

Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Council Meeting

AGENDA

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND, 2022

9:30 A.M.

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

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Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 22nd, 2022

9:30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS

Land Acknowledgement

9:30 a.m.

Roll Call

O' Canada

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: (Motion Required)

2. PROCLAMATIONS:

9:35 a.m.

2.1 National Housing Day – 2022:

Councillor Glenn Paruch (See page 5)

2.2 United Way Cape Breton Giving Tuesday:

Councillor Steve Gillespie (See page 6)

2.3 Project Red Ribbon Launch - 2022:

Councillor Steve Gillespie (See page 7)

2.4 National Campaign for Domestic Economic Abuse Awareness Day – 2022:

Councillor Earlene MacMullin (See page 8)

2.5 James Delorey Day - 2022:

Councillor Lorne Green (See page 9)

3. DELEGATION:

9:50 a.m.

3.1 Marketing Levy: Terry Smith, CEO - Destination Cape Breton (See page 10)

Continued...

**Council Meeting Agenda
November 22, 2022 (Cont'd)**

4. **BUSINESS ARISING:**

10:30 a.m.

4.1 **In Camera Council Meeting – November 22, 2022:**

- a) **Ratification of Tentative Agreement - CUPE Local 933 (Inside Bargaining Unit):** Deanna Evely, Director of Human Resources

5. **COUNCILLOR AGENDA REQUEST:**

10:45 a.m.

- 5.1 **Comfort Centers:** Deputy Mayor James Edwards (See page 27)

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

N/A

ADJOURNMENT

PROCLAMATION
National Housing Day - 2022

WHEREAS: Safe, sustainable, and affordable housing is a basic human need and a requirement for good mental health. When housing is inadequate or unavailable, personal as well as community well-being can suffer;

AND WHEREAS: National Housing Day is an opportunity to recognize the important work being done throughout the community to improve access to safe, affordable, and sustainable housing for everyone and to reflect on the work that still needs to be done;

AND WHEREAS: Most importantly, National Housing Day serves as a call to action for all Nova Scotians to support efforts to promote the need for safe, sustainable and affordable housing, and the need to reduce barriers to obtaining equitable housing;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall and Council proclaim November 22nd, 2022 as National Housing Day; as a reminder to all Nova Scotians that access to safe, sustainable and equitable housing affects our collective mental health; and to have a mentally healthy community we must work together to ensure every member of our community has a place to call home.

Councillor Glenn Paruch – CBRM District 6

November 22nd, 2022

Cape Breton Regional Municipality
Proclamation
“United Way Cape Breton GivingTuesday”

- Whereas:** It is the mission of the United Way of Cape Breton to improve lives and build communities by engaging individuals and mobilizing collective action in Cape Breton;
- And Whereas:** GivingTuesday is a “Global Day of Giving” taking place after Black Friday and Cyber Monday;
- And Whereas:** GivingTuesday is a time to celebrate and encourage activities that support charities and non-profits;
- And Whereas:** Whether it’s making a donation, volunteering time, helping a neighbour or spreading the word, GivingTuesday is a movement for everyone who wants to give something back;
- And Whereas:** This year GivingTuesday takes place on Tuesday, November 29th and so far there have been forty-three Mayoral Proclamations approved across Canada. United Way Cape Breton staff have been promoting GivingTuesday in various capacities for the last few years;
- And Whereas:** United Way Cape Breton plans to celebrate Giving Tuesday by promoting charitable acts across the CBRM and asking folks to give a “Hand up” for those in need. If you are not sure where to give, United Way Cape Breton is accepting donations to support programs helping the most vulnerable of our neighbours and friends;
- Be It Therefore Resolved:** That Mayor Amanda M. McDougall and CBRM Council hereby recognize November 29th, 2022, as **GivingTuesday** in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Councillor Steve Gillespie - CBRM #4

November 22nd, 2022

Cape Breton Regional Municipality

PROCLAMATION
Project Red Ribbon Launch - 2022

WHEREAS: Project Red Ribbon is a commitment made by Canadians to drive safe and sober;

AND WHEREAS: It is a highly visible, community public awareness campaign which depends on volunteer participation to promote the message that deaths and injuries resulting from impaired driving are needless tragedies and 100% preventable;

AND WHEREAS: Each year from the beginning of November until the first Monday after New Year's, MADD Canada volunteers across the country to distribute red ribbons and ask Canadians to display a ribbon on their vehicle and/or key chain, or on a personal item like their purse, briefcase or backpack;

AND WHEREAS: The MADD Canada red ribbon is a powerful symbol. By displaying the ribbon, you are making a personal commitment to drive sober;

AND WHEREAS: The red ribbon is also used to pay tribute to the thousands of Canadians who have lost their lives or who have been injured as a result of impaired driving.

AND WHEREAS: The red ribbon also reinforces the message to drive sober throughout the holidays and throughout the year;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall and Council proclaim the launch of MADD Cape Bretons Project Red Ribbon in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Councillor Steve Gillespie - CBRM District 4

November 22nd, 2022

PROCLAMATION
National Campaign for
Domestic Economic Abuse Awareness Day- 2022

- WHEREAS:** Domestic economic abuse is a pattern of control, exploitation or sabotage of money, finances, and economic resources (car, food, education, transportation) which affects an individual’s capacity to acquire, use and maintain economic resources and threatens their economic security and self-sufficiency;
- AND WHEREAS:** A lack of access to economic resources undermines a woman’s independence, such as leaving an abusive relationship, limiting her access to social support services, undermining mental and physical well-being, and exacerbating other risk factors contributing to homeless, generational trauma, and other forms of marginalization affecting women;;
- AND WHEREAS:** Women who experience domestic economic abuse are five times more likely to experience physical and other forms of gender-based violence, and 99% of situations that include coercive control will lead to economic and financial abuse;
- AND WHEREAS:** Domestic economic abuse has severely impacted numerous generations of Canadians and continues to occur regardless of socioeconomic status, race, age, or other identity factors;
- AND WHEREAS:** It is of utmost importance that government, at all levels, take action to support survivors of domestic financial and economic abuse;
- BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:** That CBRM Mayor Amanda M. McDougall and Council proclaim November 26th of each year as “**Domestic Economic Abuse Awareness Day**” in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Councillor Earlene MacMullin – CBRM District #2
November 22nd, 2022

PROCLAMATION

James Delorey Day - 2022

Whereas: On the afternoon of December 5th, 2009, seven-year-old James Delorey wandered and became lost in the wilderness behind his family's home in South Bar;

And Whereas: James lived with autism and was non-verbal, but you could always hear him giggling when he was near;

And Whereas: Throughout the two days and nights that included the first blizzard of the season, young James and his loyal dog Chance survived while a massive search was underway receiving unwavering support from the entire community;

And Whereas: On December 7th, Chance returned home, leaving behind a trail of paw prints in the snow. Shortly after, searchers located James just over 1 kilometer from his home, he was curled up under a tree with an obvious impression in snow where Chance laid beside him;

And Whereas: While the community hoped and prayed for James' recovery, tragically, he peacefully passed away;

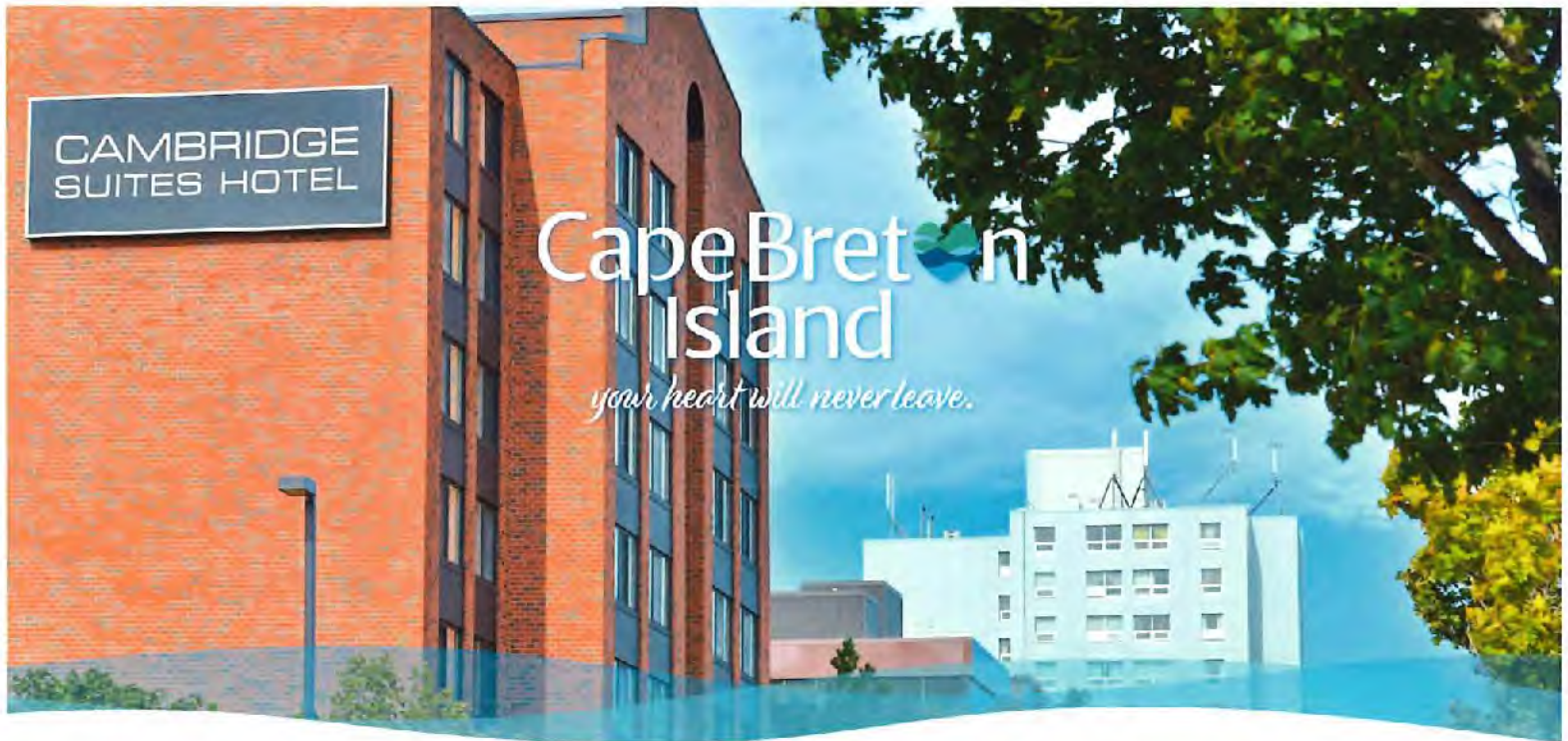
And Whereas: Young James will continue to live forever in the hearts of his family and of those within our community,

And Whereas: Since 2010, in James' honour with collaboration and support from his family, fundraising efforts have been coordinated under the guidance and support of Nick Burke and Andrew Petrie, and have raised almost \$20,000 in donations and which have gone to support the Autism Society of Cape Breton, Cape Breton Search and Rescue for both Project Lifesaver and their Building Fund, Cape Breton Branch of the SPCA, Cape Breton Regional Hospital Cancer Patient Care Fund and Whitney Pier Youth Club. Beginning in 2011, the first Saturday of December, has been dedicated as the "James Delorey Annual Fundraising Day" in his honour while supporting one of our local charities;

Be It Therefore Resolved: That Cape Breton Regional Municipality Mayor Amanda M. McDougall and Council declare December 3rd, 2022, as James Delorey Day in the CBRM.

Councillor Lorne Green – CBRM District #12

November 22nd, 2022



Cape Breton Island Marketing Levy

Status and Proposed Direction

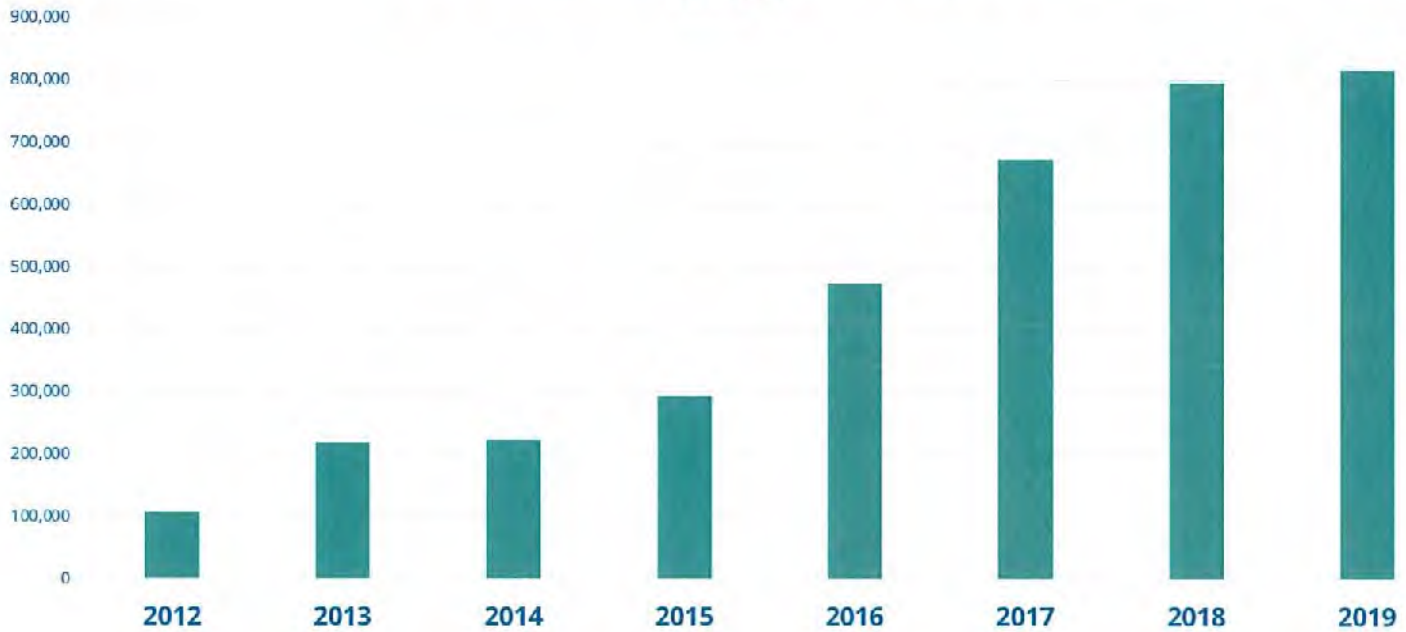


Marketing Levy Background

- Legislated by the Province in 2011 and implemented by municipal by-laws
- 2% charged on fixed-roof accommodation stays at properties with 10 or more rooms
- Longer-term stays (30 days+), medical stays and students in dorms are exempt
- Funds must be used to promote Cape Breton Island as a tourism destination
- MOU with all five municipalities designates Destination Cape Breton as the official agency to promote the Island
- Operators collect and remit the levy funds to the municipalities, who then in turn provide those funds to Destination Cape Breton

visitcapebreton.com Sessions

2012-19



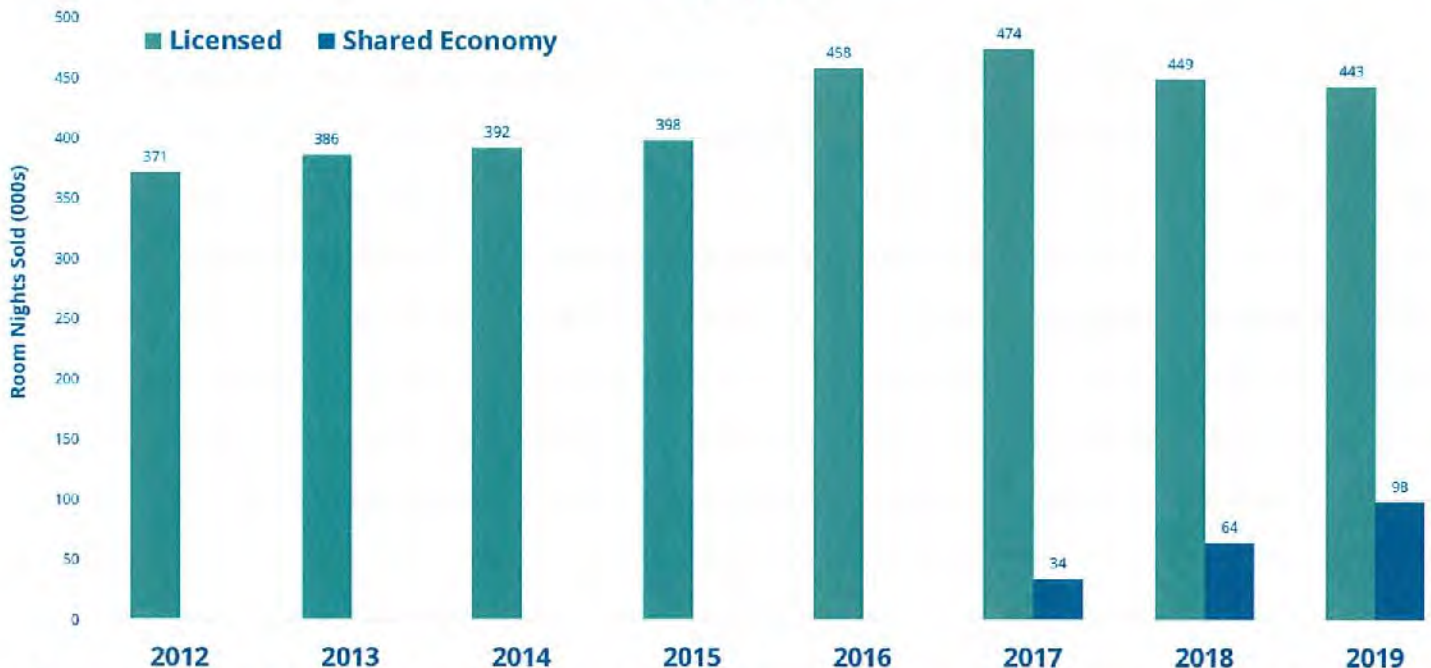
Source: Google Analytics

Since its implementation, website traffic has consistently grown with levy revenues.

** 476,000 sessions attributed to Trump Bump removed from 2016, as they were not driven by the levy.*

Room Nights Sold by Year

2012-2019

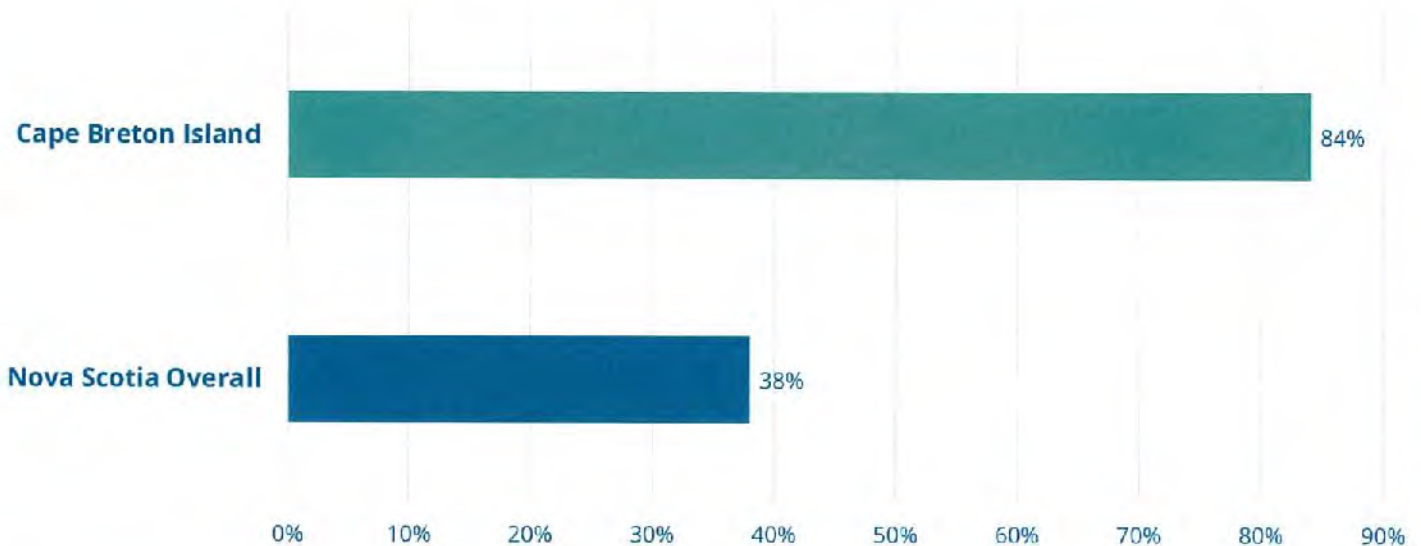


Source: Nova Scotia Tourism Indicators

Room nights sold have consistently grown with levy revenues. Licensed room nights declined in 2018 and 2019, due to Airbnb's getting a greater share of the market.

Growth of Incremental Room Nights Sold

2012-2019 using 2011 as a Baseline



Source: Nova Scotia Tourism Indicators

Incremental room nights sold from 2012 to 2019 on Cape Breton Island more than doubled the Province overall.



The Marketing Levy has an estimated ROI of \$27 in visitor spending for every dollar collected



Current Situation

ACOA
FUNDING



ACOA funding to DCB has decreased from \$640k to \$440k and will further decrease to \$300k

AIRBNB
VRBO



AIRBNB and VRBO rentals grew from 7% of registered rooms nights to 30%

LEVY
REVENUES



These factors and the pandemic have driven levy revenues down

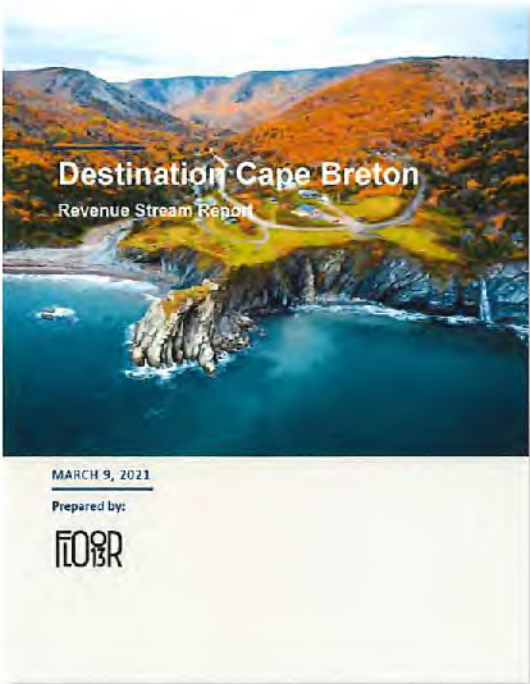


Destination Cape Breton Mitigation Efforts

- Moved office into former VIC building to cut rent costs
- Reduced staff from 11 full-time positions in 2019 to 9 currently
- Took steps to achieve organizational efficiencies
- Continually honed the marketing program to deliver strong results despite shrinking budget



The Marketing Levy helped us climb to new heights,
but we're headed for a cliff

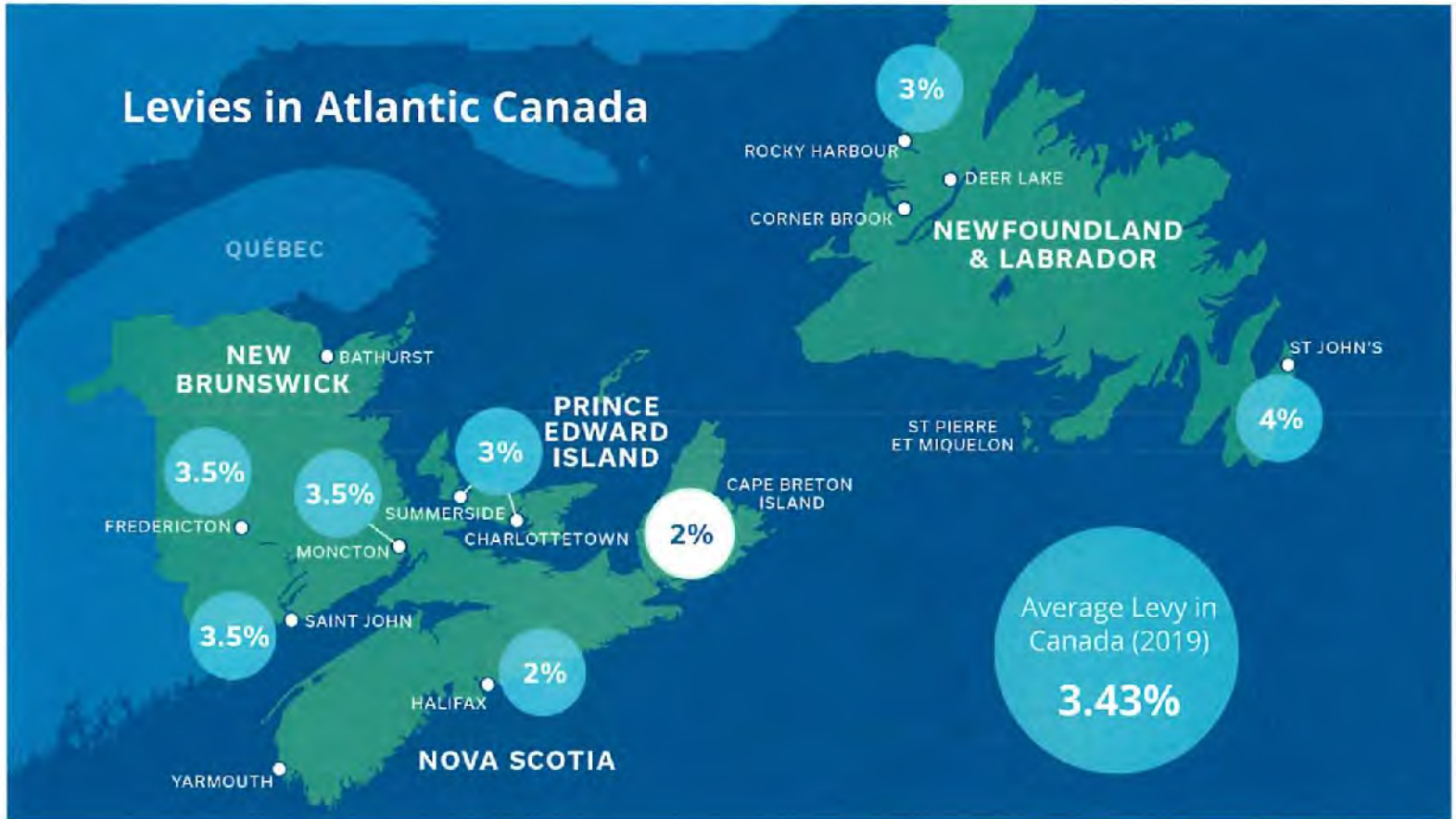


Revenue Stream Report

Consultants recommended increasing the Marketing Levy rate

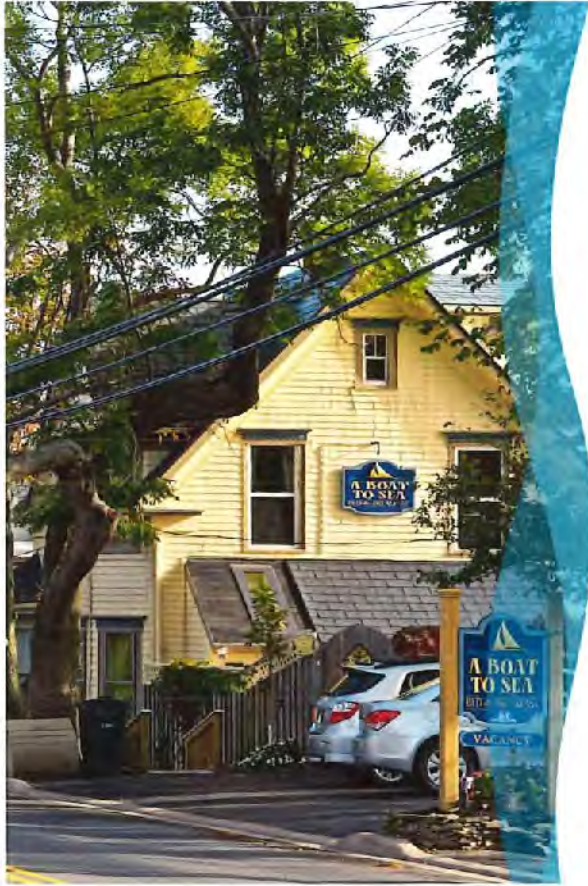
“Even without the current income stream challenge faced by Destination Cape Breton, there is a multitude of benchmark evidence to suggest that **the current 2% levy places the region at a competitive disadvantage** to many of its competitor destinations.”

Levies in Atlantic Canada



Consultations with Accommodation Operators

- Vast majority support increasing the levy rate to 3%
- ALL fixed-roof accommodations should be collecting, including Airbnb/VRBO
- Look at January 1, 2024 as start date for changes



Proposed By-law Amendments

- Increase rate to 3%
- Remove 10 rooms or more threshold and adopt Tourist Accommodation Registration Act definition of fixed-roof accommodations
- Start date of January 1, 2024



Proposed Use of Incremental Funds in CBRM

- Replenish marketing budget
- Creation, innovation and attraction of events
- Invest in experience development to attract more Cabot Trail visitors



Questions?



Cape Breton Island Marketing Levy Act

CHAPTER 63

OF THE

ACTS OF 2005

amended 2010, c. 11

NOTE - This electronic version of this statute is provided by the Office of the Legislative Counsel for your convenience and personal use only and may not be copied for the purpose of resale in this or any other form. Formatting of this electronic version may differ from the official, printed version. Where accuracy is critical, please consult official sources.

An Act to Authorize a Marketing Levy on Cape Breton Island

Short title

1 This Act may be cited as the Cape Breton Island Marketing Levy Act. *2005, c. 63, s. 1.*

Interpretation

2 In this Act,

(a) "accommodation" means a commercial property that

(i) is a building or part of a building that is a hotel, motel, inn or other accommodation providing rental units, or

(ii) is a cottage or cabin used mainly for accommodation of the travelling or vacationing public,

and consists of ten or more rental units or rooms;

(b) repealed 2010, c. 11, s. 1.

(c) "Cape Breton Island" means the Cape Breton Regional Municipality, the Municipality of the County of Inverness, the Town of Port Hawkesbury, the Municipality of the County of Richmond and the Municipality of the County of Victoria;

(d) "council" means the council of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality, the Municipality of the County of Inverness, the Town of Port Hawkesbury, the Municipality of the County of Richmond or the Municipality of the County of Victoria;

(e) "levy" means the levy imposed pursuant to this Act;

(f) "municipality" means the Cape Breton Regional Municipality, the Municipality of the County of Inverness, the Town of Port Hawkesbury, the Municipality of the County of Richmond or the Municipality of the County of Victoria;

(g) "operator" means a person who, in the normal course of the person's business, sells, offers to sell, provides or offers to provide accommodation in a municipality;

(h) "purchase price" means the price for which accommodation is purchased, including the price in money, the value of services rendered and other consideration accepted by the operator in return for the accommodation provided, but does not include the goods and services tax. *2005, c. 63, s. 2; 2010, c. 11, s. 1.*

Marketing levy

3 (1) Each council may impose a levy, to be known as a marketing levy, upon a person who, for a daily or weekly charge, fee or remuneration purchases accommodation in its municipality.

(2) The levy shall be at such rate as may be set by the council but must not be less than one point five per cent or more than two per cent of the purchase price of the accommodation.

(3) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to

(a) a person who pays for accommodation for which the daily purchase price is not more than twenty dollars;

(b) a student who is accommodated in a building owned or operated by a post-secondary educational institution while the student is registered at and attending a post-secondary educational institution; or

(c) a person who is accommodated in a room for more than thirty consecutive days.

(4) The levy collected pursuant to this Section must be remitted to the municipality and must be used by the municipality to promote Cape Breton Island as a tourist destination.

(4A) Notwithstanding subsection (4) or any other enactment, the council may pay such portion of the levy collected as determined by the council to any organization formed to promote the municipality as a tourist destination, whether such organization is non-profit or otherwise.

(5) An operator is deemed to be an agent of the municipality in which the operator is situate for the purpose of collecting the levy and remitting it to the municipality and as such shall collect the levy from the purchaser and remit it to the municipality.

(6) The levy, whether the price is stipulated to be payable in cash, on terms, by instalments or otherwise, must be collected at the time of the purchase on the total amount of the purchase price and must be remitted to the Association at the times and in the manner prescribed by by-law passed pursuant to subsection (7).

(7) A council may, in the manner prescribed by law, pass any by-laws that are necessary to implement a levy in its municipality and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, may pass a by-law to provide for

(a) the forms and records to be maintained by the operator and the information to be recorded therein;

- (aa) the levy not applying to the purchaser of accommodations based on the purchase price of the accommodation, the number of rental units or rooms for rent, the location of the facility or any other criteria prescribed by the council;
- (ab) an exemption for medical-related stays;
- (b) the method of collection and remittance of the levy and any other conditions or requirements affecting collection and remittance;
- (c) the rate of levy to be collected including, where so prescribed, a minimum and maximum levy;
- (d) the method by which a purchase price may be attributed to accommodations that are sold as part of a combination of accommodations, meals and specialized goods or services;
- (e) the inspection and audit of records maintained by the operator;
- (f) interest and penalties for the failure to collect or remit the levy as required by the by-law;
- (g) the times at which and the manner in which operators remit the levy to the Association. *2005, c. 63, s. 3; 2010, c. 11, s. 2.*

Regulations

- 4 (1) Notwithstanding Section 3, the Governor in Council may make regulations requiring all levies collected to be remitted to a single organization formed to promote Cape Breton Island as a tourist destination.
- (2) The exercise by the Governor in Council of the authority contained in subsection (1) is regulations within the meaning of the Regulations Act. *2010, c. 11, s. 3.*

Effective date

- 5 This Act comes into force on such day as the Governor in Council orders and declares by proclamation. *2005, c. 63, s. 5.*

Proclaimed - June 29, 2010
(except ss. 3(6) and 3(7)(g))
In force - June 29, 2010
(except ss. 3(6) and 3(7)(g))



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MARKETING LEVY BY-LAW

of the

CAPE BRETON REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

Pursuant to the *Cape Breton Island Marketing Levy Act*

Short Title

1. This By-law shall be known as **By-law M-200** and may be cited as the Cape Breton Regional Municipality Marketing Levy By-law.

Definitions

2. In this by-law:

- (a) "accommodation" means a commercial property that
 - (i) is a building or part of a building that is a hotel, motel, inn or other accommodation providing rental units, or
 - (ii) is a cottage or cabin used mainly in the accommodation of the travelling or vacationing public,
and consists of ten or more rooms.
- (b) "Municipality" means Cape Breton Regional Municipality.
- (c) "Operator" means a person who, in the normal course of the person's business, sells, offers to sell, provides and offers to provide accommodations in the Municipality.
- (d) "Purchase Price" means the price for which accommodations is purchased including the price in money, the value of the services rendered and other consideration accepted by

the operator in return for accommodation provided, but does not include the goods and services tax.

Application of Levy

3. (1) A marketing levy is hereby imposed in the Municipality, the rate of which shall be 2.0% of the purchase price of the accommodation.
- (2) The Levy imposed under this By-law, whether the price is stipulated to be payable in cash, on terms, by installments or otherwise, must be collected at the time of the sale on the total amount of the purchase price and must be remitted to the Municipality at the prescribed times and in the prescribed manner;
- (3) If a person collects an amount as it were a levy imposed under this by-law, the person must remit the amount collected to the Municipality at the same time and in the same manner as levy collected under this By-law.

Exemption from the Levy

4. (1) The marketing levy shall not apply to:
 - a) a person who pays for accommodations for which the daily purchase price is no more than Twenty Dollars (\$20.00);
 - b) a student who is accommodated in a building owned or operated by a post secondary educational institution while the student is registered at and attending a post-secondary educational institution;
 - c) a person who is accommodated in a room for more than thirty consecutive days;
or
 - d) a person and the person's family, accommodated while the person or a member of the person's family is receiving medical care at a hospital or a provincial health-care center or seeking specialist medical advice , provided the person provides to the operator a statement from a hospital or provincial health-care center that the person or a member of the person's family is receiving medical treatment at the hospital or centre or from a physician licensed to practice medicine in the Province of Nova Scotia that the person or a member of the person's family is seeking specialist medical advice and as a result thereof the person or a member of the person's family is in need of and the duration of the accommodation.
- (2) This By-law and the marketing levy imposed hereby shall be applicable to all licensed accommodations in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Registration of Operator

5. (1) Every operator or facility providing accommodations to which this by-law applies shall apply for and be issued a registration certificate by the Municipality.
- (2) Where an operator carries on business at more than one place, he shall obtain a registration certificate in respect of each individual place of business.
- (3) The registration certificate shall be displayed in a prominent place of the premises.
- (4) Where an operator changes his address, he shall forthwith return his registration certificate to the Municipality for amendment.
- (5) Where an operator changes the name or nature of his business, he shall forthwith return his registration certificate to the Municipality for a new one.
- (6) Where an operator ceases to carry on business in respect of which a registration certificate has been issued, the certificate shall thereupon be void, and he shall return the same to the Municipality within 15 days of the date of discontinuance.
- (7) Where a registration certificate is lost or destroyed, application shall be made to the Municipality for a copy of the original.
- (8) A registration certificate granted under subsection (1) is not transferable.

Return and Remittance of Levy

6. (1) The Municipality will require a monthly return reporting sales and levy collected by any person selling accommodations, such return to cover any specific period.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (1), unless otherwise provided, all operators shall make separate monthly returns to the Municipality.

- (3) A separate return shall be made for each place of business, unless a consolidated return has been approved by the Municipality.
- (4) The returns by operators shall be submitted and the levy shall be remitted to the Municipality on the 15th day of the month following the end of the reporting period collection of the levy by the operator.
- (5) If an operator during the return period has collected no levy, he shall nevertheless file a nil return to that effect on the prescribed return form.
- (6) Where an operator ceases to carry on or disposes of his business, he shall make the return and remit the levy collected within 15 days of the date of discontinuance or disposal.

Records

7. (1) Every operator shall keep books of account, records and documents sufficient to furnish the Municipality with the necessary particulars of:
 - (a) sales of accommodation;
 - (b) amount of levy collected; and
 - (c) disposal of levy.
- (2) All entries concerning the levy in such books of account, records and documents shall be separate and distinguishable from other entries made therein.
- (3) Every operator shall retain any book of account, record or other document referred to in this section until the Municipality authorizes its destruction.
- (4) Where a receipt, bill, invoice, or other document is issued by a person selling accommodation, the levy shall be shown as a separate item thereon.

Calculation of Levy

8. Where an operator sells accommodation in combination with meals and other specialized services for an all inclusive package price, the purchase price of the accommodations shall be deemed to be the purchase price of the accommodations when such accommodations are offered for sale in the same facility without such specialized services.

Refund of Levy Written off

9. (1) The Municipality may refund to an operator who sells accommodation a portion of the amount sent by the operator to the Municipality in respect of levy payable on that sale under this Bylaw if:

- a. the operator, in accordance with this Bylaw, remits the levy required under this Act to be levied and collected for the sale,
 - b. the purchaser subsequently fails to pay the operator the full amount of the consideration and levy payable on that sale, and
 - c. the operator writes off as unrealizable or non-collectible the amount owing by the purchaser.
- (2) An operator may deduct the amount of the refund payable to the operator under this section from the amount of levy that the operator is required to remit under this By-law.
 - (3) If an operator who has obtained a refund under subsection (1) or made a deduction under subsection (2) recovers some or all of the amount referred to in subsection (1)(c) with respect to which the refund was paid or the deduction was made, the operator must add an amount to the levy to be paid or remitted by the operator under this Bylaw with respect to the reporting period in which the recovery was made.

Refund of Levy Collected in Error

10. (1) If the Municipality is satisfied that a levy or a portion of a levy has been paid in error, the Municipality shall refund the amount of the overpayment to the person entitled;
- (2) If the Municipality is satisfied that an operator has remitted to the Municipality an amount as collected levy that the operator neither collected nor was required to collect under this Bylaw, the Municipality must refund the amount to the operator.

Claim for Refund

11. (1) In order to claim a refund under this By-law, a person must:
 - (a) submit to the Municipality an application in writing signed by the person who paid the amount claimed; and
 - (b) provide sufficient evidence to satisfy the Municipality that the person who paid the amount is entitled to the refund.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a) if the person who paid the amount claimed is a corporation, the application must be signed by a director or authorized employee of the corporation.

Interest

12. Interest payable under the Bylaw shall be payable at the rate of 4% above the prime rate as set by the Cape Breton Regional Municipality's banker calculated on a daily basis.

Inspection Audit and Assessment

13. A person appointed by the Municipality may enter at a reasonable time the business premises occupied by a person, or the premises where the person's records are kept:

- (a) to determine whether or not
 - i. the person is an operator, or the premises are accommodations within the meaning of this ByLaw, or
 - ii. this Bylaw is being and has been complied with, or
- (b) to inspect, audit and examine books of account, records or documents.

Offense

14. A person who contravenes any provision of the Bylaw is guilty of offence punishable by summary conviction and on conviction is liable:

- (a) on a first conviction, to a fine of not less than \$500 and not more than \$1,000; and
- (b) for a subsequent conviction for the same or another provision of this regulation, to a fine of not less than \$1,500 and not more than \$5,000.

Administration of By-law

15. This Bylaw shall be administered on behalf of the Municipality by the Chief Administrative Officer or any person designated by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Effective Date

15. This By-law shall take effect from the 1st day of January, 2011.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a majority of the whole Council at a duly called meeting of the Cape Breton Regional Municipal Council held on October 19, 2010.

MAYOR JOHN W. MORGAN

BERNIE WHITE, MUNICIPAL CLERK

PUBLICATION DATE: December 4, 2010



City Hall
 320 Esplanade
 Sydney, NS B1P 7B9

Item No.

Council Agenda Request Form		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by 4:30 pm seven days before the meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> Late Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon the day before the meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor: (New Business) - Announcement - Referral - Submit Petition - Notice of Motion
Date of Council Meeting: November 22, 2022		
Subject: Comfort Centers		
Motion for Council to Consider:		
<p><i>In light of the devastating effects of Hurricane Fiona, it is imperative that we as CBRM officials take pro-active steps to prepare for future events, weather or otherwise, for which our residents may need short or long term comfort assistance.</i></p> <p><i>To that end, I am requesting a Staff Issue Paper to determine the feasibility of designating community fire halls, professional and volunteer, as emergency comfort centers.</i></p>		
Reason:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All communities have a strategically located fire station and residents know where they are located. 2. Volunteer Fire Departments (VFD's) have built-in volunteers who want to help. 3. It would eliminate the guess work involved for residents in distress. They will know that in times of emergency, go to the fire hall. 4. During Fiona, many residents were left without power, internet and telephone service such that many were unaware where the comfort centers were located. Indeed, CBRM felt it necessary to broadcast on a daily basis where the comfort centers were located in each community. Again, this initiative would eliminate that problem. Residents will know to just go to the fire hall. 5. Residents could be advised in advance, in fact it would be understood, where to go for assistance. 6. To identify a suitable community venue if a VFD can't be used. 		
Outcome Sought:		
<p>That all Volunteer Fire Departments in the CBRM are equipped to become designated comfort centers going forward.</p>		
<i>Councillor James Edwards</i>	<i>District 8</i>	
<i>Date: Oct 30th, 2022</i>	<i>Received by Clerk's Department: Nov. 1, 2022</i>	

