

**Cape Breton Regional Municipality**

**Special Council Meeting  
Stakeholder Budget Consultation Sessions**

**AGENDA**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2015**

**10:30 A.M.**

Council Chambers  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Civic Centre  
320 Esplanade, Sydney, NS

# Cape Breton Regional Municipal Council

## Stakeholder Budget Consultation Sessions

Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### AGENDA

<b>Time</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Spokesperson</b>	<b>Presentation</b>
<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	Two Rivers Development Association	Roland Doncaster, Chairman of the Board	See page <u>3</u>
<b>10:50 a.m.</b>	Nova Scotians for Equalization Fairness	John R. MacDonald, Director & Spokesperson	See page <u>4</u>
<b>11:10 a.m.</b>	C@P Society of Cape Breton County	Rachel MacKeigan, C@P Coordinator	See page <u>8</u>
<b>11:30 a.m.</b>	Pedestrian Safety Advocacy Group	Wayne McKay, Group Volunteer	See page <u>9</u>
<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>			
<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	Sydney Library Building Committee	Pat Bates, Chairperson	See page <u>11</u>
<b>1:20 p.m.</b>	Synergy Louisbourg	Dorothy Payne, Chair	Presentation to Follow
<b>1:40 p.m.</b>			
<b>2:00 p.m.</b>	Cape Breton Centre for Craft & Design	Lori Burke, Executive Director	See page <u>12</u>
<b>2:20 p.m.</b>	Business Cape Breton	Eileen Lannon-Oldford, Chief Executive Officer	See page <u>24</u>
<b>2:40 p.m.</b>	Destination Cape Breton	Mary Tulle, Chief Executive Officer	Presentation to Follow

**Adjournment**

Two Rivers Development Association  
4581 Grand Mira North Rd.  
Huntington, NS B1K 3T8  
[tworivers@seasidehighspeed.com](mailto:tworivers@seasidehighspeed.com)  
902-727-2483

Spokesperson: Roland Doncaster, Chairman of the Board

Presentation outline:

- A snap shot view of our current financial state;
- Budget predictions for this year;
- Current projects and impacts;
- The educational value of the Park;
- The value of the Park's rural development to the municipality.



The Significance of Municipal Equalization:  
A Review on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CBRM

March 13, 2015



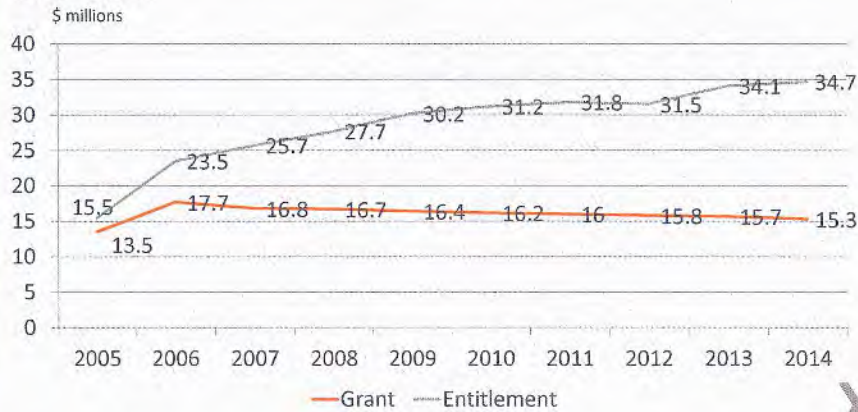
Sources of Revenue for CBRM  
2014-15

» Residential Taxes	\$64 million
» Commercial Taxes	\$30 million
» Resources Taxes	\$1 million
» Deed Transfer Taxes	\$2.3 million
» Provincial Operating Grant (Equalization)	\$15.3 million

- » Equalization is the third largest source of revenue for CBRM however equalization funding for CBRM has been on a steady decline since 2006 despite the fact that CBRM's annual entitlement is rising consistently.



**CBRM's Annual Equalization Entitlement and Grant  
2005 - 2014**



Note: Annual entitlement and grant figures are calculated by Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Affairs based upon a formula as set out in the Municipal Grants Act.

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**Implications of Funding Gap  
(Difference Between Annual Entitlement and Annual Grant)**

- » The funding gap in 2014-15 was \$19.4 million, which is the equivalent of almost two-thirds of CBRM's entire commercial tax revenue.
- » Without this funding, CBRM's residential and commercial tax rates need to be very high to raise a reasonable amount of revenue, particularly as more than 20% of residential assessment in CBRM cannot be taxed due to the assessment cap policy.
- » High tax rates, in turn, discourage home builders and commercial investors leading to slow economic growth, unemployment and out-migration.
- » CBRM, in its 20<sup>th</sup> year of existence, is caught between a rock and a hard place, and...
- » During 2014-15, to add insult to injury CBRM had to raise \$15.7 million in revenue to pay for provincial services (education, corrections and housing).

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NOVA SCOTIANS FOR EQUALIZATION FAIRNESS

### Property Tax Rates for the Largest Municipal Units in Nova Scotia 2013-14

Municipal Unit	Residential Rate	Commercial Rate
HRM Urban	\$1.21	\$3.55
HRM Rural	\$1.16	\$3.20
<b>CBRM Urban</b>	<b>\$2.28</b>	<b>\$5.65</b>
<b>CBRM Rural</b>	<b>\$1.66</b>	<b>\$4.76</b>
Lunenburg Co.	\$0.81	\$1.96
East Hants	\$0.87	\$2.70
Kings Co.	\$0.85	\$2.29
Colchester Co.	\$0.84	\$2.25
West Hants	\$0.92	\$1.68
Truro	\$1.77	\$4.45
Queens	\$0.97	\$2.07
Chester	\$0.66	\$1.53

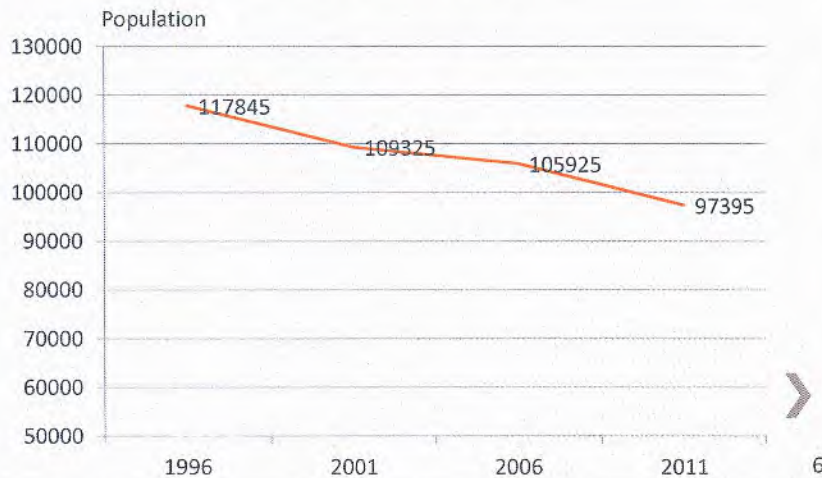


NOVA SCOTIANS FOR EQUALIZATION FAIRNESS

### Annual Employment - Cape Breton Island, 2008 - 2014



## Population Loss in CBRM, 1996 – 2011 Twenty Thousand People in Fifteen Years



## Final Thoughts

- » Federal and provincial elected officials in our region have not actively supported CBRM in the need for a thorough review of how municipalities in Nova Scotia are funded.
  - » They simply do not understand how devastating the current approach is. It leaves no chance for economic recovery.
  - » CBRM Council must enlist some allies in this issue or it is hard to imagine where we will be in the next twenty years.
  - » Thank you very much.
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## Outline for presentation to council

Introduction to CAP mission

Thank you to council for Sustainability funding in last fiscal year.

How was that money used / Highlight of our accomplishments

- Youth Intern Program – We provide meaningful employment throughout CBRM
- Innovative Programming – 3D Printing, Computer Programming, Electronics etc..
- Robotics Club
- Training for Seniors – Launched a new program for Seniors and mobile devices
- Community Development – CAP sites are a clearing house for community events

Outline of funding we are seeking this year.

How will this money be used?

- Top-up for provincial SEP funding.
- Small amount for coordination of Summer programming.

Conclusion



# Our Vision

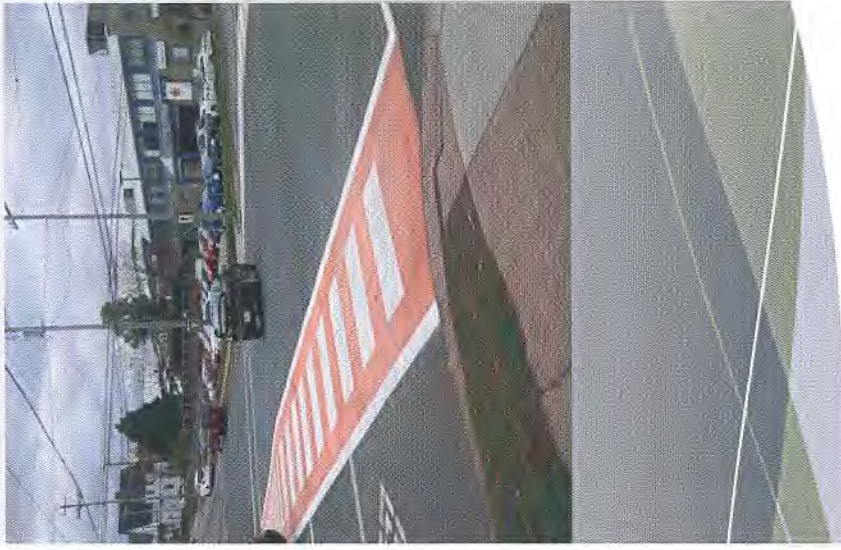
Our vision is to enhance pedestrian safety in the Cape Breton region and to provide a safe walking environment for the entire population



## Our Goals

- Establish a set of standards for pedestrians.
- Provide equal pedestrian rights for the entire population.
- Ensure our communities are safe and accessible.

Cape Breton Regional Municipality's Pedestrian Safety Group



## Our Budget Recommendations for CBRM

### Who we are:

CBRM Pedestrian Safety Advocacy Group is comprised of citizens who are concerned with the safety of all road users in our community. Specifically, we are focused on the most vulnerable users – pedestrians.

The group formed in 2014 with the purpose of increasing safety and accessibility for pedestrians in the community. Specifically, we are focused on crosswalk safety, sidewalk accessibility, maintenance, facility accessibility and public education of all road users to share road space safely.

The group is comprised of community members from all walks of life, including people with disabilities, seniors, parents with young children and survivors of vehicle-pedestrian collisions.

### For our presentation, we would like to focus on:

1. Crosswalk design and painting – creating community wide standards that create the safest possible conditions for pedestrians.
2. Budgeting for the Wentworth Park & Tunnel lighting and cameras – a necessity to connect park to boardwalk and small business and to avoid pedestrians having to cross a dangerous section of King's Road.
3. Support for transit. This includes making sure the stops are accessible in winter. They did a good job on Kings Road this year but not so much in other areas. Good transit is key to supporting pedestrians who don't have a vehicle or access to a vehicle in getting around the community.
4. Accessibility of public buildings and infrastructure so that people of all abilities can access public spaces. We request that CBRM conduct an accessibility audit of all public buildings to ensure that CBRM facilities are accessible to all users.
5. Fully support pedestrian items in the Active Transportation Plan.

## Sydney Library Building Committee

### Presentation to Cape Breton Regional Municipality Budget Consultation Sessions

**Representative: Pat Bates, Chair, Sydney Library Building Committee**

The purpose of this presentation will be to highlight the importance of public library service throughout this region. The Cape Breton Regional Library service area is Cape Breton and Victoria Counties. There are currently 10 public library branches and one bookmobile serving Cape Breton Regional Municipality. Victoria County has 2 Branches and one bookmobile.

The Sydney Library Building Committee is comprised of community members who came together to work towards an improved central library facility for Sydney and area. The Committee Members recognize that a strong central library is essential for the Region. The focus of the presentation will be highlighting the services that the Library provides throughout the Region and the importance of these services to area residents.

Public Libraries continue to evolve through changing community needs, new technologies, and recognition of the importance for opportunities for life-long learning. Public Libraries partner with many agencies and organizations to respond to needs throughout the community, through providing quality information and programmes. In today's technology rich world, Library staff members help community residents to navigate often complicated information gathering processes.

This presentation will apprise Council members of the intent of the Building Committee of the work being undertaken towards a Study which will identify the needs of a modern public library facility for a community of this size.

## THE NEED FOR SUSTAINABILITY

We appreciate this opportunity to bring council up-to-date on the scope and impact of the programs & services offered by Cape Breton Centre for Craft & Design.



Cape Breton Centre for Craft & Design is now in its 43<sup>rd</sup> year of operation, it has a proven track record of long term sustainability and indeed has experienced substantial growth in recent years, offering more recreational programs, services and opportunities for life long learning to our community, specifically, to our youth.

Cape Breton Centre for Craft & Design provides a much-needed cultural destination for local residents, tourists and visitors providing a venue for art and fine craft exhibitions and programs to build the capacity and appreciation of Cape Breton audiences.

As a registered charity and owner/operator of a facility in downtown Sydney we face the challenge of dealing with property taxation, a financial burden which would greatly impact the organizations sustainability.

Following the approval of the Tax Exemption By-Law which came into effect April 1, 2010, the organization was relieved to learn that it had been granted tax exemption status, a critical key to the Centre's ability to sustain our annual operations and keep its doors open in those first five years.

However, since this time there has been inconsistency with the way the Centre's property tax has been dealt with. As a charitable organization the Centre received tax exemption for two years for the period 2010/2011 and 2011/12. Tax exemption was withdrawn in 2012 and the Centre was asked to apply for a grant in lieu of property taxes to the Sustainability Grant committee. In that fiscal year the property tax was adjusted to the residential rate and a grant in lieu of taxes for the amount of \$35,000 (in kind and not in cash) was received. That year the Centre paid \$6069 in taxes to the CBRM.



In 2013/14 the Centre once again applied to the Sustainability Grant committee for a grant in lieu of property taxes.

A decision on the grant was not made and the Centre currently has an outstanding tax bill for the 2013/14 fiscal year of \$39,753.67 and \$38,628.88 for the 2014/15 fiscal year. While the Centre works diligently to achieve financial sustainability, without this tax exemption the Centre is placed in a precarious financial position.

As you work through this important budgetary process we ask Council to remain cognizant of the contribution that charitable organizations such as Cape Breton Centre for Craft & Design make to the economic growth, quality of life and sustainability of our community and either provide tax exemption to the Cape Breton Centre for Craft & Design or a long-term grant in lieu of taxes be considered. Otherwise the Centre's sustainability will be jeopardized.

As a significant cultural facility and organization, the Centre impacts the retention and quality of life of the Next Gen of the CBRM.

Municipalities that adopt culture as an industry have gained positive economic benefits for their communities. Cultural industries create job growth, retain youth, turn ordinary cities into "destination cities", create interconnections between arts and business, revitalize urban areas, attract skilled workers and creative spin-off businesses.

Thank you for your time.

Lori Burke  
Executive Director



## 322 Charlotte Street

- Registered Charity
- State of the art 14,000sqft
- Pride of place for local residents of the CBRM and for visitors to the region



[capebretoncraft.com](http://capebretoncraft.com)

## Our Goals

- Develop an understanding and appreciation of craft and art in the community through school age to adult programs (ages 5 to 95)
- Provide educational opportunities and actively engage the CBRM community
- Facilitate the creative and commercial performance of individuals and businesses within the craft sector in the CBRM
- Elevate the sector's impact on tourism within the CBRM



[capebretoncraft.com](http://capebretoncraft.com)



## Educational Programming

capebretoncraft.com



### Courses & Workshops



- Year round programming
- Beginner, intermediate and advanced
- Variety of courses including:
  - jewellery, painting, knitting,
  - pottery, rug hooking, stained glass, weaving, photography, drawing, silk screening and more
- Provide educational programming in craft and art once delivered by municipality
- Provide creative recreational activities which are an important aspect of what a municipality should be providing the community
- **Since 2007, 2474 people have participated in 382 courses and workshops**

[capebretoncraft.com](http://capebretoncraft.com)

## Youth Programs




- March Break Kids Camps
- Creativity & Craft Adventures Summer Camps
- School tours and learning opportunities
- Partner with CBVRSB to extend learning in the arts including specific workshops, exhibitions, tours, mentoring with professional artists
- Outreach programs & special programs
- Exposure to gallery and studio spaces

[capebretoncraft.com](http://capebretoncraft.com)

## Youth Programs



**artsREACH**

 Art Gallery of Nova Scotia



**CAPE BRETON-VICTORIA**  
Regional School Board

### Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

- Provide a Venue for Travelling Exhibitions of work belonging to all Nova Scotians (outside of Halifax)
- ArtReach & ArtsSmarts

### Nova Scotia College of Art & Design

- NSCAD Portfolio Development
- NSCAD Community Artist in Residency
- NSCAD Lecture Series

### Cape Breton Victoria Regional School Board

- Annual Exhibition of student work
- Professional Development for teachers
- Artist in Residence
- Outreach programming

[capebretoncraft.com](http://capebretoncraft.com)

## Community Economic Development



- Provide programs and services to professional craft producers to help build & grow sustainable craft businesses
- 50% of the professional artisans served by the Centre are CBRM residents
- Next generation of craft producers

[capebretoncraft.com](http://capebretoncraft.com)



## Tourism Destination & Leader

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

## Destination for Visitors

- Craft Capital Campaign – Provincial Award winner – Parks Canada Sustainable Tourism Award
- Learning Vacations
- 160,000 visitors since 2007
- Dedicated cultural facility in Downtown Sydney
- Keeps visitors in the Downtown
- Conference Delegates
  - Tailored workshops
  - Companion programs

the  
**CRAFT**  
**CAPITAL**  
CAPE BRETON ISLAND



**Community Cultural Centre**

[capebretoncraft.com](http://capebretoncraft.com)



## Community Partner & Leader



- Lumiere
- Celtic Colours International Festival
- Action Week
- iSpy – Nominated for National Award
- Growing a Creative Economy



[capebretoncraft.com](http://capebretoncraft.com)

## Members, Guilds and Community



**Membership: 266 individuals**

**Guilds include:**

- Breton Quilters Guild
  - Tuesday Yarns
  - Down East Rug Hooking Guild
  - Metal Arts Guild
  - Sydney Weavers Guild
- Increased use of studio space
  - By providing opportunities to experience art and culture in CBRM, we offer a higher quality of life for residents

[capebretoncraft.com](http://capebretoncraft.com)

## Exhibitions, Artist in Residences & Quality of Life



### 8-10 Exhibitions per year

- Regional and national

- Opportunity for Residents of CBRM to experience local craft & art

- Build Capacity for Arts

- Better places to live, quality of life

- New immigrants – community integration, network of support

## Future Plans



- Develop learning vacays
- Programming for youth at risk
- Programming for developmentally delayed youth and families
- Continue to build capacity for arts and culture in our community

[capebretoncraft.com](http://capebretoncraft.com)

## Property Tax – Background

- Period of 2010/2012 the Centre received tax exemption
- In 2012 the Centre was asked to apply for a grant in lieu of taxes to the Sustainability Grant committee. For this period, the Centre's property tax was adjusted to the residential rate and then received a grant in lieu of taxes for \$35k (in kind, not in cash).
- 2013/14 and 2014/2015 the Centre applied to the Sustainability Grant but has not received any indication of any decisions.
- In October 2014 CBCCD met with members of the Sustainability Grant committee to discuss and were assured it would be addressed.
  
- Currently the Centre is in arrears of \$38,628.88

## Property Tax – Effect on the Centre

- The property tax rate represents almost 50% of self generated revenue
- Currently, we fundraise in excess of \$40,000 in the local community to keep our doors open every year (\*excludes donations & corporate sponsorships)

Challenges to additional fundraising to cover property tax:

- Lack of corporations in the CBRM
- Annual need
- Limitation of population (numbers and discretionary income)
- Other charitable organizations with similar needs

Other charities on Charlotte Street receive tax exemption.

[capebretoncraft.com](http://capebretoncraft.com)

## Our Ask – Help us be Sustainable

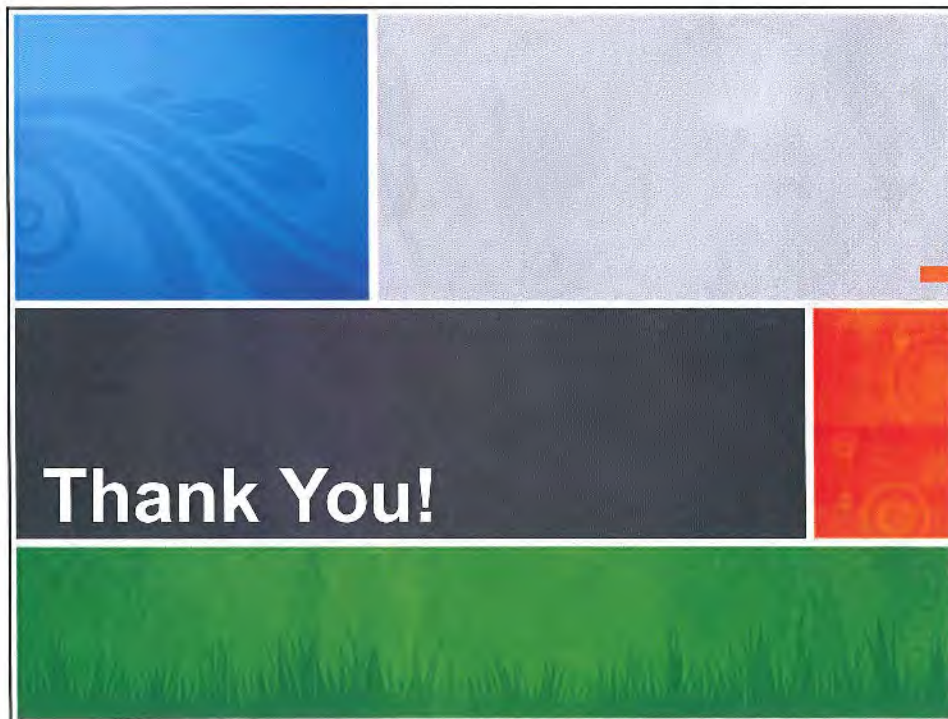
- Tax Exemption

OR

- Grant in lieu over the long term
  - MOU with the Province of Nova Scotia to deliver programming
  - Support from the Federal government to deliver economic development programming

Our operational goal is to enhance our programming to give back to the community. The property tax is a tremendous financial burden and greatly impacts the organizations sustainability.

[capebretoncraft.com](http://capebretoncraft.com)



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Spokesperson: Eileen Lannon-Oldford, Chief Executive Officer

Presentation outline:

- Strategic Objective & Core Components
- Value Added to Municipal Units
- Highlight of Projects & Initiatives
- Focus Moving Forward

