



# **Cape Breton Regional Municipality**

Committee of the Whole Agenda

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Council Chambers

Second Floor, City Hall

320 Esplanade, Sydney, Nova Scotia

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**Land Acknowledgement****Roll Call**

1. **Approval of Agenda:** (Motion required)
2. **Approval of Minutes:** (Previously circulated)
  - Committee of the Whole Minutes – November 13, 2025
3. **Fire and Emergency Services**
  - 3.1 **Fire Services Review Update:** Mark Bettens, Fire Chief and Director of Fire and Emergency Services  
(See page 5)
  - 3.2 **Operations Report:** Chris March, Deputy Fire Chief  
(See page 8)
  - 3.3 **Volunteer Coordinator, Training, Prevention, and Fleet:**  
Craig MacNeil, Deputy Fire Chief (See page 10)
  - 3.4 **Emergency Management Outreach:** Bruce MacDonald,  
Manager of Emergency Management (See page 13)
  - 3.5 **Emergency Management Manager's Report:** Bruce  
MacDonald, Manager of Emergency Management  
(See page 16)
4. **Planning Issues**
  - 4.1 **Land Use By-law Zone Map Amendment, Ferry Street,  
Sydney:** Peter Vandermeulen, Planner (See page 19)
5. **Corporate Services Issues**
  - 5.1 **Code Acceleration Fund – Updates to Fast-Track  
Housing Plans:** Tyson Simms, Director of Planning and  
Development (See page 34)

**5.2 Site Access and Data Sharing Agreement with the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) – Installation of Pipeline Sensors:** Raymond Boudreau, P.Eng., Director of Water and Wastewater (See page 36)

**5.3 Committee Vacancy:** Christa Dicks, Municipal Clerk / Director of Corporate Information Services (See page 38)

## **6. Committee and Conference Reports**

**6.1 Police Commission Update November 2025:** Glenn Paruch, CBRM Police Commission Chair / Councillor (See page 39)

**6.2 Information and Activity Report CBRM REN Q2-FY 2025/26:** Councillor Steve Gillespie (See page 42)

**6.3 Cultivating Culture, Navigating Change (CCNC) Creative City Summit 2025:** William Roy, Community Development Coordinator  
Verbal Update

**6.4 Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Conference:**  
Councillor Eldon MacDonald  
Verbal Update

**6.5 Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness Conference:**  
Councillor Kim Sheppard-Campbell  
Verbal Update

## **7. Correspondence**

**7.1 Cape Breton Regional Municipality Animal Control Statistics:** Kevin Strooband, Chief Inspector of the NSSPCA (See page 53)

## **Adjournment**





**Cape Breton Regional Municipality**  
**320 Esplanade**  
**Sydney, NS B1P 7B9**

## **REPORT TO COUNCIL**

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**To:** Mayor and Council  
**Submitted by:** Mark Bettens, Chief Fire Services  
**Date:** December 2, 2025  
**Subject:** Fire Services Review Update

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This report provides Council with an update on the ongoing Fire Services Review. As directed by Council, the review by the consultants has been initiated. The review aims to ensure local fire services remain effective, sustainable, and aligned with community risk, service expectations, and emerging regulatory standards. This update outlines the work by the consultants initiated to date, stakeholder engagement activities, data collection efforts, and the integration of relevant reports and agreements.

The Fire Services Review was formally initiated following Council's direction to undertake a comprehensive assessment of current service delivery. Key steps completed during the review initiation include:

- Confirmation of project scope, including operational capacity, governance structures, asset condition, training, response capability, and alignment with legislative requirements.
- Establishment of a project governance framework, including internal project leads and reporting mechanisms to senior management and Council.
- Development of a project plan, timelines, resourcing requirements, and milestone checkpoints.
- Identification of external and internal dependencies, such as regulatory changes, interagency agreements, and existing strategic plans.

Meaningful engagement is central to the review. To date, the following stakeholder groups have been consulted or scheduled for engagement:

### **Internal Stakeholders**

- Fire service operational personnel
- Management teams including (not limited to) finance, HR, Information Services
- Occupational Health & Safety

### **External stakeholders**

- Partner fire agencies
- Emergency services organisations

Engagement has been completed through interviews, workshops, and ongoing feedback channels. Initial feedback themes include service expectations, response times, training needs, volunteer support, infrastructure suitability, and interoperability with other emergency services.

A comprehensive data-gathering phase has been underway to inform evidence-based findings and recommendations. This includes:

#### Operational Data

- Incident response data and historical trends
- Response times and geographical coverage
- Staffing and volunteer availability
- Training records and compliance levels

#### Asset and Infrastructure Data

- Condition of stations and facilities
- Fleet age, utilisation, and replacement planning
- Equipment inventories and standards compliance

#### Financial and Governance Information

- Operating and capital expenditure
- Cost of service delivery and benchmarking
- Existing governance arrangements and reporting lines

#### Jurisdictional Scans

- Best-practice models from comparable municipalities
- Risk assessment data

Documents including agreements, past council reports and decisions, and more are being analyzed. These include:

#### Agreements

- Inter-agency collaboration agreements
- Shared service or mutual-aid arrangements
- Operational protocols with partner agencies
- Prior resolutions relating to fire services operations, resourcing, or infrastructure
- Budget decisions affecting operational capability and capital upgrades
- Strategic objectives identified within Council Plans, Municipal Emergency Management Plans, and Asset Management Plans
- Previous internal reviews and operational assessments
- External audit findings (where applicable)
- Reports on service performance, risk assessments, incident analysis, and organisational capability

Available documents will provide historical context and identified long-standing challenges and opportunities carried forward into the current review.

The next stages of the review include:

- Finalisation of outstanding stakeholder engagement activities
- Completion of data analysis and risk assessments
- Development of service model options and recommendations
- Presentation of a draft final report to senior management by the consultants
- Submission of the final Fire Services Review Report to Council for consideration

End.



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## CAPE BRETON REGIONAL FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICE

To: **Cape Breton Regional Fire & Emergency Service Committee**

Date: December 2, 2025

### **Deputy Chief Operations Report**

- ***The Cape Breton Regional Fire & Emergency Services'*** (CBRFES) career members have successfully completed a Hazardous Materials Operations Level training

Career Operations will be complementing additional Hazmat Safety Training sponsored and the Canadian Government and facilitated by the International Association of Firefighters, IAFF.

This training concentrates on common and best practices when responding to hazardous emergencies.

Career Operations will be providing an Instructor Level Course, a pre-requisite to Fire Officer I Certification, in the coming weeks.

Career Operations will be offering a Hazmat Technician's Level Course in the coming months.

- The Career Operations water rescue craft was in service for the 2025 summer season. Our water rescue craft responded to several calls, thankfully all with successful results. The rescue craft was removed from service for the winter season on Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. It will now undergo service, maintenance, and preparation for next season.  
The Canadian Coast Guard College will provide us with a minimum six (6) additional seats in their next Operators training class, currently there is no tentatively scheduled course.



- Beginning in August 2024 the Career Ops Tactical Support Unit, out of Station #2, has responded to several mutual aid calls, exchanging and/or filling a total of 374 air cylinders in support of various CBRFES volunteer fire departments.
- A Platoon Chief, Operations posting was initiated in mid-November and closed on Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. Interviews will be conducted on Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. This promotion of a Platoon Chief is the result of the successful transition of current Operations Platoon Chief, Jody Wrathall to the newly established Platoon Chief, Training Division. Congratulation PC Wrathall.
- Career Ops has hired ten (10) firefighters to bring our compliment to full staff. All ten firefighters are now fully scheduled and are near the end of the new recruit onboarding and the completion of new recruit workbooks.
- For the past few years the career Fire Service, Station #1 and #2 has provided, as requested by the following volunteer departments, automatic mutual aid to the South Bar, Grand Lake Road, and Sydney River Volunteer Fire Departments. As of late, additional requests for automatic mutual aid have been made, and agreed to, from the Coxheath and Westmount Volunteer Fire Departments. We look forward to ongoing collaborative volunteer and career responses ensuring the best possible emergency protection for our CBRM residents and visitors.

This concludes the C.B. Regional Fire & Emergency Service, Deputy Chief, Operations Report to the C.B. Regional Fire & Emergency Service Committee.

DC C. March

Original signed by:

**Chris March BBA, C.Mgr., ECFO, AIFireE**  
**Deputy Fire Chief, Operations**  
**Cape Breton Regional Fire & Emergency Service**  
**Cape Breton Regional Municipality**

**Cape Breton Regional  
Fire and Emergency Service**  
Volunteer Coordinator, Deputy Fire Chief Craig MacNeil  
362 George Street  
Sydney, Nova Scotia  
B1P 1K1



PH: (902) 563-5350  
CELL: (902) 574-0916  
Email: wcmacneil@cbrm.ns.ca

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CBRM Fire and Emergency Service committee meeting December 2, 2025.

## **TRAINING**

- The Training Division has finished practical certification including the live burn weekend, of the 2025 Level 1 training course with only the written component to be completed. Expected end date will be Dec. 2025
- The mobile burn Unit is fully functional and certified by an engineering company and the Province of Nova Scotia.
- Training Platoon Chief position has closed with the successful candidate being Platoon Chief Jody Wrathall. Jody brings over 30 years experience in the Fire Service as well as an extensive training background in firefighter training in CBRM as well as many First Nation communities throughout Cape Breton.
- The job postings for Training Officers are posted and will close on Dec. 4, 2025.
- CBRM has aligned its next Level 1 Firefighter course with the direction the province is taking to be compliant with any future provincial training standards.
- I have been appointed Co-Lead of the Eastern Regional Committee by the Fire Training Advisory Committee (FTAC). This is a provincial committee creating training plans for the Province of Nova Scotia.

## **FLEET**

- Three new pumper/tankers were tendered in Oct. 2024 and are due for delivery in July of 2026.
- One new Ladder truck has been tendered in May of 2025 with delivery in February / March of 2026.
- Fire Admin is working with Senior staff on the future fleet needs of CBRM Fire.
- Currently CBRM Fire has two major breakdowns in the fleet both trucks require pump rebuilds. One Department has been given a spare until repairs are completed the other is running a single truck with automatic response from neighboring stations.

## **Volunteer Operations**

- The Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia has received the provincial governance review from the reviewers and is available on FSANS website for review.
- CBRM Fire Service review has begun and all CBRM Fire Admin staff have been dedicated to fulfilling the extensive list of data required by the reviewing company. This has been a full-time endeavor since early November with a deadline of early December for submission.

## **Fire Prevention**

- CBRM Fire Prevention Officers, have launched a smoke alarm program with help from our Communications department and most Volunteer fire Departments. The program was available to all CBRM Residents and was a huge success. Fire fighters throughout the CBRM

are busy installing smoke alarms for residents and providing fire prevention material.

This concludes my report to the CBRM Fire and Emergency Service Committee.

Craig MacNeil  
Deputy Fire Chief  
Cape Breton Regional Fire & Emergency Service  
Cape Breton Regional Municipality  
Email: [wcmacneil@cbrm.ns.ca](mailto:wcmacneil@cbrm.ns.ca)





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## STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Mayor and Members of Council

**PREPARED BY:** Bruce MacDonald, Manager of Emergency Management

**APPROVED BY:** Mark Bettens, Chief

**DATE:** December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Emergency Management Outreach

**RELEVANCE/PRIORITIES:** Lessen the impact of disasters and emergencies within the community and facilitate post incident recovery. Maintain compliance with Provincial Standards for Regional Emergency Management Organizations (REMO)

## RECOMMENDATION

Members of Council may assist in furthering community resilience through the facilitation of emergency management information sessions with organizations within our community.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Building resilience within the community through public education of local risks, the steps an individual can take to potentially mitigate personal impact during a disaster, and the basics of personal preparedness can benefit post incident recovery.

Providing public information sessions is one means to further these goals.

Additionally, new Provincial Standards for municipalities in development by the Nova Scotia Department of Emergency Management stipulate a requirement for municipalities to provide a minimum number of community outreach sessions per year.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Resilience minimizes vulnerability; dependence and susceptibility by creating or strengthening social and physical capacity in the human and built- environment to cope with, adapt to, respond to, and recover and learn from disasters.

Strengthening resilience to natural and human-induced hazards and disasters requires contributions from all-of-society, coordinated by strong and effective leadership<sup>1</sup>

Cape Breton Regional Municipality Emergency Management provide several public information sessions each year covering the basic steps an individual can take to prepare for emergencies and disasters.

Historically, sessions arranged in collaboration with community groups reach the largest audiences. Standalone sessions delivered by EMO frequently reach fewer individuals unless the sessions immediately follow a large incident with broad impact within the community.

Increasing public awareness of local risks and developing a culture of personal preparedness will assist the public with preparing for and recovering from disasters and emergencies.

Additionally, the Province of Nova Scotia is currently developing updated standards for Regional Emergency Management Organizations (REMO). CBRM as a community with diverse urban, suburban, and rural population centres is considered a REMO.

Within the standards, municipal REMOs are required to deliver a minimum of 4 public outreach events or campaigns per year (one per quarter).

Although CBRM currently exceeds the requirement as outlined within the draft standards document, it is important to note the value of performing community outreach is acknowledged within the forthcoming document.

## **OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

The support of Council through the facilitation of connections between CBRM EMO and local community organizations will assist in promoting our goal of developing a more resilient community, and potentially lessen the hardship experienced by individuals following a disaster.

Opportunities to partner with community organizations for emergency management presentations are available beginning early in 2026.

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<sup>1</sup> An Emergency Management Framework for Canada - Third Edition

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

Minimal additional cost is anticipated for expanding our community outreach activities as sessions provided outside of normal hours of operation will be accommodated through flexing work schedules of confidential employees.

**RISK CONSIDERATION:**

Recent events within CBRM and the Province of Nova Scotia have reenforced the need for a formalized approach to the provision of comfort centre support following a disaster or an emergency.

**OTHERS CONSULTED:**

Review of the draft Provincial Standards for Regional Emergency Management Organizations (REMO).

Original signed by,

Bruce MacDonald  
Manager of Emergency Management  
Cape Breton Regional Fire and Emergency Service



## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

### **Manager of Emergency Management**

### **REPORT**

To: **Mayor and members of CBRM Council**

Date: December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

#### **ALL-HAZARDS PLAN UPDATE**

A 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop with members of the Council on the All-Hazards Emergency Management Plan is planned for the new year.

#### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STANDARDS FOR MUNICIPALITIES**

The latest version of the Provincial Standards for Regional Emergency Management Organizations (REMO) was released by the Nova Scotia Department of Emergency Management.

CBRM and HRM are considered Regional Emergency Management Organizations.

The document currently contains over 30 deliverables for municipalities to achieve and these deliverables represent minimum expectations.

Examples of the additional responsibilities for municipalities as outlined within the standards include:

- Provide semi-annual reports to CAOs and municipal councils with policy recommendations.
- Strive to participate in 100% of required provincial or regional emergency management committees.
- Conduct THIRA (Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment) every two years and complete full reassessment every 10 years.
- ECC meets or exceeds all DEM facility and operational standards.

- Maintain 24/7 contact readiness and ensure 2+ trained alternates available at all times. (for the ECC)
- Assist municipalities in identifying critical functions and ensure plans are updated biennially. (Business continuity planning)
- Maintain accurate records and reports of all emergency management activities and updates.
- Submit a comprehensive annual report to all CAOs and municipal councils each year.
- Participate in on-call rotation as scheduled, with response within 30 minutes of call-out.

There are potential budget impacts to achieve and maintain compliance with the new standards.

## **REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EXERCISE (REX-25)**

Nova Scotia Department of Emergency Management's fall regional emergency management exercise REX-25 originally scheduled for Nov 2025 is postponed until 2026 while the DEM completes its organizational changes.

CBRM along with the other counties within Region 1 were asked to host the exercise. We will again request the opportunity to host the exercise when the REX program is relaunched.

## **MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTRE (ECC)**

The municipal Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC), located in the former City Hall lunchroom is nearing completion with most of the required technology installed and the few remaining items are expected to be completed in a short time.

The ECC will provide a location for our emergency management organization to coordinate our activities following a disaster, large emergency, or a planned event.

The new ECC will also help CBRM maintain compliance with the new Provincial Standards.

Funding for the ECC was primarily provided through ACOA's Hurricane Fiona fund.

## **ONGOING DROUGHT RESPONSE**

CBRM EMO continues to support our drought response as reported at November's council meeting.

As of the writing of this report, approximately 190 civics are still registered to receive water vouchers, however no new additions have been added to our support list since November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Efforts are now underway to confirm if those who remain on our list still require ongoing drought support.

This concludes the Manager of Emergency Management's report.

Original signed by:

Bruce MacDonald  
Manager of Emergency Management



**CAPE BRETON**  
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

**TO:** Mayor Clarke and Members of CBRM Committee of the Whole

**FROM:** Demetri Kachafanas, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** [2025-11-25]

**SUBJECT: RE: Land Use By-law Zone Map Amendment, Ferry St, Sydney**

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**ORIGIN**

A request has been made by the Owner of PID 15057250 to consider a zone amendment to adjust the boundary of the Utility and Transportation (UT) and Medium Density Urban Residential (UR3) zone designation on their parcels. The applicant intends to develop the lands for low rise residential use.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the CBRM Committee of the Whole recommends Council of Cape Breton Regional Municipality give First Reading of Amending By-law found Attachment A and schedule a Public Hearing to consider adjusting the boundary of the Utility and Transportation (UT) and Medium Density Urban Residential (UR3) zone designation as show in Schedule A of the Amending By-law.

**BACKGROUND**

The above mentioned PIDs are zoned Utility and Transportation (UT) and Medium Density Urban Residential (UR3), a map of the existing zone boundaries can be found in Attachment B. As the UT Zone prohibits Residential Uses, this prohibits the use of the property for the proposed residential development.

In the 2006 North End Sydney Land Use By-law, the RO, Redevelopment Opportunity Zone was put in place until it was repealed in 2023. The boundaries of the previous zones were not altered during the adoption of the CBRM Forward Land Use By-law in 2023, a map of the 2006 Land Use By-law can be found in Attachment C.

The repealed 2006 North End Sydney Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) provided context into the creation of the RO Zone, which was created bordering the Sydney Tar Ponds and reserved for residential redevelopment once the remediation of the tar ponds was completed. This document also provided the three following items for Council to regard when considering a request for redevelopment of these lands;

- That Council is in receipt of a report from an environmental consulting firm with expertise in remediation of contaminated industrial sites indicating that the site of the proposed development has been adequately remediated and is safe for residential use
- That adequate provisions are in place to ensure the development is serviced with roads, water, sewer, storm drainage and landscaping, including the use of performance bonds to ensure that the work proposed is completed as planned
- That the development should include a mixture of different housing types and densities, as well as commercial uses primarily intended to serve the needs of the neighbourhood, but in no case shall the density of any proposed development exceed one dwelling unit per 1,000 sq. ft. of land area

The applicant has provided a phase one environmental assessment report which consisted of a current assessment of the site and historical desktop study to identify actual or potential environmental concerns including exterior surface conditions. The assessment was a non-intrusive visual review of the site. No sampling or testing of any kind was completed.

The phase one environmental assessment has not identified any potential environmental concerns associated with the site or adjacent properties, stating the property may be developed in accordance with the current land use as a residential property.

## **DISCUSSION**

By providing the RO Zoning in this area within the 2006 Secondary North End Sydney MPS and LUB, consideration was given to residential development in this at the time of adoption of this zone.

Given that there are existing residential developments to the North and West of this site, and the UR3 Zone does not share any permitted uses with the UT Zone, there is a potential for a conflict of uses if a Utility or Transportation use was developed in this area.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Fiscally, staff time was used to prepare the proposed amendment along with subsequent reports for Councils consideration. An application fee has been collected in accordance with the CBRM Fee Policy: Planning, Development, and Building



## **ALTERNATIVES**

Alternatively, the Committee of Whole could choose to;

- To request a further environmental assessment be required to be submitted upon submission of the first Building and Development Permit Application; or
- to not approve the recommendation

## **LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Section 210 of the *Municipal Government Act* outlines the required process for amendments to the Land Use By-law (LUB).

Policy A-15 of the Municipal Planning Strategy (Attachment D)

**Report Prepared by: Peter Vandermeulen, Planner**

**By-law**  
of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality

amending the

**Cape Breton Regional Municipality's  
Land Use Bylaw**

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Pursuant to Section 210 of the Municipal Government Act of Nova Scotia, the Council of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality hereby amends the text of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality's Land Use By-law in the following manner:

**THAT:** Council amends the CBRM's Land Use Bylaw map by deleting Utility and Transportation (UT) Zone in effect on PID 15057250 identified in Schedule A replacing it with the Medium Density Urban Residential (UR3) Zone.

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**PASSED AND ADOPTED:** by a majority of the whole Council at a duly called meeting of the Cape Breton Regional Municipal Council held on XXXX, XXXX.

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**MAYOR**

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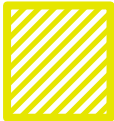
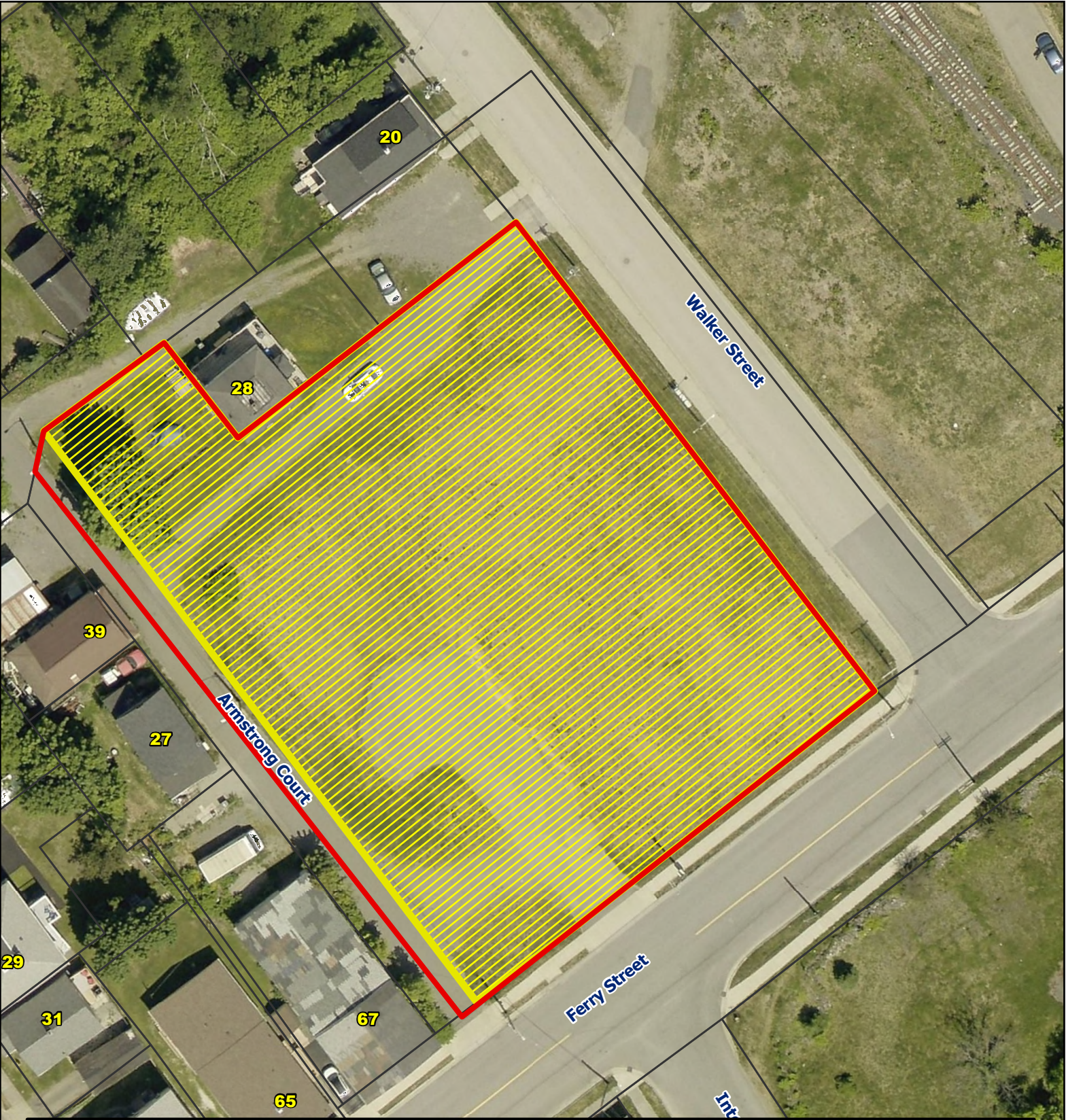
**CLERK**

**THIS IS TO CERTIFY** that the attached is a true and correct copy of the Amending By-law of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality adopted by Regional Council during a meeting held on XXXX, XXXX to amend the Cape Breton Regional Municipality's Land Use By-law.

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Christa Dicks, CLERK





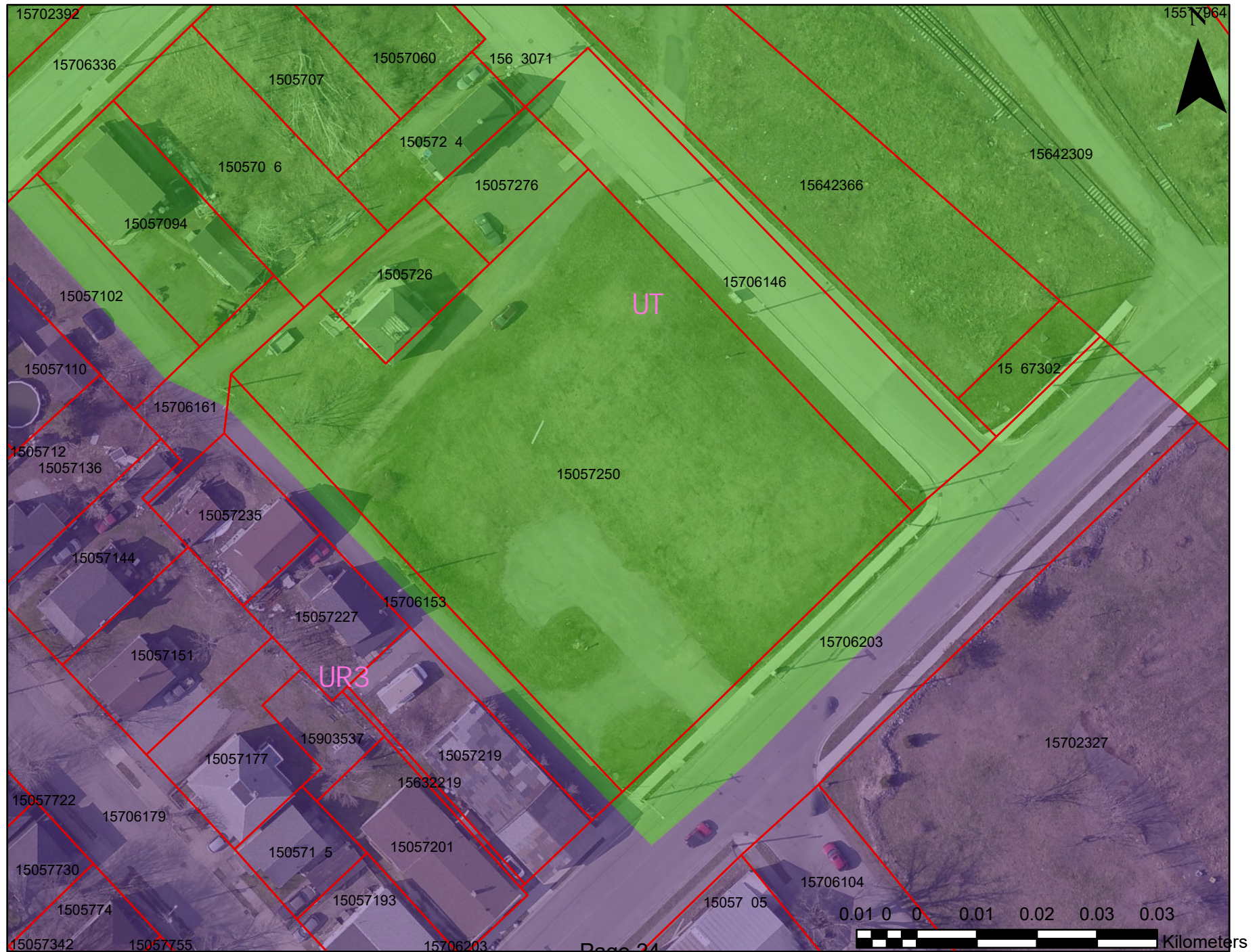
PID 15057250



Portion to be converted from UT to UR3

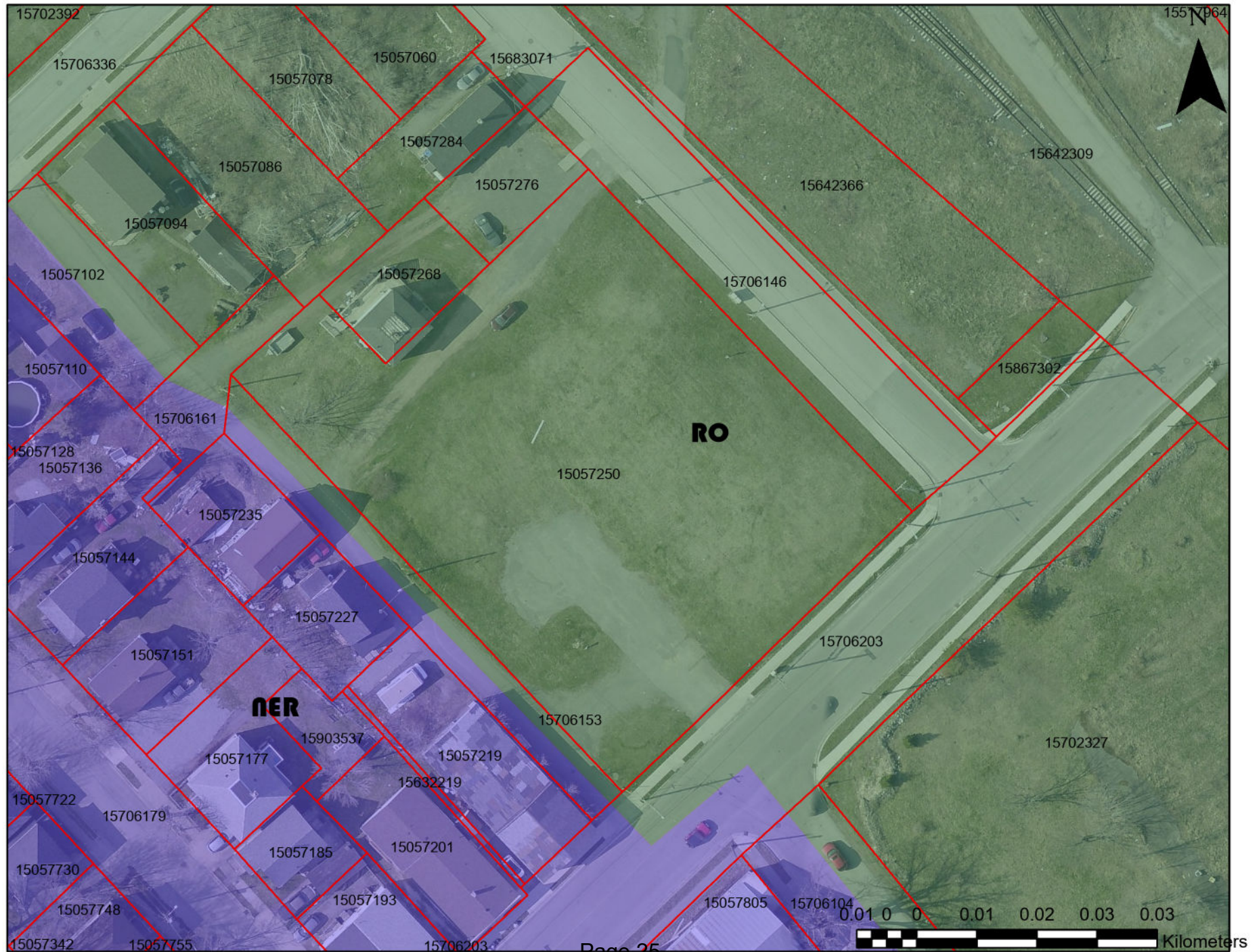


# ATTACHMENT B - 2023 CBRM LAND USE BY-LAW ZONE DESIGNATION





# ATTACHMENT B - 2004 CBRM LAND USE BY-LAW ZONE DESIGNATION



## 11.3.9. Amending the Land Use By-law

- A-14** Council may make text or map amendments to the Land Use By-law, granted the amendment is in keeping with the intention of policies set forth in this Municipal Planning Strategy and meets the general criteria set in A-18.
- A-15** Council shall may be considered for a zone amendment to an immediately adjacent zone classification on the Land Use Zone Map without requiring an amendment to this Strategy, provided that the intent of all other policies of the Strategy are satisfied.
- A-16** Council shall not amend the Land Use By-law unless Council is satisfied the proposal:
- (a) is consistent with the intent of this Municipal Planning Strategy;
  - (b) has regard for:
    - a. the ability of the Municipality to absorb public costs related to the proposal
    - b. variety of land uses within the area
    - c. the capacity of municipal infrastructure (water, sewer, stormwater)
    - d. the creation of excessive traffic hazard or congestion on the street in as determined by the Traffic Authority
    - e. scale of the proposed development in relation to the surrounding development pattern
    - f. access to public transit
    - g. connection to active transportation network



**CAPE BRETON**  
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

# Land Use By-law Zone Map

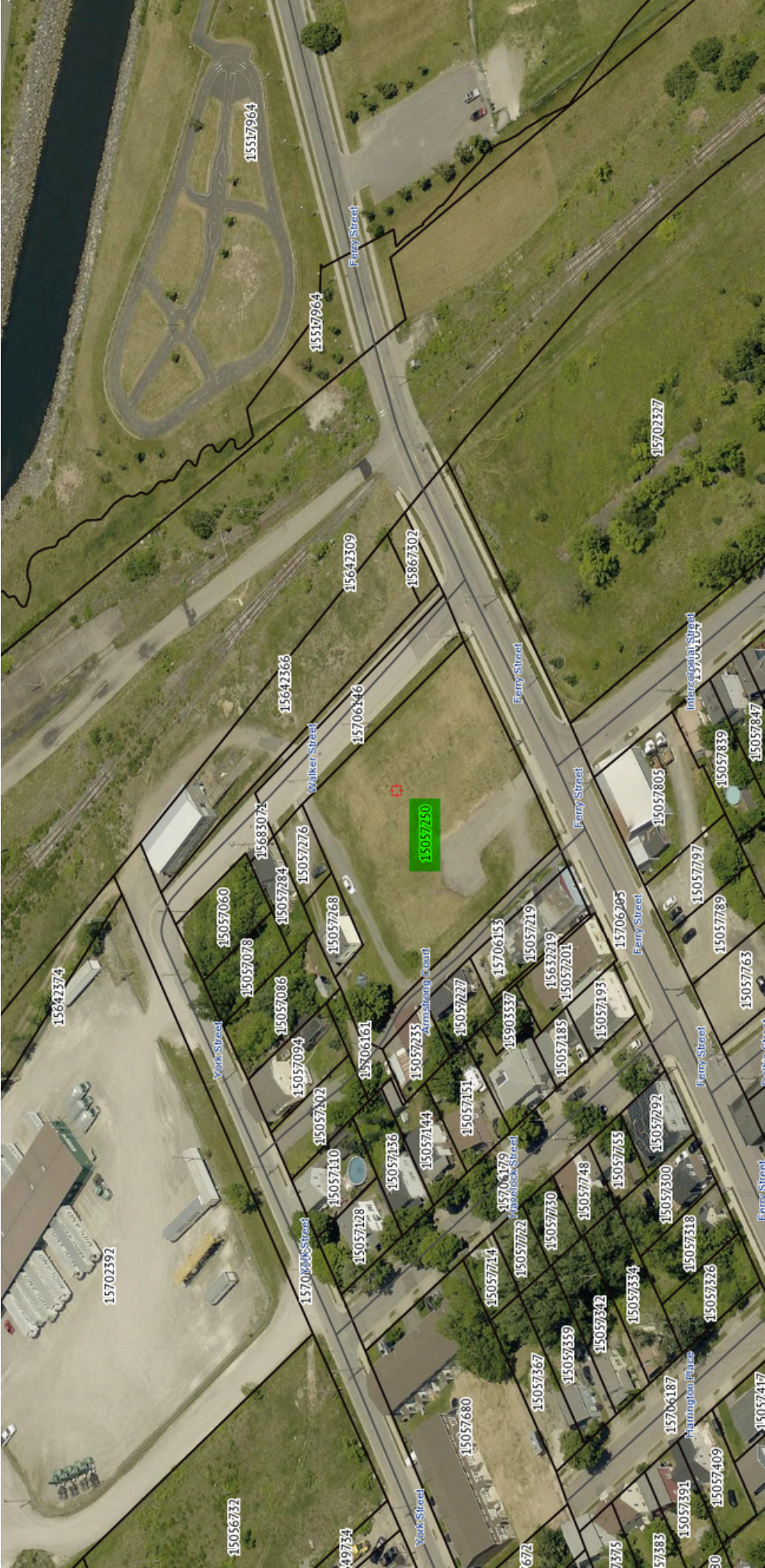
## Amendment

### Ferry Street - Sydney



# Applicants Request

PID 150557250 bears the UT Zone designation. The applicant has requested to adjust the zone boundary to allow for low rise residential development.





# Legislative Authority

## **Municipal Planning Strategy:**

Policy A-15 provides Council the ability to consider for a zone amendment to an immediately adjacent zone classification on the Land Use Zone Map without requiring an amendment to the Municipal Planning Strategy.

## **Municipal Government Act:**

Section 210 of the Municipal Government Act outlines the required process for amendments to the Land Use By-law (LUB). Ex. Scheduling of a public hearing, advertisement periods, and notices of adoption.

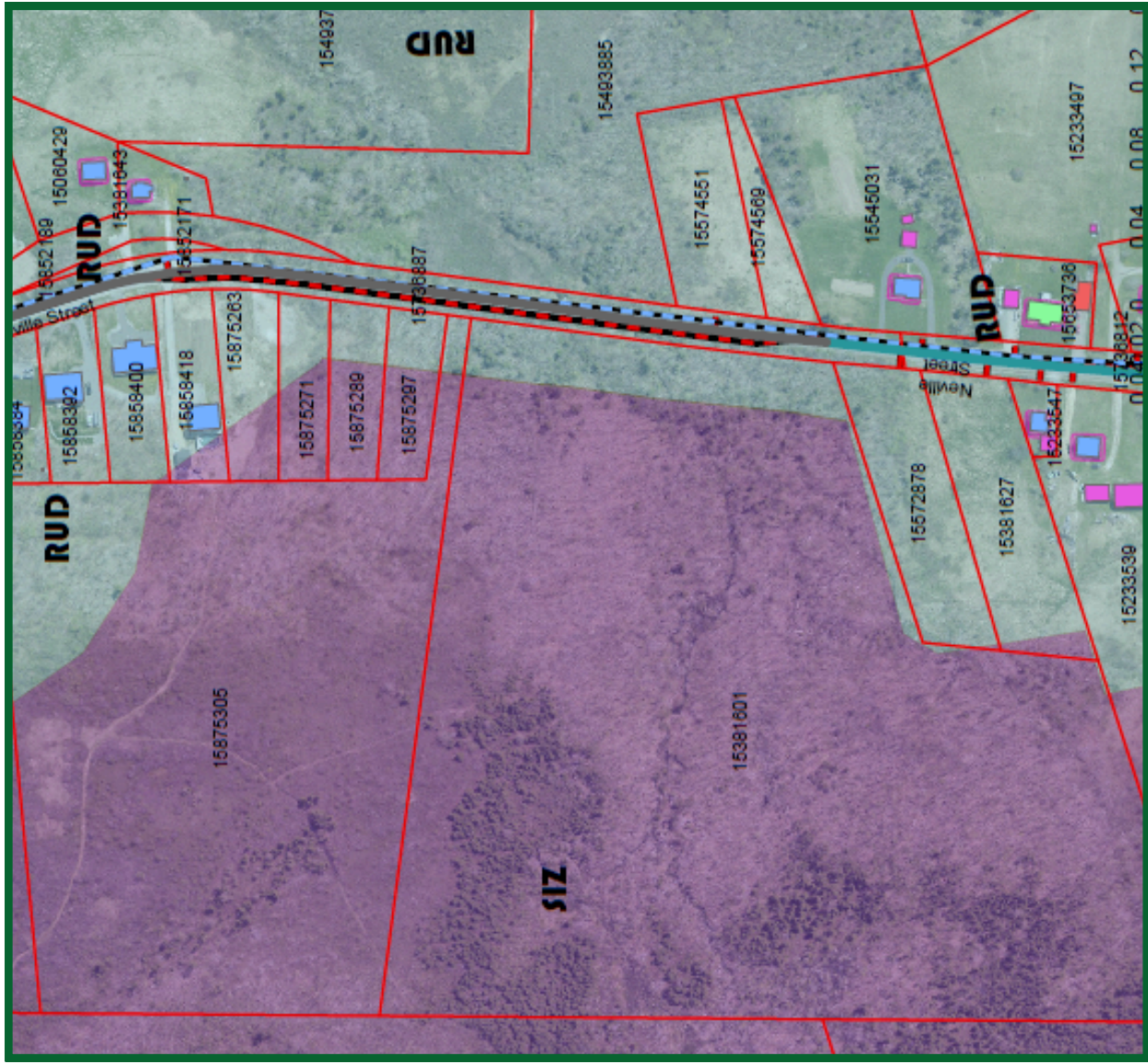


# Background

By providing the RO Zoning in this area within the 2006 Secondary North End Sydney MPS and LUB, consideration was given to residential development in this at the time of adoption of this zone..

## History of Zone Boundary

- Zone was put in place in the 2004 North End Secondary Land Use By-law and Municipal Planning Strategy.
- RO Zone was created surrounding Sydney Steel Plant area to provide an opportunity for redevelopment once remediation was complete, pending environmental assessments of each site to be redeveloped.





# Discussion

## 1 - Consideration of Residential Development

By providing the RO Zone and subsequent policy, consideration was given to residential development in this at the time of adoption of the zone.

## 2 - Environmental Assessment Completed

A non-invasive environmental assessment was conducted which provided support for the residential development.

A non-invasive environmental assessment was conducted which provided support for the residential development.



# Recommendation

It is recommended that Committee of the Whole:

Recommend Council give First Reading of Amending By-law found Attachment A and schedule a Public Hearing to consider adjusting the boundary of the Utility and Transportation (UT) and Medium Density Urban Residential (UR3) zone designation as show in Schedule A of the Amending By-law.



CAPE BRETON  
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

By-law  
of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality

amending the

## Cape Breton Regional Municipality's Land Use Bylaw

Pursuant to Section 210 of the Municipal Government Act of Nova Scotia, the Council of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality hereby amends the text of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality's Land Use By-law in the following manner:

THAT: Council amends the CBRM's Land Use Bylaw map by deleting Utility and Transportation (UT) Zone in effect on PID 15057250 identified in Schedule A replacing it with the Medium Density Urban Residential (UR3) Zone.

PASSED AND ADOPTED: by a majority of the whole Council at a duly called meeting of the Cape Breton Regional Municipal Council held on XXXX,XXXX.

MAYOR

CLERK

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the attached is a true and correct copy of the Amending By-law of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality adopted by Regional Council during a meeting held on XXXX, XXXX to amend the Cape Breton Regional Municipality's Land Use By-law.

Christa Dicks, CLERK



**CAPE BRETON**  
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY



**CAPE BRETON**  
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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**TO:** CBRM Committee of the Whole

**SUBMITTED BY:** Demetri Kachafanas, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** November 24, 2025

**RE:** Code Acceleration Fund – Updates to Fast-Track Housing Plans

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**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

Staff initiated.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee of the Whole forward this report to CBRM Council for information.

**BACKGROUND**

Planning and Development staff recently applied for and received funding from Natural Resources Canada (NRC) through the Codes Acceleration Fund program. This national program provides \$100 million to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy use in buildings. It supports provinces, territories, municipalities, and Indigenous communities in adopting and implementing stronger energy codes. Launched under Canada's Green Buildings Strategy, the fund is intended to speed up the decarbonization of the building sector by supporting initiatives that improve energy efficiency and code compliance.

**DISCUSSION**

As part of its commitments under the Housing Accelerator Fund program, CBRM is working to increase infill housing and streamline the permitting process. Earlier this year, Upland Planning and Design Studio, along with Passive Design Solutions were contracted to create a set of pre-reviewed municipal building plans. These "fast-tracked" plans are designed to comply with local

zoning, meet building code requirements, and reflect community design preferences. A total of fifteen plan variations were developed, including both standard and net-zero-ready options. While the plans look generally similar, they differ in construction materials and energy performance.

CBRM has received \$100,000 through the Code Acceleration Fund program. This funding will support a detailed building optimization analysis for each of the municipality's new "fast-tracked" plans, ensuring they meet Nova Scotia's recently adopted 2025 energy code requirements and the adoption of subsequent codes in the years ahead.

Under the contribution agreement, CBRM will contribute \$31,800 toward project components related to public engagement. As part of the program, the municipality will host engagement sessions, share information about the recently adopted code changes, and connect participants with industry experts in energy efficiency.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Staff time required to apply for the Code Accelerator Fund and meet the municipality's obligations under the contribution agreement can be covered through CBRM's Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) allocation. The CBRM costs associated with the preparation of this information report can be accommodated within the 2025-26 operating budget for Planning and Development.

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Report Prepared by:    Tyson Simms, Director, Planning and Development, 902.574.1936

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**CAPE BRETON**  
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

**CBRM Committee of the Whole**

**December 2, 2025**

**TO:** Committee of the Whole

**FROM:** Demetri Kachafanas, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** November 26, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Site Access & Data Sharing Agreement with the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) – Installation of Pipeline Sensors

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**ORIGIN**

Staff initiated

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Committee of the Whole recommend to Council to pass a motion to:

1. Approve the Site Access and Data Sharing Agreement between CBRM and the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) to allow installation of corrosion-monitoring sensors on the new water transmission main; and
2. Authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Municipality.

**BACKGROUND**

The National Research Council of Canada (NRC) is undertaking a federal research initiative to study corrosion and environmental conditions affecting buried municipal water infrastructure. NRC has requested to partner with CBRM to install corrosion-monitoring sensors on CBRM's new water transmission main currently under construction in Glace Bay

**DISCUSSION**

Under the attached Site Access and Data Sharing Agreement, NRC will install sensors and monitoring equipment to collect data on corrosion, humidity, temperature and pH conditions



surrounding the transmission main. All installation, equipment, research activities, and associated costs are the responsibility of NRC.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

No financial implications at this time. NRC covers all costs associated with equipment, installation, data collection, and research.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

No community engagement was required.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

Committee of the Whole could choose to recommend that CBRM Council:

1. Not approve the Agreement, which would result in CBRM not participating in the NRC research project
2. Request further information prior to making a decision.

### **LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Section 47(5) of the Municipal Government Act states:

The council may make and carry out a contract, perform an act, do any thing or provide a service for which the municipality or the council is authorized by an Act of the Legislature to spend or borrow money.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: Site Access and Data Sharing Agreement – NRC & CBRM

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Report Prepared by: Raymond Boudreau, Director Water & Wastewater

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**Cape Breton Regional Municipality**  
**320 Esplanade**  
**Sydney, NS B1P 7B9**

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**To:** Mayor Clarke and Council  
**Submitted by:** Christa Dicks, Municipal Clerk  
**Date:** December 2, 2025  
**Subject:** Committee Vacancy

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The purpose of this memo is to advise Council of a committee vacancy on the Port of Sydney Development Corporation board following a resignation notification from Deputy Mayor Paruch.

The PSDC supports, promotes, and develops the harbour and related infrastructure with a view of growing the economy of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

It will be in order for a call for the Mayor to call for nominations for this committee at the upcoming meeting of Council.

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at [www.cbrm.ns.ca](http://www.cbrm.ns.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902-563-5010.

Report Prepared by: Christa Dicks, Municipal Clerk 902-563-5010.

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Cape Breton Regional Municipality  
320 Esplanade  
Sydney, NS B1P 7B9

## REPORT TO COUNCIL

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**To:** Mayor and Council  
**Submitted by:** Police Commission Chair Glenn Paruch  
**Date:** December 2, 2025  
**Subject:** Police Commission Update November 2025

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### Recommendations for Council Consideration:

1. Commission recommends Council direct staff to review the 2016 Travel Policy for Civilian Police Commissioners.
2. Commission recommends to Council, an allocation of \$25,000 to support upcoming activities and strategic initiatives of the CBRM Commission for the upcoming 2026/27 fiscal year.

### Update Report

The following report summarized the key items addressed at the November 17, 2025 meeting of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality Board of Police Commissioners. This information was provided for Council's awareness and reflects the matters discussed, updates received, and items considered by the Commission.

#### 1. Communications Update

Director Dicks provided an update on the Police Commission's public-facing email engagement platform. The platform went live on September 12, 2025 and received 547 views and no governance-related submissions. It was noted that the platform was intended to increase accessibility and transparency for residents wishing to contact the Commission.

#### 2. Publishing Calls for Service

Desiree Magnus, Communications/PR Advisor, delivered a verbal update on the initiative to make calls-for-service information publicly accessible. This update supported ongoing work to enhance transparency and public awareness regarding policing activity.

### 3. Technology Updates

A technology report was presented by Director Dicks, outlining progress on several major initiatives within Police Services:

- **Body-Worn and In-Car Cameras:**  
The RFP had been awarded to Axon, with equipment arriving in October. Implementation work had begun, policies were nearing completion, and administrative training on the system had commenced.
- **Stationary (Downtown) Cameras:**  
Site assessments had been performed by Hitech across all communities had been completed. Privacy assessments and related policies were still under development and were to be finalized before full deployment.
- **Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD):**  
The vendor had advised that the existing CAD system was at end-of-life. The upgrade project had been scoped and was underway, with a target completion date of calendar year-end.
- **Online Reporting:**  
An in-house reporting system had gone live, providing 24/7 oversight and routing submissions directly to police services.
- **Mobile Data Terminals:**  
MDT units had been installed and updated, with further enhancements expected following completion of the CAD upgrade.

### 4. Commission Policies Update

A policy update report was presented outlining several Commission policy documents that were in draft or final review stages. As a result, there was a motion for council's consideration.

Commission recommends Council to direct staff to review the 2016 Travel Policy for Civilian Police Commissioners to align with broader municipal policy updates that were being undertaken organization-wide.

### Commissioner Agenda Request – Funding Allocation

There was a request for the Commission to recommend that Council approve a \$25,000 allocation for the 2026/27 fiscal year to support priority initiatives of the Police Commission. The request is a follow up to previous Commission request to Council to consider providing commission funding during the budget period.

The proposed allocation included:

- Community Engagement Surveys – \$5,000

- Public Presentations & Outreach – \$6,000
- Consultant Support for Chief’s Performance Review – \$6,000
- Travel to NSAPG & Other Governance Conferences – \$8,000

The intended outcomes of the proposed funding included strengthening community trust, enhancing transparency and reporting practices, supporting evidence-based decision-making, and assisting the Commission in advancing strategic planning work.

## **Conclusion**

The November meeting reflected the Commission’s ongoing efforts to enhance communication, modernize governance policies, update critical operational technologies, and advance strategic oversight of policing services in the municipality. Council would continue to receive updates as further information became available or as recommendations were brought forward.

Finally, Chief Robert Walsh has announced his retirement to begin January 1, 2026. It has been an extraordinary pleasure to work with Chief Walsh who has a 35-year career in policing with the last four as police chief. Chief Walsh also served as the Chair for the Nova Scotia Association of Chiefs of Police and is recognized as a leader among his peers and throughout the community. We wish to formally recognize the Chief and wish him all the best in his retirement.

Respectfully submitted,

Deputy Mayor Glenn Paruch  
CBRM Police Commission Chair

# Information and Activity Report

*CBRM Regional Enterprise Network*

Q2 – FY 2025/26  
(July - September 2025)



**Subject:** .....CBRM REN Information and Activity Report  
**To:** .....Cape Breton Regional Municipality  
**Date Prepared:** .....October 31, 2025  
**Prepared by:** .....Tyler Cole, Economic Development Officer, CBRM  
.....Lan Zheng, Economic Development Officer, CBRM

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## Background:

The Cape Breton Partnership (CBP) provides economic development support to the Cape Breton Regional Municipality under the Regional Enterprise Network (REN) model in partnership with the Province of Nova Scotia.

The Cape Breton Regional Municipality Regional Enterprise Network (CBRM REN) serves all of the communities of the CBRM from the CBP offices in Sydney.

The CBRM REN is part of a larger network of Regional Enterprise Networks across Nova Scotia.

The CBP maximizes the value of the CBRM REN's funding partners, leverages that investment to have a greater impact, and collaborates with other partners, funders, and projects that it is responsible for (like the Cape Breton Local Immigration Partnership) to deliver operational synergies across Unama'ki – Cape Breton and to benefit the CBRM.



## 2025/26 CBRM REN Board of Directors

- **Chair:** Ron Blinkhorn - Casino Nova Scotia
- Shaowei Xu - SW East Trading & Consulting
- Howie Doiron - Lindsay Construction
- Darrell Gallant - Marine Atlantic
- Nicole Morrison - Mabel Systems
- Douglas MacLennan – TierToo Properties
- Mary Jane Morrison - Cape Breton University

### *Other Invited CBRM REN Board Meeting Attendees:*

- LOC Co-Chair Steve Gillespie
- LOC Co-Chair Jennifer Campbell

## 2025/26 CBRM REN Liaison Oversight Committee:

- **Co-Chair:** Steve Gillespie – CBRM Councillor
- Dave MacKeigan – CBRM Councillor
- **Co-Chair:** Demetri Kachafanas – CBRM Chief Administrative Officer
- Tyson Simms – CBRM Director of Planning and Development
- Evan Williams - Nova Scotia Department of Growth and Development
- Donald Ferguson - Nova Scotia Department of Labour, Skills & Immigration

### *Other Invited CBRM REN LOC Meeting Attendees:*

- CBRM REN Board Chair, Ron Blinkhorn
- CBRM CAO Demetri Kachafanas

## Additional information about the CBRM REN

Full information on the CBRM REN, including the CBRM Forward Strategic Plan, annual business plan, quarterly reports and more is located on the [CBRM REN webpage](#).

## Reporting Period

Your CBRM REN team and the CBP are pleased to share highlights, milestones achieved, and metrics from **July 1 – September 30, 2025**.

## Highlights and Events

- **Unlocking the Power of AI: July 14** – 1.5-hour interactive session at the Sydney Public Market for business owners and entrepreneurs, led by Benedict Wong, a tech leader with 20+ years of experience. Co-hosted by the Cape Breton Connector program.
- **Coffee & Connect: July 15** - Coffee & Connect session, hosted by the Cape Breton Connector Program, the Cape Breton Welcome Network and community Connectors. It's the perfect opportunity to share stories, build relationships, and grow your network in a friendly, laid back and welcoming environment. Hosted at the Sydney Public Market.
- **Offshore Wind Information Session for CBU Faculty & Staff: July 17** – The Green Energy Engagement Coordinator gave a special presentation at Cape Breton University to touch on the latest in the offshore wind sector, including the designation of Sydney Bight as one of four Offshore Wind Development Areas in Nova Scotia waters.
- **OffshoreWind4Kids Beach Demo Day: July 20** – Hosted by COVE at Dominion Beach, this event gave opportunities for youth to build mini wind turbines and learn about the green energy sector.
- **Ticket To Ride: July 27** – Hosted in Louisbourg in partnership with the Cape Breton Connector Program and the Multicultural Association of Unama'ki - Cape Breton. The event featured a multitude of interactive cultural booths and performances, including but not limited to Vietnamese and Mexican crafts, African drumming, Indian henna, Chinese dragon dancing, and more.
- **Partners Update Event: July 29** - The session included highlights and updates from Cape Breton Partnership staff on several of the organization's services and initiatives, as well as opportunities to meet with members of the Cape Breton Partnership Board of Directors and staff. Hosted at the Glenora Distillery.
- **Tenant's Rights for Renters & Community Supporters (Virtual Session): August 27** - Jamie Morrison, Social Justice Support Worker with Nova Scotia Legal Aid, provided support to tenants facing rental-related challenges and assisted with navigating the Residential Tenancies Program. She delivered a one-hour overview of key tenants' rights in Nova Scotia and spoke about the main challenges tenants face based on her experience. A Q&A session followed the presentation. Co-hosted by the Cape Breton Local Immigration Partnership.
- **Port of Sydney Information Session: September 9** – This session, co-hosted by the Cape Breton Partnership and the Port of Sydney Development Corporation, provided updates on happenings at the Port.
- **Clean Energy Conversations in Sydney: September 17** – This event was hosted by Net Zero Atlantic and the Nova Scotia Department of Energy at the NSCC Waterfront Campus in Sydney. It was an open house which highlighted provincial plans for green hydrogen, offshore wind development, and clean energy opportunities.



## Select Project Updates

### Economic Development Project Updates:

- **Women+ Microloan Program** - In Q2, the CBRM REN staff supported two women entrepreneurs successfully securing funding from the Sydney Credit Union. This initiative offers vital financial support, empowering these women to expand their businesses and bolster the regional economy.
- **Northside Business Park Land Sales** - In Q2, interest in the available lots within the Northside Business Park (NBP) remained high. The CBRM Regional Enterprise Network (REN) staff received two complete applications for the lots and were now collaborating with CBRM municipal staff to review them and provide recommendations.
  - [Northside Business Park](#) is now listed on the Atlantic Certified Site platform, a strategic move to enhance its visibility to national and international companies seeking shovel-ready industrial properties in Atlantic Canada
- **Home at YQY Lounge** - Launched on August 2, Home at YQY is a community vendor focused space that offers community kitchen and gift shop options to travellers, based at the Sydney Airport. It uses the previously vacant café and dining space in the arrivals area of the airport, in addition to a rentable commercial kitchen. Vendors in the space sell frozen meals to travellers, with many vendors also being a part of the Sydney Public Market in Downtown Sydney.
- **Design Cube Project – Nova Scotia Community Economic Development Fund** – Project planning is underway with the Island Sandbox at CBU to deploy portable devices to communities around the Island, which include 3D printers, vinyl cutters, laser printers, and other similar equipment. A release date for when cubes will be found in the community is still to be confirmed.
- **The Unama'ki – Cape Breton Business Insights Program (BIP)** – This program was launched in April and aims to gather insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by businesses across Cape Breton. Interviews as part of the program continued across the summer, with 13 completed in the CBRM through the end of Q2. A range of businesses have been interviewed, in different communities around the region.
- **Foreign Direct Investment Strategy for Unama'ki – Cape Breton** – Funded in part by the Government of Canada's CanExport Community Investments program, the CBRM REN team will be working with the CB REN team and a consultant to develop a new Foreign Direct Investment attraction strategy for the Island. A consultant will be selected, and work will be getting underway in Q3.

### Green Energy Sector:

- **CBU Offshore Wind Presentation: July 17** - The Green Energy Engagement Coordinator gave a presentation on the status of offshore wind and opportunities regionally to faculty and staff at Cape Breton University in collaboration with the Director of Sustainability, Risk Management at CBU. There were 30 people in attendance from academic departments including Business, Science, and Engineering.
- **OffshoreWind4Kids: July 20** - In collaboration with the Centre for Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurship (COVE) OffshoreWind4Kids, through the GEEP, we held OffshoreWind4Kids Beach Demo Days where families were able to learn about offshore wind, build model turbines, and launch them in the water. The program is delivered through training from the Belgian OffshoreWind4Kids nonprofit. The second session was July 20 at Dominion Beach with approximately 15 people attending.

- Participated in a meeting with the **Port of Sydney Development Corporation (PSDC) board** and key Sydney Harbour stakeholders regarding a working group focused on port development; attended follow up presentation by PSDC to CBP Board.
- **Partners Day Presentation: July 29** - Provided a presentation at the Cape Breton Partnership's Annual Partners Day Event at Glenora Inn & Distillery in Mabou, that gave an overview of the GEEP and the work underway. Members in attendance included ACOA, Invest NS, BDC, Cape Breton Regional Chamber of Commerce, CDÉNÉ, and CEED.
- Participated in **Community of Practice** with Nova Scotia Department of Energy, Net Zero Atlantic (NZA), COVE, Discovery Centre, Atlantica Centre for Energy, and Skills NS, to discuss engagement efforts related to the energy transition across Nova Scotia.
- Facilitated planning for the Dept. of Energy and NZA **Community Clean Energy Conversations** happening across Unama'ki – Cape Breton. Input was provided for locations, venues, dates/times, advertising, along with copy written to promote events locally on social media and through eblasts.
- Attended the **Conversations on Clean Energy** to support the Department of Energy and NZA in Sydney.
- **Offshore Wind R&D Forum: September 23** - Attended the NZA and NS Dept. of Energy's Offshore Wind R&D Forum in Halifax, where researchers, innovators, Indigenous and community leaders, policymakers, and industry professionals gathered to discuss and learn about research with practical, technical, and regulatory needs for Nova Scotia's OSW development.
- Provided local context and input to 21FSP for a study on the socioeconomic impacts of offshore wind development in Nova Scotia commissioned by Net Zero Atlantic and the Department of Energy.

#### *Indigenous Engagement:*

- The Green Energy Engagement Coordinator onboarded our new **Mi'kmaq Engagement Liaison**, Kelly Paul. Ms. Paul's work is focused on outreach to Mi'kmaq Communities to learn more about community perspectives on the energy transition. We are initiating conversations about equitable and accessible participation in the energy transition in Unama'ki - Cape Breton, specifically related to renewable energy topics like engagement, information sharing, training and skills development, as well as supply chain opportunities.
- Worked with the Department of Energy to **amend the grant to extend the work** of the Mi'kmaq Engagement Liaison, Kelly Paul, an additional eight weeks. The amendment is currently awaiting ministerial signing.
- Meetings planned with KMK, WMA, UINR, and the Native Women's Council, along with members from each Mi'kmaw community in Unama'ki – Cape Breton.

#### *Women and Youth Technical Capacity for the Blue Economy (WYTEC Blue) with the Development of Ocean Technical Capacity with African Nations (DOTCAN) Institute:*

- **WYTEC Blue** is a free, 10-week training program beginning in October 2025 for women and youth. Participants from across Nova Scotia, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria will learn about different marine sectors and future opportunities from experts in the field, both locally and abroad, to actively participate in the Blue Economy. The Program launches on October 18 at the Cape Breton Partnership Partner Hub in Sydney.



- Preparatory activities ahead of the program launching in October included completing an Island-wide database of companies working in the blue economy; emailing surveys to these organizations to identify labour and skills gaps; identifying instructors and opportunities for site visits through collaborative curriculum development; advertising to recruit participants to the program, and vetting applications.

#### Creative Economy Projects and Sector Initiatives:

- Providing on-going support for workforce, locations, accommodations, and business services to **4 feature films** and **1 TV series** analyzing CBRM as potential location for 2026, with combined production spending of \$20M.
- **TV Series Support: July & August 2025** - Provided workforce support to **2 TV series** including “Still Standing” (CBC, July 2025), and “Colin and Justin’s Small-Town Escapes” (HGTV, August 2025).
- **Cape Breton Comedy Festival: August 20-23** - Provided support to the **Cape Breton Comedy Festival** with multiple shows in CBRM.
- **CBRM Mayor’s Office** - Consultation with Mayor Cecil Clarke on several proposed 2026 projects including a “Performing Arts” Festival, an “Intro to Film” March break day-camp for school kids, and a proposed Cape Breton Film Festival.
- **Little Lorraine Film Premiere** - Supported the highly successful “Little Lorraine” world film premiere at TIFF (September 5/6) and in Halifax at AIFF (Sept 12/13/14). CBRM locations are featured prominently in the film.
- Working with NSCC, LSI, CBU on **film industry workforce development** to supply crew to future Cape Breton film/TV productions.
- Provided support to the **Lumiere Art Festival** in Sydney (Sept 25, 26, 27).
- Working on **museums project** with CBRM Community Development department.
- Working with CBU on the island-wide “**Creative Arts Awards**” on November 6.
- Working with Membertou as script development cultural consultants on ONARI TV series 2026.

#### People and Labour Force Attraction:

##### **Cape Breton Local Immigration Partnership (CBLIP) Updates:**

In Q2, the CBLIP implemented and moved forward with a number of events and initiatives, including:

- The photography project *In Focus: Newcomer Experiences in Unama'ki - Cape Breton*, with events hosted at Nicolas Denys Days in St. Peters, at the Baddeck Library, and as part of Lumiere in Sydney.
- Updates to the Multicultural Calendar and Newcomer Service Map, both available on [www.welcometocapebreton.ca](http://www.welcometocapebreton.ca)
- A virtual workshop on Tenants Rights, with Jamie Morrison at NS Legal Aid
- A Mi'kmaw 101 workshop in Wagmatcook for CBLIP members, led by Robert Bernard and Graham Marshall

- The launch of the new CBLIP Building Partnerships Working Group, chaired by Simon Barrick (CBU)
- Collaboration on four successful workshop proposals for inclusion in the upcoming Pathways to Prosperity Conference to be held in Halifax in November.
- The quarterly meeting of the CBLIP Council, held in Sydney at the new Anchor Youth Space, with discussion on the upcoming biennial Immigrant Survey and the 2025 CBLIP Partner Update Event, scheduled for December 12<sup>th</sup> in Membertou.

#### Connector Program Updates:

- **Screening of “You Are Here” Documentary: July 7** - A newcomer-focused documentary by Sari-Sari story highlighting newcomer journeys in Cape Breton.
- **Coffee & Connect: July 15** –Relaxed networking session with Connectors and newcomers to share stories and grow networks. Also was a special workshop with newcomer Benedict Wong, technology specialist leading an AI workshop in Sydney at the Sydney Public Market.
- **CBICI and Connector Program Lunch & Learn: July 18** – Topic was on how to grow your network and learn about the future in the skill trades.
- **CBU Presentation: July 22** - Exploring available resources, share effective networking strategies and discussing the added value of considering skilled trades as a powerful career path in Cape Breton.
- **Ticket to Ride Multicultural Showcase: July 27** - A family friendly multicultural celebration at S&L Railway Museum in Louisbourg with food, music, cultural performances and community resource booths. Collaboration with S&L Railway Museum, Cape Breton Regional Library, LATAM Society, Multicultural Association of Cape Breton and local businesses.
- **Community Connections Vendor Fair: September 3** – Introducing new students, staff and community members to the CBRM to the wide range of resources and opportunities available in Cape Breton in the skilled trades.
- **CBU Orientation Service Fair: September 4** – Introducing students, staff and community members to the wide range of resources and opportunities available in Cape Breton in the skill trades.
- **Around the World in One Kitchen: September 11** – Interactive cooking demonstration blending Peruvian cultural cuisine, storytelling, and interactive activities at Home @ YQY Airport.
- **Coffee & Connect: September 19** – Relaxed networking session with Connectors and newcomers to share stories and grow networks in Sydney with collaboration with the Sports and Social Club of Cape Breton, CBICI, Multicultural Association of Cape Breton and Cape Breton Influencers.

#### Immigration Services Updates:

- **Immigration Advisory Services** – The Cape Breton Partnership provided immigration advisory services that resulted in **11 designations** applications, **14 endorsement** applications, and **14 NSNP** applications. We also provided immigration quick support to **30 individuals or businesses**. Immigration quick supports include information and meetings that don’t result in long-term files, but provides beneficial information to the community.
- **Immigration Representation** – Our in-house immigration consultant is currently serving as the immigration representative for **13 CBRM employers**. During Q2, they completed **five employer applications**. They also completed **8 employee or candidate applications**, with **19 ongoing**. Employees through these services may



bring accompanying dependents with them. In Q2, we saw two spouses and five children accompany applicants.

- **Launch of New Service:** We recently launched **Immigration Access +**, a new full-service immigration representation option designed for Cape Breton Partnership Investors. This program enables Investors to engage a licensed immigration consultant to manage their application from start to finish. With the licensing of our Immigration Engagement Coordinator in Q2, we were able to expand these services further. Revenue generated through Immigration Access + will support the continued growth of employer-focused immigration services and enhance dedicated support for local businesses.

#### *Event Participation:*

- Our Immigration Engagement Coordinator presented at several events, including:
  - Community Connections Vendor Fair
  - CBU Orientation Service Fair
  - Rotary Club “Immigration 101” Session

### **Cape Breton Welcome Network Updates:**

#### *Multicultural Celebrations:*

- **Screening of “You Are Here” Documentary: July 7** - Screening at the Highland Arts Theatre of a newcomer-focused documentary by Sari-Sari story highlighting newcomer journeys in Cape Breton.
- **Ticket to Ride Multicultural Showcase: July 27** - A family friendly multicultural celebration with food, music, and cultural performances.
- **Around the World in One Kitchen: September 11** - Interactive cooking demonstration blending cultural cuisine, storytelling, and interactive activities .

#### *Networking & Community Connections:*

- **Coffee & Connect: July 15** - A relaxed networking evening at the Sydney Public Market bringing together newcomers and local Connectors to share stories, experiences, and community resources in a casual, welcoming space.
- **Coffee & Connect: September 19** – An engaging social mixer at the Eave Restaurant in Sydney, fostering meaningful conversations, cultural exchange, and friendship building between newcomers, Connectors, and community partners.

#### *Resource Fairs:*

- **CBU Resource Fair: September 3** - Participated in the student orientation service fair at CBU to introduce new and returning students to the wide range of community resources, programs, and opportunities available in Cape Breton.

- **NSCC Sydney Waterfront Campus: September 4** – Engaged with incoming NSCC students at the Sydney Waterfront Campus during the orientation fair, highlighting local supports, networking programs, and ways to get involved in the broader Cape Breton community.

## Upcoming Events in Q3 of 2025-26:

- Business & Breakfast – Succession Planning - Sydney: **October 7**
- Cape Breton Partnership Investor Summit – Baddeck: **October 23**
- Perseverance & Prosperity Luncheon with CBU & CB Regional Chamber of Commerce – Sydney: **October 29**
- CB LIP Partner Update Event – Membertou: **December 12**
- **MORE EVENTS** - To be kept informed of all upcoming events as they unfold, follow the Cape Breton Partnership's social channels or [subscribe to the Pulse Newsletter](#).

## Metrics Overview:

*(Full Metrics are available in Addendum 1: CBRM REN Metrics (July 1 – September 30, 2025))*

Your Economic Development Officers, and CBRM REN team members, continue to provide business support and advisory services to entrepreneurs, business clients, and individuals throughout the CBRM. These projects are reflected in the Addendum below.

Additional Information:



**CBRM REN Website:** Additional information on the CBRM REN, including the CBRM Forward Strategic Plan, annual business plan, quarterly reports and more is located on the [CBRM REN webpage](#).



**Welcome to Cape Breton Website:** Additional Information on Living, Working, Investing, Studying and Moving to the CBRM - including community profiles and economic data - can be found on the [Welcome to Cape Breton website](#).

- **News and Updates** – Elevate Magazine, and articles from Pulse Newsletter, new podcasts, news releases and more can be found on the [Partnership News section of our website](#).



**Want news in your inbox?** [Subscribe to the Pulse Newsletter!](#)

## Signatures:

Respectfully submitted by:

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Tyler Cole  
Economic Development Officer - CBRM  
CBRM REN, Cape Breton Partnership

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Lan Zheng  
Economic Development Officer - CBRM  
CBRM REN, Cape Breton Partnership

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Tyler Mattheis  
President and CEO  
CBRM REN, Cape Breton Partnership

Addendum(s):

- ***CBRM REN Metrics (July 1 – September 30, 2025)***

---end report---



## Addendum I - CBRM REN Metrics: July 1 – September 30, 2025

	Q2 Metrics <i>Q2 July 1st - September 30th, 2025</i>		YTD <i>Since April 1</i>
Activities	In Progress	Completed	Total Completed
<b>Business Support, Sustainability, &amp; Growth</b>	<b>Total: 12</b>	<b>Total: 21</b>	<b>Total: 45</b>
Business Retention & Expansion (BRE) Surveys Completed		4	13
Continuous Improvement & Business Advisory Services	2	9	17
Business Quick Support		3	7
Succession Planning & Support	2	0	0
New Businesses Supported in Navigating Resources	7	1	2
Microloan Participants	0	2	4
Other Business Support Services	1	2	2

<b>Major Projects &amp; Strategic Sector Support</b>	<b>Total: 28</b>	<b>Total: 5</b>	<b>Total: 9</b>
Sector Development Projects	20	4	5
Major Economic Development Projects	8	1	4

<b>Addressing Talent Needs (Labour &amp; Population)</b>	<b>Total: 22</b>	<b>Total: 80</b>	<b>Total: 271</b>
Projects Assessing Local Labour Market	0	0	0
Cape Breton Job Board Advertisements		0	105
Immigration Advisory Services	0	40	69
Immigration Applications Submitted	22	10	24
Business Immigration Quick Support		30	73

<b>Newcomer &amp; Talent Retention Programs</b>	<b>Total: 4</b>	<b>Total: 83</b>	<b>Total: 343</b>
Connector Program Matches	2	16	41
Newcomers Welcomed Through the Welcome Network	2	67	118
Local Immigration Partnership Members		0	145
Events Aimed at Talent Attraction & Retention		0	39
Other Activities Addressing Talent Needs	0	0	0

**Note on Addendum 1:** The data provided is sourced from our Insightly CRM software and, at times, CBRM REN metrics may not be complete due to data availability from all programs and projects at the time of report preparation. Year-to-date data will be adjusted accordingly in subsequent quarterly reports to ensure accuracy.



## Cape Breton Regional Municipality Animal Control Statistics

<b>SERVICE</b>	2022	2023	2024	2025
Dogs Running at Large	142	165	129	285
Barking Dogs	28	29	23	44
Feces Complaints	0	1	2	11
Fierce & Dangerous	62	39	45	118
<b>TOTAL COMPLAINTS:</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>458</b>

Increase Considerations:

Enhanced protocols for recording calls for service,

(ex: in the past, a belated call for a dog running at large at night, but is gone in the morning, would not be recorded.)

We are seeing a rise in owners letting their dogs run away, and not claiming them, generally due to increases in veterinary care, access to housing or being unhoused, along with other financial considerations, and an increase to the population of CBRM.

