year of growing, connecting, and nourishing our island.

# Contact Us Today

[www.capebretonfoodhub.com](http://www.capebretonfoodhub.com)

[admin@pancapebretonfoodhub.ca](mailto:admin@pancapebretonfoodhub.ca)

902-304-5075



February 11, 2026

Warden Lois Landry  
Municipality of the County of Richmond  
PO Box 120  
Arichat, NS B0E 1A0

Dear Warden Landry:

This letter is a formal request from District Number Ten Volunteer Fire Department in Red Islands, Richmond County, to be included in the Municipality of the County of Richmond's 2026-2027 annual funding contribution list in the amount of \$10,000.

This money will be a tremendous help in relieving additional costs that we will incur going forward with our new community centre/fire department building. This new project is a community collaboration. The church has generously donated 5 acres of land as their contribution to the project. The fire department is responsible to pay for the land surveyor, migration, and legal fees associated with this donation.

This annual funding will help offset some of the costs associated with our new community project.

If you require any additional information, please contact me. We look forward to hearing from the Municipality

Sincerely,

Scott Madgy, Fire Chief  
District Number Ten Volunteer Fire Department  
Cell: 902-631-5873  
Email: smagdy63@hotmail.com



**Municipality of Richmond County**  
**2357 Highway 206**  
**P.O. Box 120**  
**Arichat, Nova Scotia B0E 1A0**

**Feb. 9, 2026**

**Dear Members of Municipal Council,**

**At Home Housing Association** was incorporated in May 2025. Our Mission is *"To create affordable housing solutions so communities can thrive."* Our volunteer Board of Directors have been active and engaged in building an organization that will serve the area for generations to come.

Communities are dealing with a severe shortage of affordable housing options. We have missed a lot of funding opportunities in the past because we did not have an established nonprofit housing association in the area. People need access to safe, sustainable and affordable housing.

We are so grateful for your support this past year. It has enabled us to incorporate as a nonprofit association and to create an active Board of Directors. We have had a successful year as we continue to explore options for Richmond County. At Home leveraged your funding and were successful in acquiring a grant from Canada Housing Transformation Centre (CHTC). We are working with consultants to assess our current state of readiness, map out a 5-10 year strategic growth plan and assess the feasibility of potential projects in Richmond County. We have also applied for funding through the Service Evolution Fund for people with disabilities. At Home is working closely with New Dawn Enterprises on a major project in Port Hawkesbury.

We will be eligible for Build Canada Homes funding when we have a proven record in property management, project management and financial audits for 3 years (May 2028). The Richmond County project will take time, but we are deeply engaged in the work. **We are requesting your financial support of \$45,000.00 for 2026-2027** to continue to build this solid organization that will be able to attract federal and provincial affordable housing funding.

Thanks again for your support to date. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Gunn", written over a blue horizontal line.

Tom Gunn

FEB. 9 2026

At Home Housing Lead



2357 Highway 206,  
P.O. Box 120,  
Arichat, Nova Scotia B0E 1A0

**February 19, 2026**

STAC Request for Funding for 2026-2027 Budget Year

Warden and Councillors:

Thank you for providing us with funds in 2025! The attached Impact Report documents our accomplishments over the past year.

To quickly review, the Vision, Mission and objectives of Seniors Take Action Coalition (STAC) follow:

**Vision**

Healthy communities supporting seniors' well-being by promoting age friendly communities.

**Mission**

The Coalition assists, supports and advocates to facilitate addressing the issues and concerns of seniors.

As a not-for-profit organization, the objectives of the Seniors Take Action Coalition, within Richmond County, are:

1. To create linkages and partnerships amongst individuals, groups, and organizations interested in the welfare of seniors in the Strait Richmond Area.
2. To recognize the leadership and contribution of seniors in our communities.
3. To support socially isolated seniors in their communities.
4. To be strong advocates on seniors' wellness issues.
5. To improve communication to connect seniors with the resources they need for their wellness.

As an organization, we have become stronger through the recruitment of four new board members bringing new skills, greater community knowledge, differing viewpoints and enthusiasm. They provided the incentive to solidify our aims for Seniors Take Action Coalition as an organization.

As we continue to evolve, we are examining ways to best benefit from the resources and talents embedded in our members. This year, we will be exploring how committees could optimize our efforts and engage more community members to participate on a committee in their specific area of interest. To begin, we will create four committees based on our established areas of strength:

1. Advocacy – based research, community input and the principle of equity
2. Communication and Outreach – listening to Richmond County seniors; encompassing education/information – in person, via newsletter, social media and local television
3. Collaboration and Engagement – leveraging working/partnering with others to accomplish more; extending our reach throughout Richmond County to engage and learn from Richmond County seniors and others concerned with the well-being of seniors
4. Finance, Grants and Resource Development – essential for our ongoing existence

This will enable STAC to develop a strong foundation for decision-making and actions as well as sustainability.

This past year we applied for several grants to support our moving ahead with identified needs highlighted in the ACTing Collectively research around mental health. If successful, these activities will help to address these issues. These grants are featured in our Impact Report attached.

And as experience suggests and literature documents, volunteer-based, non-profit organization sustainability is dependent being able to hire paid staff. This is where the funding received last year from the Municipality made a significant difference. Although we can gain some staff funds through grants, those funds do not cover most of our advocacy and communication endeavours. Grant funding does not cover organization structural elements such as terms of reference or policies, or administrative tasks such as arranging meeting times, venues and presentations.

Another area we are exploring is making the best use of our Community Outreach Coordinator's time and extensive skills and divest from her tasks that could be performed by another (after initial mentoring).

## Plans

As stated in our 2025 application, what could we do if we had the security of operating funding?

The objectives of STAC are supportive of the Refreshed Municipal Strategic Plan (2022-2024), in which the goals include:

- (Take) strong measures to support accessibility and age friendly initiatives
- (Pursue) prosperity and opportunities for all demographic segments of the County
- Nurture quality of life
- Utilize an accessibility and age friendly approach to all services, projects and initiatives
- Support, build and enhance spaces for health and wellness
- Support and connect citizens and volunteer groups
- Seek and sustain collaborations with organizations in a variety of areas to pursue shared goals

These are all areas where we can help; for which we can provide a person-centered perspective. We have established a web of intertwined connections at a community level to gain input and hear challenges and celebrate successes.

The Municipal Age Friendly Plan needs updating and a strategic plan to address the welfare of our senior population can round out and complement other Municipal action/ strategic plans. These are areas where STAC has experience and expertise. Among us, we have years of wisdom to provide considered and inclusive ideas, suggestions and contributions. We understand the intricate issues to enable seniors to live in the place of their choice. We can contribute to both short-term, and more importantly is some ways, long-term planning and actions. We strongly believe that the return on Council's investment in STAC would be significant through assisting with the accomplishment of several of the Municipality's goals and objectives. Seniors in Richmond County are a resource, not a burden.

Our proposed request will allow us to continue with our existing activities and build capacity for longer term sustainability.

Program Coordination-	\$11000 - 240 hrs annually @ \$40.00 + GST
	\$ 7000 - 200 Hrs annually @\$30.00 + MERC
Bookkeeping honoraria-	\$ 1800
Office supplies-	\$ 1200
Director Insurance-	\$ 1000
Joint Stocks, Zoom, etc. fees	\$ 450
Travel Costs for Coordinator-	\$ 2000

Advertising/Promotions and Printing-	\$ 1200
Meeting Expenses-	\$ 1100
Newsletter Production-	\$ 1100

**Total Budget - \$27,850**

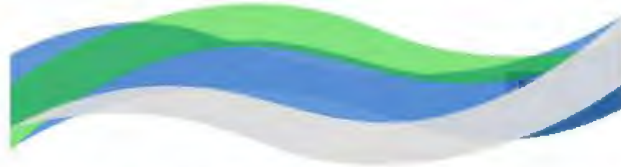
Thank you for your attention,

*Dorothy R Barnard*

Dorothy R Barnard,  
Chair, STAC

# Seniors Take Action Coalition

*...promoting age-friendly communities*



# Coalition des aînés en action

*...soutien aux communautés amies des aînés*

## IMPACT REPORT



**APRIL 2025 TO MARCH 2026**

The funding provided to us by the Municipality is key to ensure continued growth for Seniors Take Action Coalition. It not only provides funding for key operating expenses such office expenses, printing, board insurance, travel and meetings expenses it means that we have funds to have a very experienced person on the team in a contract position who is able to coordinate the many activities that we are involved in featured in this report.

As a volunteer Board of Directors, many of whom are also involved in several other community organizations, having this resource makes it possible to achieve much success.

# Sharing Information to promote age-friendly communities on Telile Community Television



Produced a weekly calendar that airs daily at 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., and is available on their YouTube channel. These are also posted via social media. [Click here to watch.](#)



Launched a new program to reach seniors without access to internet. Produced 11 episodes that air multiple times on Telile and are available on their YouTube channel and via social media. [Click here to watch.](#)



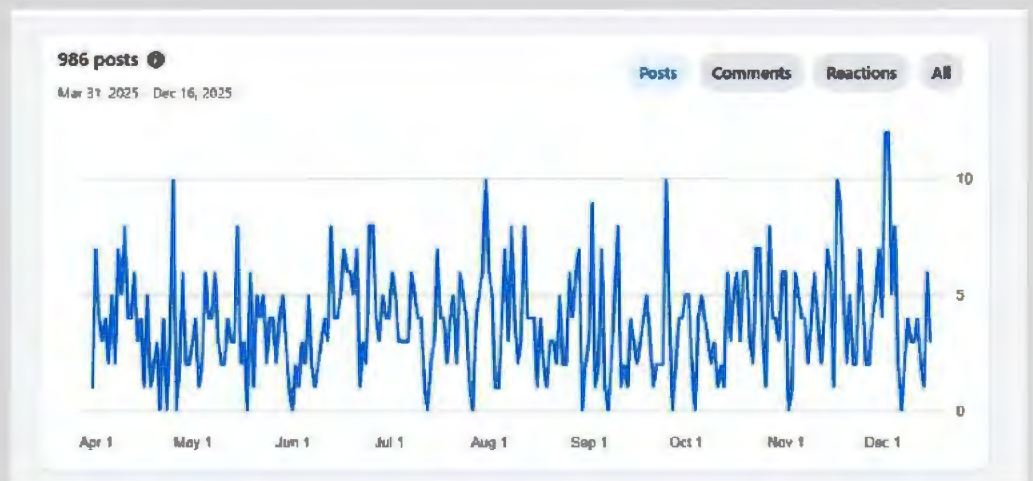
Developed a new public service announcement platform that airs single events on Telile. Also shared on social media.

# Social Media Presence



## (1) Seniors Take Action Coalition of Richmond County | Facebook

Over 1000 posts shared on FB. That is an average of three each day, ranging from information on grants, health issues, aging, events of interest, our weekly calendar, etc



**Celeste Gotell**  
Admin All-star contributor · Add topic · February 1 at 8:17 AM · 🌐

@everyone Please take a minute and participate. Over the next few weeks we will also be asking about information you like to see us share.

How often do you check the information we share in our Facebook Group?

<input type="checkbox"/> Never	5%	>	✕
<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	22%	>	✕
<input type="checkbox"/> A few times a week	47%	>	✕
<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	20%	>	✕
<input type="checkbox"/> A few times a month	1%	>	✕
<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	1%	>	✕
<input type="checkbox"/> Added by Tara-Lea Ocelotl/Calli When I see it on my Feed	4%	>	✕

Add poll option...

**View insights** 310 post reach >

👤 Shane Campbell, Joe McNamara and 4 others 74 Votes 12 comments

**Seniors Take Action Coalition of Richmond County**  
Celeste Gotell · Admin All-star contributor · February 13 at 6:55 PM · 🌐

@everyone

Looking for your input

Please take a few minutes to provide your feedback. We are wondering what type of FB posts are of most interest to you.

<input type="checkbox"/> Our calendar of events- both monthly and What's Happening Weekly	26%	>	✕
<input type="checkbox"/> Information on ER closures in the area	25%	>	✕
<input type="checkbox"/> Our newsletter Better with Age	16%	>	✕
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational and Learning Opportunities available locally or online	14%	>	✕
<input type="checkbox"/> Information of aging, health, etc	18%	>	✕
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	1%	>	✕

Add poll option...

**View insights** 195 post reach >

👤 Shane Campbell, Maxine David and 5 others 175 Votes 4 comments

Note number of shares and views on FB Posts

**Celeste Gotell**  
Admin All-star contributor · Add topic · January 29 at 11:34 AM · 🌐

Please note, both closures

The St. Anne Centre Urgent Care Department will be closed:  
February 4th at 7:00AM and will reopen at 7:00AM February 8th.

**DISRUPTION**

**STRAIT RICHMOND HOSPITAL**  
(Evanston, NS)

**Emergency Department**

Strait Richmond Hospital emergency department will be closed:

- Friday, Jan. 30 at 7 a.m. and reopen on Monday, Feb. 2 at 8 a.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 4 at 7 a.m. and reopen on Monday, Feb. 9 at 8 a.m.

**View insights** 2.3K post reach >

👤 1 33 shares

👍 Like 🗨 Comment 🔄 Share

**Seniors Take Action Coalition of Richmond County**

Have you signed up for Richmond County's Voyent Alert?

For more information, click below  
<https://www.richmondcounty.ca/voyent-alert.html>

**VOYENT ALERT!**

In times of crisis, residents need timely, accurate information to stay safe. Richmond County has chosen Voyent Alert to deliver critical alerts, such as fires or floods, as well as day-to-day updates like maintenance notices and water advisories.

**How to Register:**  
Registration for the service is FREE, simple, and anonymous. There are four (4) ways to receive alerts.

- SMS Text
- Voice-to-Landline
- Email
- Voyent Alert Mobile App

For SMS Text, voice-to-landline, and Email alerts Register online at [VoyentAlert!](https://www.richmondcounty.ca/voyent-alert.html)

For Mobile App Alerts: Download and install the Voyent Alert app from the [Apple](#) or [Google Play](#) app stores.

For more information, visit:  
<https://www.richmondcounty.ca/voyent-alert.html>

**Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry**

**What is a Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry (VVR)?**  
The VVR is a voluntary, self-referral list of individuals who may require support during emergency situations.

**Who should consider being part of the list?**  
Individuals who reside in Richmond County who experience severe difficulty with any of the following:

- Mobility
- Vision loss
- Hearing loss
- Developmental disabilities
- Cognitive impairment
- Mental health conditions
- Persons who require electricity for life-saving equipment such as oxygen and dialysis

**How to Register:**

- Forms can be picked up from the Municipal Office in Arichas
- Requested by email contact: [vvr@richmondcounty.ca](mailto:vvr@richmondcounty.ca)
- Downloaded from the Municipal website, [VVR Registration Form](#)
- Over the phone at (905) 228-3400

**View insights** 407 post reach >

# Note number of shares and views on FB Posts

**Celeste Gotell**  
Admin All-star contributor · Add topic · February 12 at 1:30 PM

**Ageing Well: Let's Talk About Frailty**  
Thursday, Feb. 26 • 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.  
Register here:  
<https://cht.cdha.nshealth.ca/select.aspx?eventAbbr=HNSFRAIL>



**FREE HealthyNS Virtual Program**

## Ageing Well: Let's Talk About Frailty

Thursday, Feb. 26  
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

**Sign up now: HealthyNS.ca**  
Program is held on Zoom.



View insights 632 post reach >

**Seniors Take Action Coalition of Richmond County**

**Celeste Gotell**  
Admin All-star contributor · Add topic · January 23 at 2:43 PM

Please take note of the comfort Stations in Richmond County... Thanks for Becky Bourinot at Telite for creating these posters.  
Click on photo below and use the arrow button to move from one to the next.  
For more information use link below... See more



View insights 2.3K post reach >

Becky Bourinot, Dede Johnson Boudreau and 6 others 8 comments 27 shares

**Celeste Gotell**  
Admin All-star contributor · Add topic · January 15

Just Released!!!  
Check out the Winter Issue of Better with Age  
Click below for the full newsletter.  
See more

**WINTER - L'HIVER 2026** **VOLUME 19**



**A Message from the Chair Seniors Take Action Coalition**

Each new year brings a time of reflection and renewal. 2026 heralds a time of uncertainty that is concerning. Yet, the resilience of Cape Bretoners can provide the footstones for us to follow.

We can focus on those things we can control. We can reach out to others to expand or strengthen our social connections. We can learn to live in the moment. We can find ways to be as healthy as we can be (and see kale chips as a comfort food...perhaps). We can share a cup of tea and a moment with another.

When you feel overwhelmed, find another for conversation. Become informed about the challenges we will face. And most importantly, we can realize our lives will always be uncertain and we have the wisdom to accept that.

*Dorothy Bernard*

**Message de la Présidente**

Chaque nouvelle année apporte un temps de réflexion et de renouveau. 2026 annonce une période d'incertitude qui inquiète. Pourtant, la résilience des habitants du Cap-Breton peut nous montrer la voie à suivre.

Nous pouvons nous concentrer sur les choses que nous pouvons contrôler. Nous pouvons tendre la main aux autres pour élargir ou renforcer nos liens sociaux. Nous pouvons apprendre à vivre le moment présent. Nous pouvons trouver des moyens d'être aussi en santé que possible (le peut-être voir les chips de chou frisé comme un aliment réconfortant...). Nous pouvons partager une tasse de thé et un moment avec quelqu'un d'autre.

Quand vous vous sentez dépassé, trouvez quelqu'un avec qui discuter. Informez-vous des défis que nous devons relever. Et surtout, nous pouvons réaliser que nos vies seront toujours incertaines et que nous avons la sagesse de l'accepter.

*Dorothy Bernard*

Welcome to Winter with Age. This newsletter is provided by the Seniors Take Action Coalition to learn more about seniors and their concerns by providing information and opportunities for seniors to contribute to this newsletter. We hope to demonstrate and celebrate the lives and contributions of older adults in Richmond County. As strong advocates for age-friendly communities we will increase the awareness about, and emphasize the importance of, age-friendly communities for people of all ages who live in Richmond County.

Bienvenue à Better with Age. Ce bulletin d'information est fourni par le Seniors Take Action Coalition afin de vous tenir plus au courant des préoccupations et des préoccupations, en démontrant des initiatives et en célébrant nos personnes âgées et leurs contributions à ce bulletin d'information. Nous espérons démontrer et célébrer les contributions des personnes âgées dans le comté de Richmond. En tant que fervents défenseurs des communautés Amies des Anciens, nous mettrons en évidence la sensibilisation et nous soulignerons l'importance de cette collectivité pour les personnes de tous âges qui vivent dans cette région.

View insights 996 post reach >


5 2 comments 10 shares

Like Comment Share

**Celeste Gotell**  
Admin All-star contributor · Add topic · January 13

Check out our most recent episode of Age-Friendly Community Conversations - A chat with Michele MacPhee, Administration and Project Coordinator with CORAH (Centre of Rural Aging and Health)

It is being aired on Telite Community Television now.



**AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS**

YOUTUBE.COM  
**Age Friendly Conversations with Celeste Gotell**

View insights 857 post reach >

12 1 comment 7 shares

Like Comment Share

# Better With Age Publication



Our quarterly newsletter reaches thousands via an online subscription, shared on social media, posted on the Richmond County Municipal website and printed copies available. This grant allowed us to produce several copies that feature older adults in our community, articles were written by older adults, and it provided useful information on aging well and age-friendly communities.

**SUMMER - ÉTÉ 2022** VOLUME 11

**What's in this issue:**

- Page 1: Update Seniors Take Action! Coalition of Richmond County
- Page 2-3: Age-Friendly Communities
  - Seniors' Centre Without Walls
  - Message from the Winston
  - Congress from Nova Scotia
- Page 4-7: Who are the people in your Neighborhood? Meet Tyrone David
- Page 8: Improving Health Care for Richmond County
- Page 10-12: Spotlight on June 16th's Men's Health Month
- Page 12: Community Corner
- Page 14: Useful Links and Grants Available
- Page 15: Last Words: Meet Muzica
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**AUTUMN AUTOMNE 2023** VOLUME 10

**What's in this issue:**

- Page 1: Message from the Chair Seniors Take Action Coalition of Richmond County
- Page 2-5: Age-Friendly Communities
  - Annual General Meeting
  - News from Board of Directors
  - We Care Days, and Service Canada Seniors Programs
- Page 6-8: Who are the people in your Neighborhood? Tony and Sila Thomas
- Page 9: Spotlight on Affordability in Richmond County
- Page 10-12: Spotlight on Seniors for Climate Action: Seniors and Pharmacies: Hometown Bound Nova Scotia
- Page 13-14: Community Corner
- Page 15: Useful Links and Grants Available
- Page 16: Last Words: Salt of the Earth Esthetics
- Page 17: Seniors' Clubs in your community

**Message de la Présidente**

Chaque nouvelle année apporte un temps de réflexion et de renouvellement. 2023 nous a permis de nous reconnecter et de nous reconnecter à nos valeurs. En partageant et en aidant les autres, nous pouvons souvent trouver le bonheur... au moins pour un instant. Mais, c'est quelque chose qui peut être constamment renouvelé.

En tant que membres de la coalition Seniors Take Action, nous nous efforçons de travailler ensemble à faire du comité de Richmond un endroit où nous pouvons tous nous épanouir. Avec de nouveaux membres au conseil d'administration, nous espérons que nous pourrions tous nous épanouir et nous reconnecter à nos valeurs. En partageant et en aidant les autres, nous pouvons souvent trouver le bonheur... au moins pour un instant. Mais, c'est quelque chose qui peut être constamment renouvelé.

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**WINTER - HIVER 2023** VOLUME 9

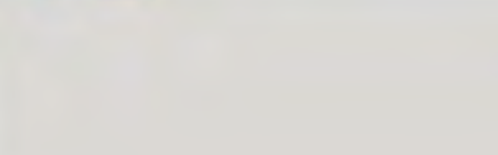
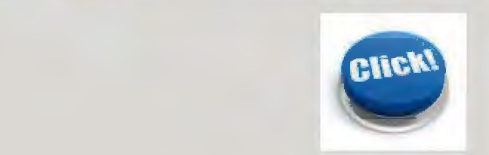
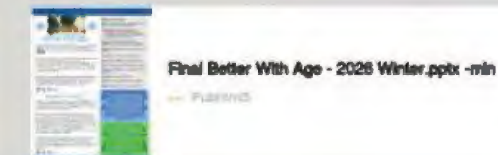
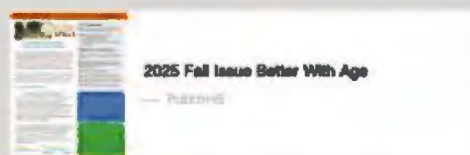
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  - Greetings from our MLA Trevor Bootman
  - Kidderman Awareness Month
- Page 4-7: Who are the people in your Neighborhood? Sally Anne MacIntyre
- Page 8-9: Spotlight on Richmond County Artist Alliance
- Page 10-11: From the Desk of Sarah Moore
- Page 11-12: Spotlight on My Great Journey
- Page 13: Spotlight on Hearing and Speech NE
- Page 14-15: Spotlight on InfoLib Library - Find the Facts
- Page 16-17: Community Corner
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# Our monthly calendar to share information

Produced monthly calendars from April 2025 to March 2026 that are shared widely on social media, posted on municipal website, shared with seniors clubs and other organizations, and available in print copy in several locations throughout Richmond County.

Also available in an online, readable format.

## Seniors Resources and Support - Richmond County, Nova Scotia

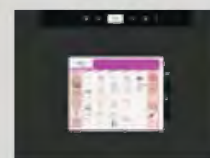
Seniors Resources and Support - Richmond County, Nova Scotia						
APRIL 2024						
1 Easter Monday Jolly Club Sewing Group 10am in L'Ardoise	2 We Care Cafe Flour-de-las Club Luncheon 12-1pm music with Shirley Bender, and Cameron 3pm Brigs	3 Coffee and Conversation 10am to Noon West Bay Community Centre	4 45+ Card Play 7:30pm O'Exposure Cafe Improvement Hall	5 Informal Bridging/Crossing group in the PDG Library at 2pm Come when you can! kind of group.	6 L'Ardoise 45+ Card Play 7:30pm O'Exposure Cafe Improvement Hall	7 New Horizons Club St. George's Channel Hall
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Seniors Resources and Support - Richmond County, Nova Scotia						
JUNE 2025						
1 L'Ardoise 45+ Card Play 7:30pm O'Exposure Cafe Improvement Hall	2 We Care Cafe Flour-de-las Club Luncheon 12-1pm music with Shirley Bender, and Cameron 3pm Brigs	3 Coffee and Conversation 10am to Noon West Bay Community Centre	4 45+ Card Play 7:30pm O'Exposure Cafe Improvement Hall	5 Informal Bridging/Crossing group in the PDG Library at 2pm. Come when you can! kind of group.	6 L'Ardoise 45+ Card Play 7:30pm O'Exposure Cafe Improvement Hall	7 New Horizons Club St. George's Channel Hall
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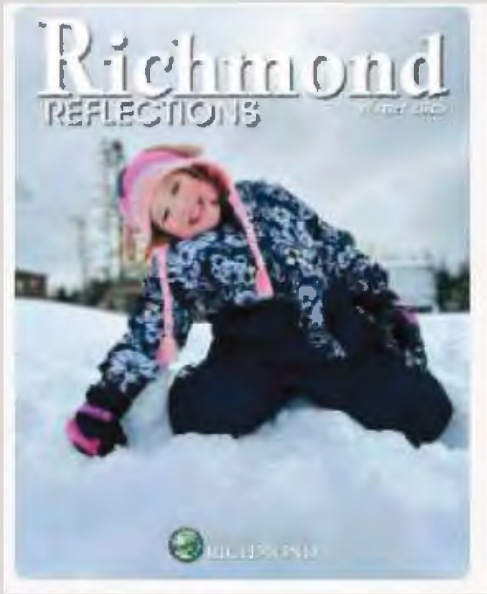
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DECEMBER 2025						
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Seniors Resources and Support - Richmond County, Nova Scotia						
FEBRUARY 2026						
Sun - Feb 1 Community Breakfast L'Ardoise 10am - 12 noon Eat in or Take Out	Mon - Feb 2 Meet at 9:30am O'Exposure Cafe Improvement Hall	Tues - Feb 3 Jolly Club Sewing Group 10am L'Ardoise	Wed - Feb 4 Morning Coffee St. George's Channel Hall 10:00 am - 12 noon	Thurs - Feb 5 Coffee & Conversation 10am to Noon West Bay Centre	Fri - Feb 6 Fiber Club Informal Bridging/Crossing group in the PDG Library at 2pm. Come when you can! kind of group.	Sat - Feb 7 <b>BAKE SALE</b> Early Valentine's Day Bake Sale 10am to 1pm United Church Hall St. Peter's Sponsored by L'Ardoise 44 Club
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December 2025-Calendar



# Articles and Information Shared via the Municipality



**Our calendar, newsletter and other information about our work is on the website**

**Seniors Resources and Support - Richmond County, Nova Scotia**



We contribute to each quarterly publication of Richmond Reflections to promote activities

[file.html](#)



“The Seniors Take Action Coalition does a great job at connecting seniors to information and resources through its online presence on social media, with its monthly calendar and weekly version on Telile, its quarterly newsletter Better with Age and its new program Age-Friendly Community Conversations.

As a senior who cannot get out a lot due to mobility issues, I access information through their various communication platforms and am grateful they are an integral part of our community in Richmond County.”

Maxine David, Isle Madame Resident

# Hosted a Community Health Expo



Join us for our  
**Second Annual  
 Community Health and  
 Wellness  
 Showcase/Expo of  
 Community Service  
 Providers for Older  
 Adults  
 in Richmond County**

Join us for our Second Annual Community Health and Wellness Showcase/Expo of Community Service Providers for Older Adults in Richmond County



Come explore the local organizations and programs and meet the people behind them! This free community event is a chance to ask questions, make connections, and discover how your community can support you.



Wednesday, May 28, 2025  
 10am to 2pm  
 Louisdale Parish Hall  
 148 Grandique Ferry Road



Wednesday, May 28, 2025  
 10am to 2pm  
 Louisdale Parish Hall  
 148 Grandique Ferry Road

There will be refreshments, and door prizes.  
 Complimentary Transportation provided by Strait Area Transit at the following pick-up locations.  
 Two pick up times are 9:30 or 12 noon. Either time will give you 1.5 hours to attend event.  
 In: Madame Max Hazards Club, Arichat.  
 Dennis Brax Seniors Club, Yousso Street in St. Peter's  
 Call to book ahead: 902-625-1475  
 (3 person passenger vans) wheelchair accessible  
 When you call to book, please advise them you wish to attend this event.

**FREE**

Email for more information: [seniorstakeactioninfo@gmail.com](mailto:seniorstakeactioninfo@gmail.com)  
 or call Celeste at 902-471-0317  
 Seniors Centre Without Walls is possible due to the financial support of the Province of Nova Scotia's Age-Friendly Community Grant



## Here are some of the organizations that will be joining us.

- Municipality of the County of Richmond
- Service Canada
- Pan Cape Breton Food Hub
- CORAH-Centre of Rural Aging & Health
- NS Health Community Occupational Therapist
- Richmond County MLA Constituency Office
- Aging Well Nova Scotia
- East Coast Credit Union
- Le Réseau Santé Nouvelle-Écosse
- La Picaosse Community Cultural Centre
- Strait Area Community Transit
- Raising the Villages
- In: Madame Garden Club
- St. Peter's Adult Day Program
- Sonia of SonicSon's Fitness
- Strait Area Women's Place/ Losside Society
- NS Health Primary Health Dietitian
- NS Health Social Workers
- Strait Richmond Community Health Board
- Richmond County Literacy Network (RCLN)
- Caregivers Nova Scotia
- Dr. Kingston Memorial Community Health Centre
- Strait Richmond Palliative Care Society
- Red Cross
- NS Health Continuing Care
- Nova Scotia Hospice Palliative Care Association
- Dementia Live Project
- Adult Protection- NS Government
- Cape Breton Family Resource Place
- Nova Scotia Federation of Seniors
- Cape Breton South Recruiting for Health

There will be refreshments, and door prizes.  
 Transportation provided by Strait Area Transit from key pick-up locations.

Email for more information:  
[seniorstakeaction.info@gmail.com](mailto:seniorstakeaction.info@gmail.com)  
 or call Celeste at 902-471-0317

Seniors Centre Without Walls is possible due to the financial support of the Province of Nova Scotia's Age-Friendly Community Grant

## Over 100 attended

Second Annual Community Health and Wellness Showcase/Expo of Community Service Providers for Older Adults in Richmond County - May 28th



Free Transportation is being provided by Strait Area Transit

If you wish to attend, the driver can pick up at your home.

Please call by 3:00pm on May 27<sup>th</sup> to book ahead.  
 902-625-1475

Tell them this is to attend the Expo.

## 35 local services providers attended

## Free transportation

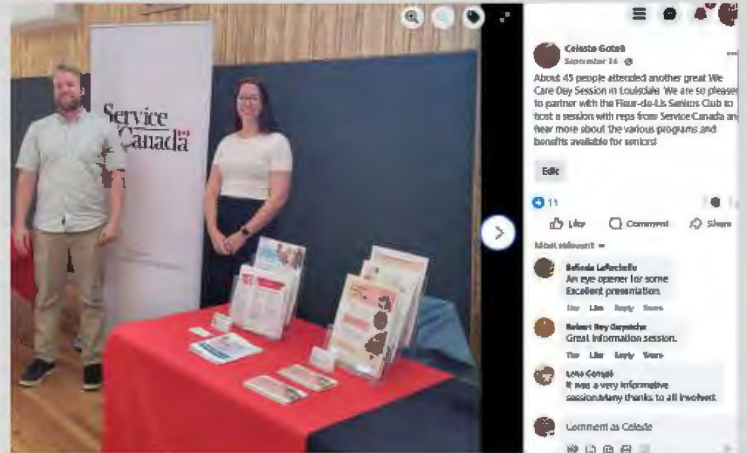


# Collaborations for In-Person Sessions



Join us for  
**"We Care Day" hosted by  
 Fleur-de-Lis Seniors Club**

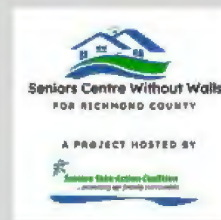
Learn more about Canada Pension Plan (CPP), Old Age Security (OAS) and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), and the Canada Dental Care Plan (CDCP) and focus on programs, such as the Child Rearing Provision, Survivor's Pension, voluntary deferral, Children's Benefit, GIS interruption of benefits and factors that could effect future benefits.



 **Wednesday, September 24th**  
**10 am to 2pm**  
**Lunch Provided**

Louisdale Parish Hall, 148 Grandique Ferry Road  
 Followed by the monthly meeting for the  
 Fleur-de-Lis Seniors Club at 2pm

Seniors Centre Without Walls is possible due to the financial support of the  
 Province of Nova Scotia's Age-Friendly Community Grant




Join us for  
**"We Care Day" hosted by  
 Fleur-de-Lis Seniors Club**



## Nutrition and Diabetes

with Ashley Lavandier, Nurse Coordinator  
 Jodi Morine, Dietitian  
 from the St. Anne's Centre Diabetes Clinic

 **Wednesday, October 29, 2025**  
**10 am to Noon**  
**Lunch provided**

Louisdale Parish Hall, 148 Grandique Ferry Road  
 Followed by the monthly meeting for the  
 Fleur-de-Lis Seniors Club at 1pm

Seniors Centre Without Walls is possible due to the financial support from  
 the Province of Nova Scotia's Age-Friendly Community Grant and the  
 Municipality of the County of Richmond



# Co-hosted In-Person Sessions



Join us for  
**"We Care Day" hosted by  
 Fleur-de-Lis Seniors Club**



**"Understanding Hearing Loss:  
 mechanisms, symptoms, treatments  
 and costs"**

**Robert Murphy, Audiologist  
 Nova Scotia Health**



**Wednesday, November 26, 2025  
 10 am to Noon  
 Lunch provided**

**Louisdale Parish Hall, 148 Grandique Ferry Road  
 Followed by the monthly meeting for the  
 Fleur-de-Lis Seniors Club at 1pm**

Seniors Centre Without Walls is possible due to the financial support from  
 the Province of Nova Scotia's Age-Friendly Community Grant and the



Join us for We Care Day  
 a partnership with the  
**Seniors Take Action Coalition and  
 the Louisdale Seniors  
 Fleur-de-Lis Club**



Join us for We Care Day  
 a partnership with the  
**Seniors Take Action Coalition and  
 the Louisdale Seniors  
 Fleur-de-Lis Club**

### Fall Prevention

**Involves a combination of making your home safer, staying  
 physically active, and managing your health.**

**Rachael LeBlanc - Richmond County-Seniors' Safety & Social Inclusion Coordinator  
 Courtney MacKinnon, Community Occupational Therapist- NS Health**

### Your Safety is a Priority

**Join Steve to learn more about Preparing for an Emergency, Climate  
 Safety, the Voluntary Vulnerable Person's Registry, Richmond County's  
 Voyent Alert System, comfort centres and more...**

**Steve Maccaillus, Emergency Services Coordinator  
 Municipality of the County of Richmond**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2025 at 10am**

**Followed by a light lunch  
 and the monthly meeting for the  
 Louisdale Fleur-de-lis Club at 1pm**

**Louisdale Parish Hall, 156 Grandique Ferry Road  
 Note: Should there be bad weather, it will be cancelled.**

**Wednesday, March 25, 2025 at 10am**

**Followed by a light lunch  
 and the monthly meeting for the  
 Louisdale Fleur-de-lis Club at 1pm  
 Louisdale Parish Hall, 148 Grandique Ferry Road  
 Note: Should there be bad weather, it will be cancelled.**

# New Collaboration



**Bereaved Families of NS  
Living Week with Grief**

Bereaved Families of NS in partnership with Seniors Take Action Coalition will be offering a compassionate support through our 6-Week Living with Grief Program. This carefully designed program provides a safe space for those navigating the pain of loss, led by trained facilitators with lived experience and the understanding of how it feels to lose a loved one. Facilitated by **Celeste Gotell and Sonia Morris**.

**6-week Living with Grief Program**  
**October 23rd - November 27th**  
 Thursdays, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
 Glen Sampson Room 156 Grandique Ferry Road, Louisdale, Nova Scotia  
 Registration is required to attend this program  
 Visit our website to learn more or to register: <https://bfns.ca/>




Contact us:  
 Phone: 902-564-6795 or Email: [info@bereavedfamiliesns.ca](mailto:info@bereavedfamiliesns.ca)  
**WE CAN HELP!**



**Bereaved Families of NS  
Support 'N' Share Sessions**

Are you struggling with questions about how to cope with grief or where to find the support you need? Bereaved Families of Nova Scotia's monthly Support and Share Sessions provide a safe, understanding space where you can connect with others and receive compassionate guidance. Each session offers practical tools, helpful resources, and real conversations that ease the confusion and loneliness of loss. Walk-ins are always welcome—come as you are and find comfort, clarity, and connection on your healing journey.

**Support N Share Arichat**  
**Tuesday, November 4th: 1:00 PM - 2:30PM**  
 Iste Madame New Horizons Club 2373 Highway 206, Arichat




Contact us:  
 Phone: 902-564-6795 or Email: [info@bereavedfamiliesns.ca](mailto:info@bereavedfamiliesns.ca)  
**WE CAN HELP!**



**6-week Living With Grief Program  
ARICHAT**



**Are you dealing with a loss of a loved one?**  
 We invite you to join our 6-week support program  
**March 18<sup>th</sup> to April 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Tuesday/Wednesday afternoons 1:30 PM-3:30 PM**  
 (Sessions held on March 18th & April 22<sup>nd</sup> will be held on Wednesdays)  
 Council Chamber Municipality Office, 357 HWY 206 Arichat  
 Contact us:  
 Phone: 902-564-6795 or Email: [info@bereavedfamiliesns.ca](mailto:info@bereavedfamiliesns.ca)




**A FREE GRIEF SUPPORT PROGRAM TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE DEALING WITH THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE  
WE CAN HELP!**



**Support 'N' Share Sessions  
LOUISDALE**



**Are you dealing with a loss of a loved one?**  
 We invite you to join our monthly Support Sessions  
**January 28<sup>th</sup>, February 25<sup>th</sup>, March 25<sup>th</sup>, April 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**Wednesday afternoons from 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM**  
 Glen Sampson Room, St Louis Parish, 156 Grandique Ferry Rd., Louisdale  
 Contact us:  
 Phone: 902-564-6795 or Email: [info@bereavedfamiliesns.ca](mailto:info@bereavedfamiliesns.ca)




**A FREE GRIEF SUPPORT PROGRAM TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE DEALING WITH THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE  
WE CAN HELP!**

“ We have an active partnership with Seniors Take Action Coalition of Richmond County to provide grief programs in several areas of Richmond County. Several facilitators have been trained in the region to provide Monthly Support and Share and 6-week Living with Grief programs. Bereaved Families believes that we need more community-based initiatives This is especially important in rural areas with aging populations, where more resources are needed to create better literacy on death and grief.”

Kuli Malhotra  
 Project Lead, Bereaved Families Nova Scotia

# Hosted Second Annual General Meeting



## You are invited to our Annual General Meeting

Monday, September 15th  
at 10am at the St Louis Parish Hall  
148 Grandique Ferry Road in Louisdale  
Greetings from Warden Lois Landry and  
MLA Trevor Boudreau



Dr. Alison Grittner, Assistant Professor in Cape Breton's University, Bachelor of Social Work program and the lead researcher with the project Homeward Bound: Enhancing Healthcare, Housing, and Social Support for Aging Rural Nova Scotians will join us as our guest presenter following the AGM.

We will then enjoy by lunch provided by the Louisdale CWL and Fleur-de-Lis Seniors Club.

RSVP by Sept 10th if you plan to attend.  
Call Celeste at 902-471-0317 or send an email to [seniorstakeaction.info@gmail.com](mailto:seniorstakeaction.info@gmail.com)



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



Prepared by:  
**Celeste Gotell**  
April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025



2024-2025 STAC Annual Report .pptx

Publinter5

## 2025 YEAR AT A GLANCE

### IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BEHAVED FAMILIES NOVA SCOTIA

STAC offered two support programs for persons interested in support to deal with shak gtaf

### COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS EXPO

At the expo organized by STAC in Louisdale in May 2025, some 35 representatives from community, health, and government organizations were on hand to share information about the many programs and services available to residents of Richmond County

### ADVOCACY EFFORTS

STAC sent numerous letters to municipal, provincial, and federal government officials to express concerns on issues of significant importance to seniors, such as the closure of emergency services, the reduction of reimbursements to help cover heating costs, dialysis treatments, and the review of grant allocations, to name just a few

### NEW TELEVISED PROGRAM "AGE-FRIENDLY CONVERSATIONS"

With guest speakers on a variety of topics, STAC launched its new televised program on Telle, "Age-Friendly Conversations"



### SENIORS CENTRE WITHOUT WALLS

Year two of the "Seniors Centre Without Walls" wrapped up with almost 1,000 followers on Facebook. STAC promoted virtual learning opportunities, hosted the STAC Virtual Coffee Club, and shared information using various fora, including but not limited to the monthly calendar and Telle broadcasting



### STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS WITH CLUBS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

In partnership with seniors' clubs, STAC organized monthly meetings with guest speakers on various topics of interest to members. Additionally, STAC established connections with other organizations to expand its program offerings

Seniors Take Action Coalition



Coalition des aînés en action

### DIJONGLAIS / D'COQ

The STAC logo has been redesigned to include English and French



### BETTER WITH AGE NEWSLETTER

STAC celebrated five years of producing its quarterly newsletter, "Better With Age". More than 1,000 people access the newsletter via social media and the Richmond County website via the following link:  
<https://www.richmondcounty.ca/seniors/resources-and-support/html/betterwithage>



### COMMUNICATION OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES - MONTHLY CALENDARS AND TELEVISED EPISODES

STAC produced 12 monthly calendars and 52 episodes of "What's Happening", broadcast at 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily on Telle

## 2025 APERÇU DE L'ANNÉE

### EN PARTNERSHIP WITH BEHAVED FAMILIES NOVA SCOTIA

STAC a offert deux programmes de soutien pour les personnes bénéficiant d'une aide pour supporter leur deuil

### EXPOSITION SUR LA SANTÉ ET LE BIEN ÊTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE

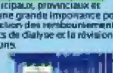
Lors de l'exposition organisée par STAC à Louisdale en mai 2025, environ 35 représentants d'organisations communautaires, de santé et gouvernementales étaient sur place pour partager des renseignements sur les nombreux programmes et services disponibles aux résidents du comté de Richmond

### EFFORTS DE PLADOYER

STAC a envoyé de nombreuses lettres aux représentants municipaux, provinciaux et fédéraux pour exprimer ses préoccupations sur des enjeux d'une grande importance pour les aînés, tels que la fermeture des services d'urgence, la réduction des remboursements destinés à aider à couvrir les frais de chauffage, les traitements de dialyse et la révision des allocations de subventions, pour n'en citer que quelques-uns

### NOUVELLE ÉMISSION TÉLÉVISÉE "AGE-FRIENDLY CONVERSATIONS"

Avec des conférenciers invités sur une variété de sujets, STAC a lancé son nouveau programme sur Telle, "Age-Friendly Conversations"



### CENTRE POUR AÎNÉS SANS MURS

La deuxième année du « Centre pour aînés sans murs » s'est terminée avec près de 1,000 abonnés sur Facebook. STAC a promu des opportunités d'apprentissage virtuelles, animé le Club Café Virtuel de STAC, et partagé des renseignements à travers divers forums, y compris mais pas limité au calendrier mensuel et la diffusion télévisée sur Telle



### RENFORCEMENT DES PARTENARIATS AVEC DES CLUBS D'AÎNÉS ET AUTRES ORGANISATIONS

En partenariat avec des clubs d'aînés, STAC a organisé des rencontres mensuelles avec des intervenants invités sur divers sujets d'intérêt pour les membres. De plus, STAC a établi des relations avec d'autres organisations pour élargir ses offres de programmes

Seniors Take Action Coalition



Coalition des aînés en action

### LOGO BILINGUE

Le logo de STAC a été repensé pour inclure l'anglais et le français



### LE BULLETIN "MEILLEUR ÂGE"

STAC a célébré 5 ans de publication du bulletin, « Meilleur avec l'âge ». Plus de 1,000 personnes consultent le bulletin via les réseaux sociaux et le site web du comté de Richmond au lien suivant:

<https://www.richmondcounty.ca/seniors/resources-and-support/html/betterwithage>



### COMMUNICATION DES ACTIVITÉS COMMUNAUTAIRES - CALENDRIERS MENSUELS ET ÉPISODES HEBDOMADAIRES TÉLÉVISÉS

STAC a produit 12 calendriers mensuels et 52 épisodes hebdomadaires de "What's Happening" diffusés à 9h et 17h tous les jours sur Telle

Attended Annual Meeting for the  
Nova Scotia Federation of seniors

Participate in Lived Advisory Council for the  
Homeward Bound Project

Presented at Richmond County Collaborative Network

Invited to apply to be a recognized member with the  
At Home Housing Association.

Invited to be a community partner for a grant with CBU  
submitted for a project to co-create an Elder Village—a free,  
open-access, accessible digital platform co-designed with older  
adults and co-led with community and academic partners  
representing nine diverse Canadian regions.

Invited to speak at the Annual Meeting for Bereaved Families NS  
about our partnership

Invited to be involved in the Cape Breton South Healthcare Infusion  
project

Participated in Aging Well Nova Scotia Intergenerational Event on  
Oct 7th during Seniors Week



# Applied for several grants

Applied for funding to New Horizons to enhance the programming we offer to reach more seniors throughout rural Richmond County who do not have the means via the internet to access information.

Deliverables for project include:

- Expanded programming that features guests about specific topics related to aging.
- Live public service announcements on specific events and topics.
- Recordings of live presentations that take place in several locations throughout Richmond County, edited for television so people who are unable to attend in person have access to these educational opportunities.
- Interviews of older adults in the community who are making a difference.
- Preparing materials in larger print format.
- Preparing more content in French.

Applied for funding to Healing Pathways to focus on increasing comfort with grief. Through our proposed initiatives, we hope to create opportunities for community members to have conversations about grief, loss and death. Our proposed activities will provide people with information so they can navigate their own experience. Our programming will increase public understanding and awareness.

# **Funding Applications with partners**

Partnered with Pictou County Seniors Outreach to apply for funding with Age Friendly Communities and the Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia

to offer

Mental Health First Aid for Older Adults in  
Pictou and Richmond Counties

and to

Build Capacity for Mental Wellness and Resilience Among Older  
Adults in Northern and Eastern Nova Scotia

The project will (1) revise the MWR Toolkit for use with older adults with a new section on loss and grief; (2) train facilitators from six rural counties in northern and eastern NS to deliver community workshops using the Toolkit; and (3) pilot the Toolkit in two rural communities (in Pictou and Richmond Counties) using a newly developed Facilitator Guide along with co-facilitation and mentoring approaches to support new facilitators.



We are so grateful for the funding  
provided to us.



ECRL Regional Office  
390 Murray Street,  
PO Box 2500,  
Mulgrave, N.S. B0E 2G0  
(902) 747-2597  
1-855-787-READ  
ecrl.ca

January 26, 2026

Municipality of the County of Richmond  
2357 Highway 206  
P.O. Box 120, Arichat,  
Nova Scotia B0E 1A0

Via email: [cao@richmondcounty.ca](mailto:cao@richmondcounty.ca)

Dear Warden Landry and Council,

As you are no doubt aware, due to media coverage, all provincial libraries are experiencing financial difficulties due to a lack of funding increases for years by our regulatory authorities. As such, Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL) faces a complex and uncertain financial outlook for the 2026-2027 budget year. Until we receive reliable funding information from the province, we can't be confident that service levels will remain stable in 2026-2027. As a result of this uncertainty, the ECRL Board strives to prevent service reductions by advocating for stable and realistic library funding from the provincial government. We also work to be strategic in our use of our financial resources to prevent reductions in library hours as well as other critical aspects of our services.

However, we do know that one particularly vulnerable area is our collections budget. Our ability to buy books and other materials (both physical and digital) for your residents has been greatly reduced over the past couple of years. With the current 2025-2026 budget including a record low of \$36,400 for the purchasing of physical books.

We realize that you face financial challenges as well, our request is simple and focused. We would ask that you consider a one-time addition to your current library funding up to \$2,000 solely for the purchase of new materials. To give you a sense of how these funds would translate into

books, \$2,000 divided by an average cost of \$35 per book would equal 57 new books for your community. This would go directly into the purchase of materials and not operational expenses. This will be a direct benefit to your community. Of course, if you would consider additional funding in general for next fiscal year, we would certainly appreciate that also.

Thank you for considering this request and all that you do for public libraries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Fuller', written in a cursive style.

Warden James Fuller  
ECRL Board Chair