

# Municipal Budget

## 2025-26

### *In this issue....*

- Message from Council
- Budget Highlights
- Operations and Capital
- Community Investment Highlights
- Important Dates to Remember



THE MUNICIPALITY  
OF THE COUNTY OF  
**RICHMOND**

LA MUNICIPALITÉ  
DU COMTÉ DE  
**RICHMOND**

**Our continued investment in our community's wellbeing**

*Our continued investment in our community's wellbeing. To ensure Richmond remains a healthy, welcoming and affordable place to live.*

### ***Richmond County Council Approves 2025–2026 Budget***

Richmond County Council approved its 2025–2026 budget at a Special Council Meeting held on June 16, 2025. The budget—balanced at just under \$17.5 million—maintains both residential and commercial tax rates in recognition of affordability challenges facing residents. While rising property assessments are a reality for many residents, Council is pleased to hold the line on tax rates for the current fiscal year.

The budget reflects Council's priorities, including strong support for community-based organizations.

Over \$400,000 in tax exemptions have been extended to not-for-profits, allowing them to continue their vital work in our communities. These exemptions are complemented by grants for community events, infrastructure projects, and other initiatives that foster engagement among community members.

Council has substantially increased its contributions to local organizations that enhance quality of life across Richmond County. In addition to continued support for St. Martha's, St. Anne's Centre, Dr. Kingston Memorial Clinic, the Strait Richmond Hospital Foundation and Palliative Care Society, and the Cape Breton Regional Cancer Care Centre, new funding has been allocated to Cape Breton University's new medical school and to the campaign for a CT scanner at the Strait Richmond Hospital. These investments align with our ongoing support for the Cape Breton South Recruiting for Health initiative.

Support for older residents remains a key priority, with continued funding for the Senior Safety Coordinator and additional contributions to the Seniors Take Action Coalition.

Richmond County is also proud to partner with the Town of Port Hawkesbury and the Strait Area Chamber of Commerce to support the At Home Housing Association, a new not-for-profit dedicated to advancing affordable housing solutions in the Strait Region. Council remains committed to exploring and supporting housing developments across the housing continuum. The budget also plans and provides for important upgrades to municipal infrastructure, striking a balance between service to residents, regulatory compliance, and fiscal responsibility. Notably, 2025–2026 marks the start of in-house curbside collection, with investments included to support a smooth transition as existing service contracts expire.

Council would like to extend its appreciation to municipal staff for their work throughout the budget process. Of the \$17.5 million budget, over \$6 million—or approximately 34.6%—is allocated to mandatory expenses such as policing, education transfers to the province, and property valuation services. These obligations represent an increase of more than \$570,000 over last year.

Balancing rising costs with a commitment to fiscal discipline and resident support is a challenge, but Council is proud of this budget and of the continued collaboration that made it possible. Together, we are working to meet the needs of residents while practicing sound financial management.



***L-R, District 1 Councillor Shawn Samson, District 2 Councillor and Warden Lois Landry, District 3 Councillor Brian Marchand, District 4 Councillor Amanda Mombourquette and District 5 Councillor and Deputy Warden Brent Sampson***

Warden, Lois Landry



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On Monday, June 16, 2025, Richmond County Council approved the \$17,469,578 fiscal budget for 2025-26.

The budget continues to be based on growth, fiscal responsibility and investing in the future. It consists of five key components for the municipality which align to many of the pillars of our [Strategic Plan](#) :

01

## INCREASE IN MANDATORY CONTRIBUTIONS & PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Mandatory contributions are amounts that we must include in our budget for provincial services, which include, among others, policing and education. These contributions rose over \$500,000 last year alone. Adding in costs for other essential environmental services and fire levies the number jumped to over \$750,000.

02

## INCREASED REVENUE

Revenue increased mainly due to an increase in property assessments nationwide. To this end, council has determined to hold the tax rate again for this year. User Fees for Recreation Programming / Arena will not increase, nor the landfill. The second of two water rate increases from the last water rate study were effective April 1.

03

## HEALTH, ACCESSIBILITY, AND WELLNESS

The budget supports investing in accessibility to municipal facilities and trail development. Council continues to support recruitment of health care professionals, seniors safety and social inclusion professionals. Council also committed \$50,000 to help acquire a new CT Scanner at the Strait Richmond Hospital, with \$25,000 being paid this fiscal.

04

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Council continues its work to help develop the Energy Sector and our Industrial Park in Point Tupper. Council has also invested its money to access further funds to explore domestic use for hydrogen in our region with existing industries, and also climate adaptation and energy resiliency for Richmond County.

05

## COMMUNITY/INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

Budget 2025-26 includes funding contributions to groups of \$425,000 with just over \$65,000 available to groups to apply for throughout the year. Tax exemptions for community organizations, increased the amount and threshold for [low income tax rebates](#) and continued the [Infrastructure Grant](#) to promote Housing development in our County.

## 2025/ 26 Community Investment

### Tax Exemptions granted under Bylaw 56

### Registered Charities (Sch. A of Bylaw 56)

Oceanview Museum  
 Arichat Parish Hall  
 River Bourgeois Funeral Home  
 River Bourgeois Hall  
 L'Ardoise Parish Hall  
 L'Ardoise Funeral Home  
 River Bourgeois Mariner Society

### Not For Profit Organizations (Sch. B of Bylaw 56)

Petit de Grat Parish Hall  
 Acadiaville Community Centre  
 Janvrin's Harbour Hall  
 Riverdale Community Hall  
 Louisdale Parish Hall  
 Loch Lomond Hall  
 Johnstown Parish Hall  
 St. Peter's United Church Hall  
 Rocky Bay Hall  
 Rocky Bay Ballfield  
 Salmon River Hall

D'Escousse Hall  
 Framboise Hall  
 Lakeside Hall  
 MacAskill House Museum  
 Isle Madame Historical Society  
 Forchu Hall  
 River Bourgeois Historical Society  
 South Mountain Arm of Gold  
 Nicholas Denys Museum

### Not For Profit Organizations cont....

Grand River Volunteer Fire Department  
 Basin River War Memorial  
 River Bourgeois Community Services Soc.  
 Janvrin's Island Sports & Recreation Assoc.  
 Isle Madame Welcome Plaza  
 Lennox Passage Yacht Club  
 Telile Community Television Telile  
 River Bourgeois Lighthouse  
 River Bourgeois Memorial Cenotaph  
 St. Peter's and Area Lions Club Marina  
 Lawrence Kavanagh Monument  
 Louisdale Lions Club  
 Arichat Boat Club  
 Little Anse Lighthouse Centre  
 Richmond County Literacy Network Lease  
 Richmond Arena  
 Dr. W.B. Kingston Memorial Clinic  
 Former Cleveland Church  
 Petit De Grat Baseball Field  
 Basin River Inhabitants Historical Society  
 West Arichat & District Village Circle Society  
 Basin River Inhabitants Historical Society  
 Société Vitalité Isle Madame  
 Hearts of Isle Madame Disability Society  
 Friends of St. John's Arichat Society

### Special Statutes (Sch. E of Bylaw 56)

Johnstown Development Co-op  
 Isle Madame Seniors Club



CAPE BRETON UNIVERSITY	\$20,000
FOOD BANKS (4 Districts @\$2,000 - 1 @ \$4,000)	\$12,000
STRAIT RICHMOND PALLIATIVE CARE SOCIETY	\$10,000
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
ST. MARTHA'S REGIONAL HOSPITAL	\$7,500
ST. ANNE COMMUNITY & NURSING CENTRE	\$7,500
DR. KINGSTON MEMORIAL COMM HEALTH CENTRE	\$7,500
STRAIT RICHMOND HOSPITAL FOUNDATION	\$7,500
DESTINATION CB - FESTIVAL AND EVENTS	\$7,205
RICHMOND COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTRE	\$5,000
REGIONAL OCCUPATIONAL CENTRE*	\$5,000
STRAIT AREA GROUND SEARCH AND RESCUE	\$4,000
ADULT DROP IN CENTRE	\$3,000
BRAS D'OR LAKES CEPI	\$2,500
CELTIC COLOURS	\$2,500
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	\$2,500
LENOIR FORGE MUSEUM - AGREEMENT - ISLE MADAME HISTORICAL SOC.	\$2,500
NICOLAS DENYS MUSEUM - AGREEMENT - ST. PETER'S COMMUNITY CLUB	\$2,500
OCEANVIEW WILDLIFE MUSEUM ASSOCIATION	\$2,500
MACASKILL HOUSE MUSEUM	\$2,500
BASIN RIVER INHABITANTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY	\$2,500
HIGHLAND VILLAGE MUSEUM	\$2,500
PITU'PAQ PARTNERSHIP SOCIETY	\$2,000
PAN CAPE BRETON FOOD HUB	\$2,000
SUPERPORT DAYS - VIBE CREATIVE GROUP	\$1,500
RICHMOND ACADEMY - RICHMOND EDUCATION CENTRE/ACADEMY	\$1,500
PH PAPER TOURNAMENT - STRAIT RICHMOND MINOR HOCKEY	\$1,000
CHILDREN'S MAKE A WISH	\$1,000
HARBOUR WARS ALAYNE'S LEGACY - CAPE BRETON REGIONAL	\$1,000
ECOLE BEAU PORT	\$750
POTLOTEK EDUCATION CENTRE	\$750

### Funding Contributions determined annually at Budget Deliberations by Council and based upon requests and funds available

STRAIT AREA TRANSIT	\$100,000
DR. KINGSTON - CBSRFH	\$36,300
DR. KINGSTON - SENIORS SAFETY COORDINATOR	\$30,000
ST. RICHMOND HOSPITAL - CT SCANNER	\$25,000
STRAIT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NON-PROFIT HOUSING PROJECT	\$23,000
CBRH - CANCER CENTRE - CAPE BRETON REGIONAL	\$20,000
SENIORS TAKE ACTION COALITION	\$20,000



## Canada Day Events

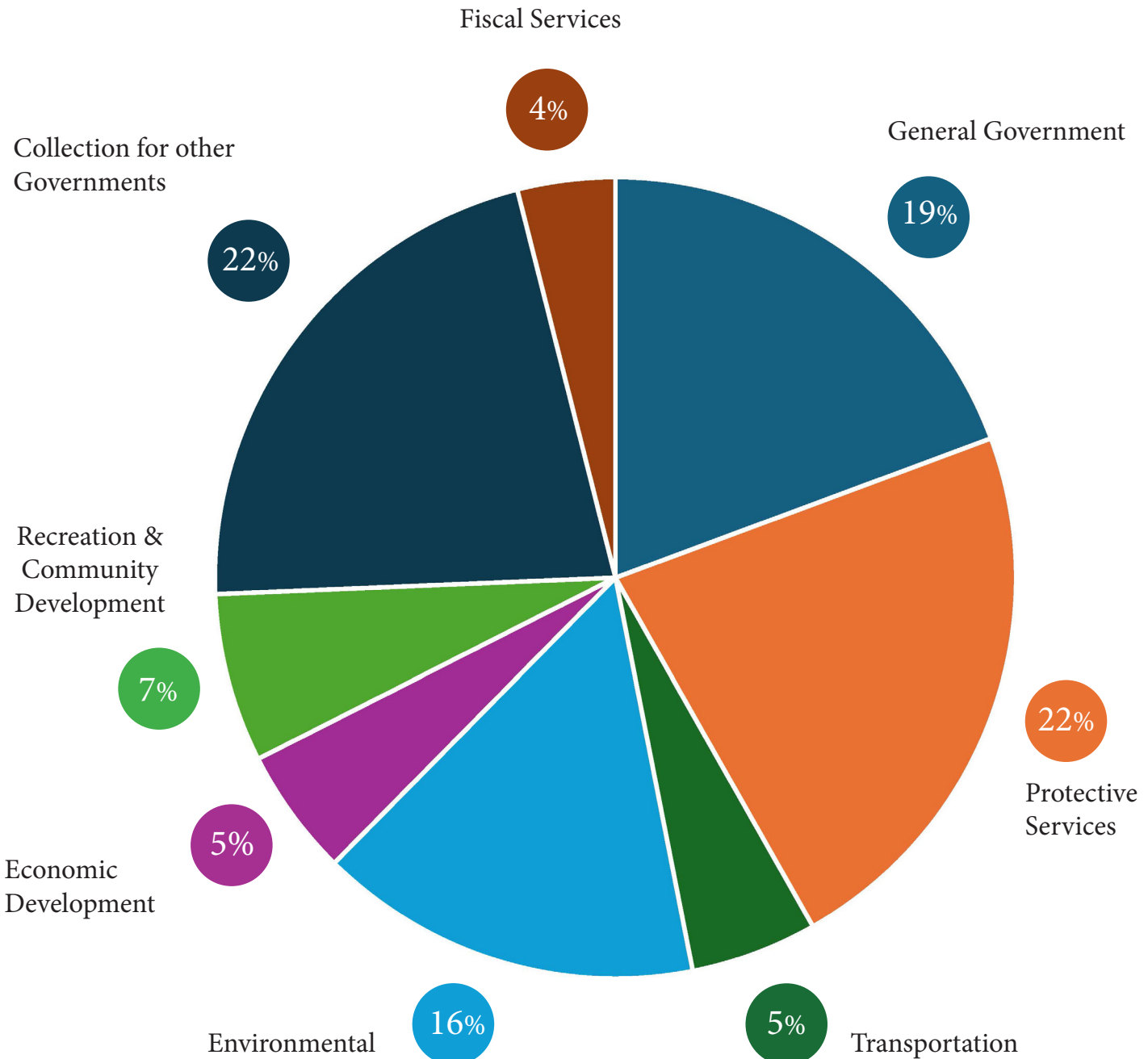
Isle Madame New Horizons Seniors Club	\$1,000.00
D'Escousse Civic Improvement Society	\$2,900.00
Riverdale Community Services Society	\$1,780.66
St. Louis Parish	\$2,500.00
St. Peter's and Area Lions Club	\$5,147.34
L'Ardoise Men's Club	\$1,672.00

District Grants	\$25,000
Regional Grants	\$37,500
Canada Day	\$15,000
Priorities of Council	\$50,000
Infrastructure & Permit Fees	\$200,000
Funding Contributions	\$449,505
<b>2025/26 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$779,505</b>



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## Expense Allocations for 2025/26 Budget



**Mandatory Contributions account for 35.02% of Expenses**  
 - All mandatory contributions are determined by the Province of Nova Scotia  
 (such as police, education, valuation services, etc...)



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## 2025-26 Municipal Budget Highlights

### Revenue

Tax Rate will remain unchanged for 2025-26 at \$0.85 Residential and \$2.15 for Commercial / \$100 of Assessment.

Residential Tax revenue will increase from \$6,473,586 to \$6,949,830.

Commercial Tax revenue will decrease from \$3,021,694 to \$2,856,243.

Deed Transfer is expected to hold near \$450,000.

Increase in Grants in Lieu from \$2,539,024 to \$2,570,442.

### Expenses

General Government Expenses will continue to decrease from \$3,452,004 to \$3,379,262. This is due to no costs incurred for an election this year, reduction in uncollected taxes due to our increased collection and tax sale efforts and the sale of the former West Richmond School.

Protection services will increase from \$3,724,048 to \$3,921,935 to reflect increases in both the Police Services contract and increases in assessments for fire protection.

Transport Services will remain steady near \$615,000 for road maintenance and street lights program.

Environmental Health will increase from \$2,602,868 to 2,705,331 due to increase in operating costs of maintenance at the Solid Waste Management Facility, which include trucking and disposal fees, along with the financial impact of new regulatory changes from the Province.

Recreation and Community Development will decrease from \$1,395,714 to \$1,188,696 which reflects the completed multi-use facility feasibility study. Numerous smaller upgrades at our Arena and the St Peter's Community Hub Project are set to be completed this year.

### Additional Highlights

\$285,000 of a \$1.8M Multi-year project, of expanding the C&D site at our Transfer Station

\$230,500 to install Solar Panels at Municipal Building

\$200,000 in systems upgrades for the Arichat Water Plant

\$200,000 in improvements at the Municipal Building (HVAC renewal)

\$150,000 for development of a bulk water filling station

\$150,000 in Arena upgrades

\$150,000 for sewer renewal project

\$125,000 for improvements at the Transfer Station with additional \$100,000 for paving at the site.

\$120,000 for waterfront development, trail maintenance and trail development



# 2025-26 Municipal Budget

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## Important Dates

### Property Billing

Interim tax bills are issued on April 1 and due June 1; Final tax bills are issued September 1 and are due November 1.

All taxes not paid by the due date will accrue interest at a rate of 18 per cent per annum (1.5% per month).

### Water and Sewer Billing and Interest Rates

Water and Sewer Bills are issued on July 1, October 1, January 1, April 1. They are due on the last day of the month that they are issued and any balance will accrue interest at 18% per annum (1.5% per month).

*If you have any billing questions please contact the Finance Department at 902.226.2400*

### Notice of Assessment info

For questions or concerns regarding your Property Tax Assessment, please contact Property Valuation Services Corporation at 1.800.380.7775 or [inquiry@pvsc.ca](mailto:inquiry@pvsc.ca)



## Municipality of the County of Richmond Grant Program - Grant Types

### Richmond County Municipal Grant Program *Deadline is March 31, 2026.*

- Community Grant - [Tier 1](#): For smaller financial requests with local impact.
- Community Grant - [Tier 2](#): For larger financial requests that benefit the broader community.
- Waterfront Development Projects Grant - [Tier 3](#): For waterfront development projects that must be Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) eligible.

- Strategic Initiatives of Council – Maximum of \$10,000 per year, per application.

### Recreation Grant Program *Deadline is March 31st of each year.*

Instructor/Facilitator Development – 50% of costs, Maximum of \$500 per application.

### Recreation Trails Grant Program *Deadline is July 25th, 2025*

- Multi-Use and Shared-Use Pathway Creation, Rehabilitation and Improvement – Maximum of one application per organization.

For more information please visit  
[www.richmondcounty.ca](http://www.richmondcounty.ca)