



## **TOWN OF STELLARTON**

Council

October 14, 2025

5:30 PM

Council Chambers

### **1. Approval of Agenda**

**2. Approval of Minutes:** September 8, 2025 Regular Council

### **3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

### **4. Reports from Staff: September**

- a. Chief Mark Hobeck- Stellarton Police Service
- b. Fire Chief Mike O'Sullivan – Fire Department
- c. Paige Draper- Marketing & Communications
- d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer

### **5. Correspondence**

- a. **Pictou Antigonish Regional Library** Re: Letter to Minister Dave Ritcy, Dept of CCTH
- b. **Healthy Pictou County** Re: September 2025 Report

### **6. Committee of the Whole Report**

### **7. Open Forum**

**8. Next Council Meeting: Monday, November 10, 2025 @ 5:30 PM**

### **9. Adjourn**

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2025  
STELLARTON, NOVA SCOTIA**

**MEETING**

A meeting of the Stellarton Town Council was held on Monday, September 8, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**PRESENT**

Mayor Darren Stroud, Couns. Sandra Eis, Mark Fortune, Susan Campbell and Garry Pentz. Also present was CAO Alanna Grover, Fire Chief Mike O'Sullivan, Town Engineer Blaine Murray and Marketing and Communications Paige Draper.

**1. AGENDA**

The Agenda was approved on motion by Coun. G. Pentz, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from July 14, 2025 Regular Council were approved on motion by Coun. S. Eis seconded by Coun. M. Fortune. **Motion Carried.**

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**4. Reports from Staff: July and August (Attached and available online)**

- a. Chief Mark Hobeck – Stellarton Police Service  
CAO A. Grover highlighted: July Calls for Service was 217; August Calls for Service was 198; Events included – Chief Hobeck and Cst Wheeler attended the Special Olympics Torch Run followed by the Opening Ceremony at St. F.X.; Officers attended various Homecoming events.  
Coun. G. Pentz made motion to accept Police Service Report, seconded by Coun. S. Eis. **Motion Carried.**
- b. Fire Chief Mike O'Sullivan – Fire Department  
Fire Chief M. O'Sullivan presented Monthly Reports for July and August.  
Coun. G. Pentz motioned to accept Fire Department's report for July and August 2025, seconded by Coun. S. Campbell. **Motion Carried.**
- c. Paige Draper – Marketing and Communications  
Paige Draper presented the July and August Reports; noting that there are fire restrictions in place; and the Water Contingency program is still in effect in Stage 2.  
Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve the Marketing and Communications report, seconded by Coun. S. Eis.

Coun. G. Pentz congratulated Paige for the winning photo she took for Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities. Mayor D. Stroud also commended her for her hard work during the Homecoming Festival. **Motion Carried.**

d. Blaine Murray – Town Engineer

B. Murray presented reports to Council; highlighting the South Foord project, waiting for approval from CBCNS Railway; Water restrictions are being followed by the residents.

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Town Engineer's Reports, seconded by Coun. M. Fortune.

Coun. S. Eis re Town Engineer's communications with Council and residents, very much appreciated.

Mayor D. Stroud re water breaks. Town Engineer B. Murray replied that Public Works does the repair work.

Mayor D. Stroud commented on the flowers around Town; positive feedback from the public.

Coun. G. Pentz re update on the Rutherford Project. B. Murray reported that the sewer is active and water connections are in process; street rehabilitation will be ongoing until end of November early December. **Motion Carried.**

**5. Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program (GRID) Funding Application**

CAO A. Grover updated Council; approved last December; used toward the ongoing project on Rutherford Street. The province announced a second round of funding for 50% of eligible project costs; application due by October 9; needs a Council Resolution to move forward with the application. It is recommended by staff to apply for the GRID funding; project cost of \$372,00 approved previously by Council for the South Foord street project. CAO A. Grover read resolution:

*"Be it Resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Stellarton, that the Chief Administrator Officer and Town Engineer be authorized to submit an application for a project under the Growth and Renewal for Infrastructure Development Program (GRID) for the following prioritized project for the fiscal year 2025-2026: South Foord Street Sewer Line Project. Total project costs \$372,000.00."*

Coun. G. Pentz made motion to approve Resolution and apply for GRID funding, seconded by Coun. S. Eis.

CAO A. Grover commented that nothing has changed in the scope of the work or cost, it's a funding opportunity.

**Motion Carried.**

**6. Correspondence**

a. **Pictou County Partnership** Re: Activity Report for Q1 – CAO A. Grover provided information re Pictou County Partnership Activity Report for the first

Quarter; highlighting immigration, community integration; for Council's information. Mayor D. Stroud provided some positive comments on the Pictou County Partnership group.

**b. Provincial Capital Assistance Program** Re: Funding – CAO A. Grover re letter from the Department of Municipal Affairs informing the Town that our Provincial Capital Assistance Program application towards the South Foord Street Sewer Line Project was denied.

**c. Healthy Pictou County** Re: July and August 2025 Report – Nicol LeBlance, Project Navigator with Healthy Pictou County, forwarded their Reports for July and August; noting that North Nova Family Medicine welcomed 11 new medical residents and 4 are in Pictou County. For Council's information.

**d. People First Disability** Re: Thank you – CAO A. Grover re Thank You note from People First Nova Scotia, for the Disability Flag Raising by the Town.

**e. Honourable John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs** Re: Letter, NS Firefighters School – CAO A. Grover stated that on August 5, the Town received letter from Hon. John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs, re audit of the NS Firefighters' School; the province is ending their relationship with the school; a Steering Committee will be established for long term plan. For Council's information. Fire Chief M. O'Sullivan had no further details on the issue. Coun. M. Brophy commented re minimal impact on Stellarton's Fire Department; they do in-house training.

**f. Nova Scotia Emergency Management** Re: Letter, Homeless Encampments and Wildfires – CAO A. Grover re letter received from Sandra MacKenzie, Deputy Minister of Emergency Management; the Province has banned travel in the woods and put restrictions and offered guidance for farming and industrial activities until the drought ends; there are still homeless encampments in dry wooded areas; asking municipalities to relocate these individuals to a safe location. For Council's information.

**g. Department of Natural Resources and the Office of the Fire Marshall** Re: Restriction of travel and activities in the woods – CAO A. Grover re notice received from the Department of Natural Resources and Office of the Fire Marshall regarding restrictions of travel and activities in the woods.

**h. Pictou Antigonish Regional Library** Re: Library Funding – CAO A. Grover re email received from Erick Stackhouse, Chief Librarian for Pictou Antigonish Regional Library with an update on the library funding situation; thanking Council for their support and advocacy.

**i. Greg MacDonald, Patterson Law** Re: Thank You – CAO A. Grover re a thank you from retired lawyer Greg MacDonald.

STELLARTON TOWN COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

**7. Pictou County Prostate Cancer Support Association** – Mayor D. Stroud re correspondence from Pictou County Prostate Cancer Support Association; requesting for Blue Lights shining for the month of September for awareness; the Town Hall is lit blue for the month of September.

**8. Open Forum**

No one spoke during the Open Forum.

**9. Next Council Meeting:** Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

**10. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned on motion by Coun. G. Pentz.

**MAYOR**

**CAO**



## STELLARTON POLICE SERVICE

Report up to Sept 25th, 2025

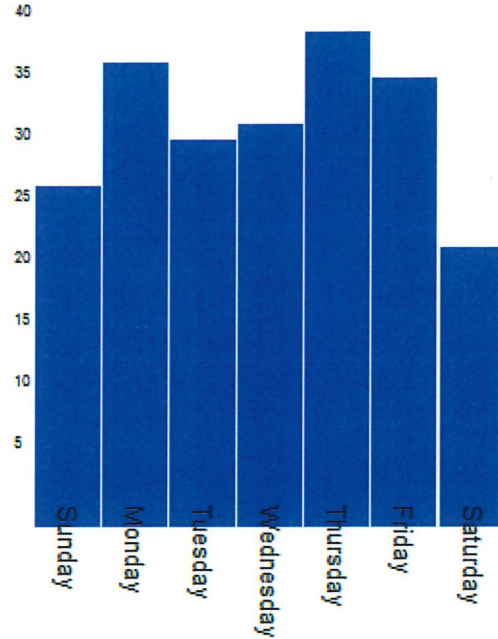
Calls for Service : 211 (2024 calls: 261)

Calls	Type
6	Animal complaints
4	Assaults
7	Assists to the General Public
4	Assist RCMP
5	Assist other Police Agency
4	Assist other non Police Agency
2	Breach of peace
1	Break and Enter
2	Checkpoint
1	Coroners Act
3	Corrections and Conditional Release Act
3	Crime Prevention
4	Criminal Harassment
3	Causing a disturbance
1	Dangerous Driving
3	Disobeying a court order
1	Driving while disqualified
10	False Alarms
1	Fire prevention act

1	Firearms act
3	Family Relations Act
3	Fraud under \$5,000
5	Fail to comply with conditions
1	Harassing Communications
3	Information Files
1	Item Lost/Found
4	Liquor Control Act
2	Litter Act
1	Luring a Child
5	Mental Health Act
2	Mischief
28	Motor Vehicle Act Violations
5	Municipal Bylaw
8	No pursuit flight from police
1	Offender Management
1	Operation while impaired (alcohol)
1	Parking Offences
3	Person reported missing
1	Sexual Assault
6	Police assistance
2	Protection of property act
26	Suspicious Persons/person/vehicle
7	Thefts
7	Traffic Collision non-fatal
3	Trespass Act
6	Uttering Threats -person
1	Voyeurism
7	Well-Being Checks

**Breakdown by day of the week:**

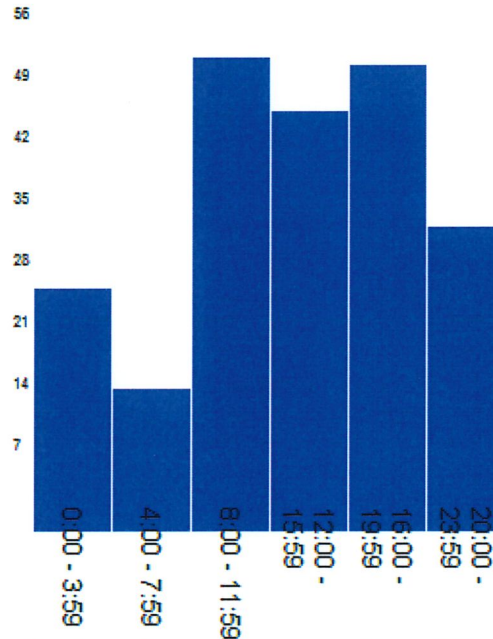
<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Number of occurrences</i>	<i>Percentage of total</i>
Sunday	25	11.8%
Monday	35	16.6%
Tuesday	29	13.7%
Wednesday	30	14.2%
Thursday	38	18.0%
Friday	34	16.1%
Saturday	20	9.5%
Unknown	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>100%</b>



**Number of occurrences per weekday**

**Breakdown by time of day:**

<i>Time</i>	<i>Number of occurrences</i>	<i>Percentage of total</i>
0:00 - 3:59	24	11.4%
4:00 - 7:59	13	6.2%
8:00 - 11:59	50	23.7%
12:00 - 15:59	44	20.9%
16:00 - 19:59	49	23.2%
20:00 - 23:59	31	14.7%
Unknown	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>100%</b>



**Number of occurrences per time of day**

## **Charges**

Criminal Code - 8

Motor Vehicle Act - 7

Warnings - 39

## **Events**

Chief Hobeck and Inspector Pond attended the Battle of Britain

## **Other Activities**

Foot/Bike Patrol - 16 hours

Traffic Enforcement - 108 hours

Community Relations - 8 hours



1088 [Handwritten Signature]

## **September Council Report**

### **Marketing, Communications, Recreation**

#### ***Newsletter***

The Fall edition of the Stellar News has been prepared and is available to residents via hard copy at Town Hall and online via the Town's website. Generally, this newsletter is mailed out with water bills. As a result of the current postal strike, mailing is not available at this time.

This edition features information on Fire Prevention Week, crosswalk and back to school safety, and more.

#### ***Harm Reduction***

Staff at Nova Scotia Public Health have been working on a Harm Reduction checklist for major events. As Stellarton's key staff person in the organization of Homecoming, I met with two individuals involved in the draft creation of this checklist to discuss its pending roll out in Pictou County and our experience with events in recent years. Once officially rolled out, it will be a tool to be used to help host safer and healthier events in Pictou County and beyond.

#### ***Play Finder***

I attended a meeting with other local recreation leaders surrounding a program called Play Finder. This is a virtual program aimed at unifying sport and recreation programs. Putting registration, contact information, and details all in one place for ease of access. Currently this program has been implemented widely in Antigonish and has been rolling out in other communities as well. This initial meeting was to share information on the program and ask questions about the potential of implementation in Pictou County. As additional information is shared, it may be something for consideration in the future.

#### ***Special Events***

I have been working to coordinate Stellarton's participation in several events in this upcoming season.

*Trick or Trail:* This event is expected to take place on Thursday, October 30 at Trenton Park. This is a collaborative event with the other municipalities to offer a fun trick or treating style event. Details of this event will be shared as they are finalized.

*Annual Tree Lighting:* Each year on the last Friday in November, we host our annual Tree Lighting at the Town Square. This year's event is scheduled to take place on Friday, November 28. I have been working to coordinate the community organizations involved in making this event happen. Additional details will be shared as they are finalized.

#### ***Water Contingency***

For the month of September, we continued to navigate through the different stages of our Water Contingency Plan. Information on each stage is posted on social media, the Town's website, the TownAPP, a designated water phone line, as well as on a sign posted at the front of Town Hall.

We have continued to utilize the informative pamphlet for those that may not have access to any of the previously stated forms of notification. This pamphlet outlines all of the potential stages that we may experience as well as the reasoning behind the stages. Police also have access to this pamphlet to provide residents with information if they notice water usage outside of designated orders.

As of the first week of October, we are not currently in a stage of water restriction.

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Draper  
Marketing & Communications Coordinator



September 23, 2025

The Hon. Dave Ritcey,  
Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage  
1741 Brunswick St., 3rd Floor  
P. O. Box 456, STN Central  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2R5

Dear Minister Ritcey,

At the regular meeting of the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library Board, September 11, 2025, a motion was approved to write and thank you for the one-time funding assistance to be used in this fiscal year.

The amount allocated to our region is \$67,300. This covered the increase in salaries due to the mandated provincial minimum wage increase. With additional municipal funding support of \$25,000 and additional fundraising of \$39,000 by the regional library, we hope to avoid a deficit year. Once again, we thank you for this support.

Board members also expressed their appreciation for your commitment to reconvene the Funding Review Committee. One-time funding increases, which now total \$134,600 for this regional library, have exclusively supported provincial minimum wage increases. This is not sustainable and places further risk next fiscal year on already strained library services. What is needed is a properly resourced public library system which can plan forward over multiple years. We urge the provincial government to support the Funding Review Committee recommendations.

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library is proud of its community-guided approach to public services, evidenced by new library infrastructure investments. These enable us to support the key determinants of health, especially literacy (both print and electronic), breaking isolation and overall mental wellness. We also support government priorities, such as technology and training support for virtual care, food security, and access to government services and supports. Our partnership approach also makes us successful, evidenced by our receiving the 2024 Community Partners Award from the Pictou County Chamber of Commerce. We are here to support all of our communities during these times of financial and social uncertainty.

Once again, thank you for support and we look forward to resolving this funding matter.

Sincerely,



Councillor Clyde Fraser, Board Chair

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library  
PO Box 276, New Glasgow, NS B2H 5E3  
Clyde.Fraser@newglasgow.ca

cc. Premier Tim Houston; Minister Michelle Thompson; MLA Danny MacGillivray; MLA Marco MacLeod.

Town of Antigonish; Town of New Glasgow; Town of Pictou; Town of Stellarton; Town of Trenton; Town of Westville; Municipality of the County of Antigonish; Municipality of Pictou County.

# SEPTEMBER 2025 HPC REPORT

## NOTE FROM NICOLE, PROJECT NAVIGATOR

Hello and happy fall!

In September we had a successful launch of our Professional Development program, thanks to our program funding from the Sobey Foundation. This funding enabled us to open the portal for our medical staff and residents to apply for funding for a variety of funding opportunities. We're in the process of finalizing the applications and sending out the results, and excited to share more about that in our October report.

We continue to work closely with our NSH colleagues supporting locums (short-term appointments) who work to provide continuity of care in our community.

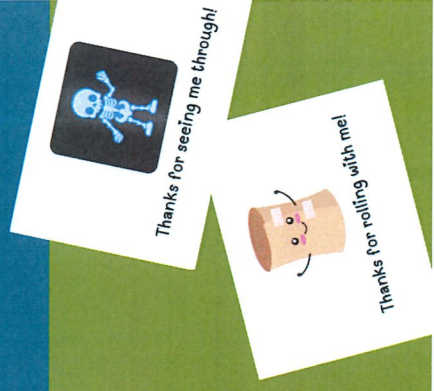
September is not only back-to-school season but a new month to welcome medical learners – including physician assistant (PA) students through the Dalhousie Masters programs. We are working to continue to understand the role of PAs and how we can work to support their recruitment and retention, as the role is increasingly integrated into our healthcare system.

We have our ongoing retention events and continue to welcome our new providers and their families – when our organization started in 2018 there were approximately 60 physicians on staff, and now we are closer to 100 which is impressive.

Thank you for the ongoing support to allow us to provide this vital work in our community.

## RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT: MEDICAL LEARNERS THANK YOU CARDS

We recognize how big of an impact preceptors can have, so we created cute thank you cards to be included in medical learner welcome packages for them to write their preceptor a little note of thanks at the end of their placement.



## QUICK HIGHLIGHTS

- Attended the Dalhousie Family Medicine Education Weekend annual job fair (more coming in October's report)
- Ongoing support for the Professional Development for medical staff
- Launch of Preceptor 101 resources and tools
- Launch of our Monthly Resources Round-up
- Ongoing responsive retention events to providers and their families to connect, take time for themselves, and explore the local offerings
- Continued work on our EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) regional strategy
- Regular planning meetings and work on our enhanced 360 Virtual Hub
- Work to prepare for a website refresh to better support our 360 hub functionality



## RESOURCE REMINDER:

We've had a ton of great feedback on our [Guide to Healthcare Career Pathways](#), and updated our [Guide to Canadian Undergraduate Medical Education](#) (launched Summer 2024). They're meant to be shared widely, and of use to all!



Thank you to those who shared the tools, and a special thanks to the Pictou-Antigonish Library for including them in their local offerings.

Local radio station 98.9 XFM featured our new health care career resource – [click here.](#)

## YOUR HPC TEAM



Nicole LeBlanc  
Project Navigator



Bonnie Fraser  
Event Manager and Admin Support



Heather Head  
Executive Assistant



Shae McIntyre  
Marketing & Events Coordinator

## RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT – SUPPORTING OUR HEALTHCARE TEAMS WITH LOCAL TOOLS

Since we started in 2018, we've worked to develop local resources – working with municipal units, community partners, and more to easily put resources at people's fingertips. From videos, to one pagers, booklets and more – we've proudly developed several resources to help people make the right decision to relocate or help with resources once they've moved here.

While we use our resources internally extensively, we wanted to ensure that we're bringing that capacity to others as well.

With that, we've placed a variety of our resources on the backend of our website, and are working on monthly updates for the healthcare field and beyond to access those. Resources such as an extensive list of where to find coffee and ideas for new parents to get out with their kiddos, we're working to ensure that those are easily accessible to healthcare managers and leaders to share with employees.

These resources aren't just for those new to Pictou County – we've even received feedback that those who have been here all their lives learned something new – which is such a testament to the need of resources like these. We're also working to consolidate the resources into one booklet, and we continue to coordinate with our community partners to avoid duplication and to explore how we can continue to work together.



## LAUNCH OF PRECEPTOR RESOURCES

We're excited to share the launch of Preceptor 101 Resources – a new initiative from Healthy Pictou County, developed with support from the Sobeys Foundation, to empower clinical teachers and enrich the experience of medical learners in our region.

For long-time preceptors, those just starting out, or considering taking on learners, the resources offer practical, easy-to-use tools to support, including:

- **Quick Cards:** At-a-glance tips for real-time teaching moments, giving feedback, and building strong mentorship habits.
  - **Preceptor 101 Handbook:** A deeper dive into structuring learning, navigating common teaching scenarios, and helping learners feel confident and supported
  - A small practical gift delivered to clinics and hospital mailboxes – preceptor keychains and clipboards
- Created with local preceptors in mind, these tools are designed to fit seamlessly into busy clinical days and strengthen the supportive learning environments already present in our community.



## HIGHLAND HEALTH HOME GRAND OPENING

This month marked the exciting opening of Pictou County's newest health clinic, the Highland Health Home and Learning Centre. We are proud to welcome the first health home of its kind in Nova Scotia to Pictou County.



You will see more of this exciting and beautiful space in our virtual hub. You can view our existing platform [HERE](#) – as it continues to be an incredible recruitment tool and one we use not only for prospective healthcare providers, but people already here as well!

To read the press release, [click here](#).



# SEPTEMBER AT A GLANCE



## WELCOMING THE TEAM AT HIGHLAND HEALTH

This month has been a busy and exciting one for HPC with several activities to support and connect with our providers. A big highlight was the opening of Highland Health – we were pleased to help welcome the Westville team to our newest health home on their first day. The HPC team dropped off goodies, treats, and HPC mugs to mark the occasion and to support this new chapter, new team members, and medical learners as they settled in.

## FLOWER WORKSHOP


We also had the chance to connect our providers outside of the clinic through a flower workshop, hosted by Marshdale Farms and one of our providers. Everyone created their own arrangement, and we provided food and snacks for the group. The workshop was well-received, and we are already planning the next session.

## CRUSHERS SEASON BEGINS

Crushers season is here and with it, the return of our HPC VIP sky box. Providers and their families can enjoy the home games together with food, snacks, and a curated family-friendly space. It's a fun way to bring providers into the local hockey community and create memorable and fun experiences. This year we added some fun – including the game of 'Operation' to hone in on those medical skills while they wait for the puck drop.



We also continued to offer boat days this month, giving everyone the chance to enjoy the last weeks of summer and our beautiful September weather here in Pictou County.

Looking ahead, we're already in full planning mode for fall and winter events, with more opportunities to connect and unwind (and maybe be a little competitive) 



# ABOUT HEALTHY PICTOU COUNTY

## HOW WE STARTED

In spring of 2018 local physicians called upon the community for support as we prepared for the well-deserved retirement of five large family practices. In the Fall of 2018, Nicole LeBlanc started as our full-time staff. Since then, we've grown to four full-time staff, and for the past three years welcomed a summer student to the team.

## WHO IS HPC?

Healthy Pictou County is a physician-led effort focused on the attraction and retention of healthcare providers and students in Pictou County. The organization is managed through the Citizens for a Healthy Pictou County, who also led the fundraising for the Pictou County Wellness Centre, the community portion of the Emergency Room redevelopment at the Aberdeen Hospital, and also fundraised for the two new schools in the early 2000s. The organization is guided by governance from the Recruitment and Retention Committee, which is currently chaired by Dr. Andrew Hayward and has representation from our hospital foundations, Nova Scotia Health, our physicians, and local community members.

## HOW WE ARE FUNDED

Healthy Pictou County is currently entering Year 7 of our renewed 5-year term (so 10 total) and has operational funding from our six municipal units, our two hospital foundations, local businesses and is one of the only organizations like ours in the province that has dedicated annual funding from the medical staff. In the summer of 2024, the Sobeys Foundation announced that it was investing over \$2.7million over five years for project-based efforts to support Healthy Pictou County. Our organization also continues to seek and leverage project funding where possible, including the Doctors Nova Scotia Hospitality Fund, and the Office of Healthcare Professionals Community Fund.

## WHAT DO WE DO?

Healthy Pictou County focuses on 3 key strategic pillars:

- Attraction
- Retention
- Medical learners

You'll see the work supporting each of these pillars outlined in our monthly reports, and also some on our website [www.healthypictoucounty.ca](http://www.healthypictoucounty.ca)

# OUR STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2029

In the spring of 2024, through our Office of Healthcare Professionals Community Fund project funding, we worked with a consulting firm to develop a strategic plan to guide us through to 2029. We consulted with a variety of stakeholders, reviewed external plans and had participation from our internal groups. You'll see these priorities and outcomes continue to be outlined in our reports, and below we're delighted to share our mission, vision and purpose, which we hope will provide clarity and reassurance on the activities and outcomes:

## Mission:

To support NSH's efforts to recruit and retain physicians, supporting allied health professionals and medical learners in Pictou County by showcasing our county as the best place to live and practice and by supporting the settlement and integration of physicians, supporting allied professionals and medical learners into our welcoming community.

## Purpose:

Supporting enhanced access to healthcare through the attraction and retention of physicians, supporting allied health professionals and medical learners in Pictou County.

## Vision:

To create robust systems, policies and practices to support our Mission and Purpose that will ensure a long-term and sustainable community-based commitment to enhancing access to healthcare in Pictou County.





# TOWN OF STELLARTON

PO Box 2200 Stellarton, NS B0K 1S0  
Phone (902) 752-2114 Fax(902) 752-4105  
susan.higdon@stellarton.ca

## Committee Report

**Date:** October 14, 2025  
**To:** Mayor and Council  
**From:** Alanna Grover, Chief Administrative Officer

---

The following recommendations are for Council's consideration from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on September 29, 2025:

### **Recommendation # 1**

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the request received from Jackie Pratt for the purchase of a memorial bench and tree to be located at the Stellarton Dog Park with work to be completed by the Public Works Department.

### **Recommendation # 2**

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the donation of \$200.00 to the Nova Scotia Building Officials Association to fund a seminar on October 14, 2025 to educate contractors in our area on building officials in their communities and significant updates to the Building Code.

### **Recommendation # 3**

On recommendation of Committee of the Whole Council approve the tender received from Bruce Leasing Ltd for the purchase of a new half ton truck in the amount of \$55,238.50.00 plus HST as it was the lowest tender received.