

Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Council Meeting

ADDENDUM

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024

9:30 A.M.

Council Chambers
2nd Floor, City Hall
320 Esplanade, Sydney, NS

Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

9:30 a.m.

ADDENDUM ITEM

3.5 Autism Acceptance Month: Deputy Mayor James Edwards (See page 3)

3.6 Canada Community-Building Fund: Councillor Eldon MacDonald (See page 4)



PROCLAMATION

Autism Acceptance Month

WHEREAS: It is estimated that in Nova Scotia, data from 2017-2021 shows that 1 in 32 children between age of 0-5 years are diagnosed with autism;

AND WHEREAS: Many dedicated Autistic individuals/people with autism, parents, teachers, researchers, and professionals, including those at Autism Nova Scotia and other community-based organizations, work tirelessly throughout our province to make the communities where we live accessible and inclusive for Autistics/individuals with autism, and their loved ones;

AND WHEREAS: With the support of the autism community, the Cape Breton Region Chapter of Autism Nova Scotia builds understanding, acceptance, and inclusion for Autistics/individuals on the autism spectrum and their families through leadership, advocacy, education, training, and programming across the lifespan;

AND WHEREAS: April marks Autism Acceptance Month, and Tuesday, April 2nd, marks World Autism Awareness Day, when people across the globe come together as a community to celebrate autism and promote acceptance and inclusion.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That CBRM Mayor Amanda. M. McDougall-Merrill and Council, proclaim April 2024 as Autism Acceptance Month throughout the municipality and encourage all our citizens to recognize the individuals/people with autism, family members, caregivers, educators, and other professionals who strive to make Nova Scotia an inclusive and accessible place for us all to call home.

Deputy Mayor James Edwards - CBRM District #8

March 26, 2024



RESOLUTION

Canada Community-Building Fund

- WHEREAS:** Canada is experiencing record population growth, having welcomed 1.25 million new Canadians last year alone; and
- WHEREAS:** According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) we need to build at least 3.5 million additional homes by 2030, and municipalities need to build or expand the infrastructure to accommodate this growth; and
- WHEREAS:** FCM has estimated that the cost of the municipal infrastructure required to support housing development is, on average, in the range of \$107,000 per unit; and
- WHEREAS:** According to Statistics Canada the cost of upgrading existing municipal infrastructure so that it is in a state of good repair is in the range of \$170 billion; and
- WHEREAS:** Non-residential construction price inflation has risen by 29% since the end of 2020 and municipalities are facing soaring costs for infrastructure project without a corresponding growth in revenue; and
- WHEREAS:** Unlike federal and provincial revenue, municipal tax revenue has not increased in recent years along with inflation, economic growth, or population growth; and
- WHEREAS:** Municipalities are facing a gap in federal infrastructure funding as the 10-year Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program has come to an end, the Canada Community-Building Fund is being renegotiated and the Permanent Public Transit Fund is set to start in 2026; and

WHEREAS:

The Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF), which was formerly known as the federal Gas Tax Fund, provides more than \$2.4 billion in annual capital funding directly to municipalities through a predictable allocation mechanism, and municipalities of all sizes use the CCBF to deliver direct results for Canadians by building and renewing critical core public infrastructure, local roads, public transit and community, and cultural and recreational facilities.

**BE IT THEREFORE
RESOLVED:**

That the federal government work with agreement signatories and municipalities to maintain the CCBF as a source of direct, predictable, long-term funding for local infrastructure priorities; and that the federal government commit, in Budget 2024, to the next generation of infrastructure programs, including a new program for water and wastewater infrastructure and an increase to the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund; and that the federal government convene provinces, territories and municipalities to negotiate a “Municipal Growth Framework” to modernize the way that municipalities are funded in order to enable Canada’s long-term growth.

Councillor Eldon MacDonald – CBRM District #5

March 26, 2024

