

Regular Council Meeting  
Thursday, May 7, 2026  
9:30 a.m.  
Council Chambers

## MINUTES

Council: Warden Bonny MacIsaac  
Deputy Warden Lynn Chisholm  
Councillor Catherine Gillis  
Councillor Claude Poirier  
Councillor John MacLennan  
Councillor Blair Phillips (online)

Staff: Keith MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer  
Melanie Beaton, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Erin Gillis, Chief Operations Officer  
Morgan Murray, Director of Culture and Community Development  
Christina MacDonell, Director of Finance  
Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council/Chief Administrative Officer  
Michelle Coffin, Policy Analyst  
Megan Wludyka, Chief Communications Officer

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Warden MacIsaac called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken.

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**MOTION:** *That the agenda be approved as presented.*  
**MOVED BY:** Councillor Poirier  
**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm  
**MOTION CARRIED**

### 3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Warden MacIsaac acknowledged that the land on which we gather is located in the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

### 4. RECOGNITION: Retirement of Glenda LeBlanc,

The following acknowledgment was read by Warden MacIsaac:

*I'd like to recognize Glenda LeBlanc, who recently retired from her role as Administrator of Foyer Père Fiset, a long-term care home in Chéticamp.*

*Glenda began her career with Foyer Père Fiset in 1994, initially joining the organization in an administrative role. She transitioned into a permanent office position in 1997 and became a full-time team member.*

*Throughout her career, Glenda was known for her strong attention to detail and deep knowledge of the organization's financial and administrative processes. She served as the Foyer's Accountant for many years before being promoted to Business Manager in December 2013.*

*Glenda became a key resource within the organization, with colleagues frequently turning to her for guidance and answers. Her experience and familiarity with the Foyer's operations made her an important source of continuity over the years.*

*In September 2022, Glenda was appointed Administrator, a role she held through to her retirement.*

*Glenda's career with Foyer Père Fiset spanned over three decades, during which she contributed significantly to the organization's day-to-day operations.*

*The Municipality of Inverness County thanks Glenda for her years of service and wishes her all the best in her retirement.*

## **5. PROCLAMATIONS**

### **Lyme Disease Awareness Month**

The following proclamation was read by Warden Maclsaac:

*WHEREAS Lyme disease is a serious illness caused by the bite of an infected black-legged tick; and*

*WHEREAS black-legged ticks are found in all parts of Nova Scotia, including Inverness County; and*

*WHEREAS Nova Scotia had 2,350 reported cases of Lyme disease in 2024, which constitutes over 40% of that year's reported cases in Canada; and*

*WHEREAS Nova Scotia's 2,350 reported cases of Lyme disease in 2024 constitutes more than double the number of reported cases in every province combined when excluding Ontario; and*

*WHEREAS there were 8,323 confirmed and probable cases of Lyme disease in Nova Scotia between the years 2014 and 2024, which is the second most of any Canadian province over that timespan; and*

*WHEREAS Lyme disease is preventable by following simple prevention measures such as frequent tick checks and proper tick removal, however increasing awareness and education is critical;*

*THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Warden Bonny MacIsaac, on behalf of the Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness, do hereby proclaim May 2026 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month in Inverness County.*

### **Gaelic Nova Scotia Month**

The following proclamation was read by Warden MacIsaac:

*WHEREAS 2026 marks the 30th anniversary of Gaelic Nova Scotia Month which is a time to embrace, honour, celebrate, and raise awareness of the language, culture, history, contributions, and achievements of Gaels across the province; and*

*WHEREAS Gaelic language and culture are integral components of the identity of Nova Scotia, and that Gaels represent one of the earliest non-Indigenous cultural groups to settle in Mi'kma'ki; and*

*WHEREAS new generations of language learners and cultural champions continue to build upon the legacy of Gaelic Nova Scotia's tradition bearers; and*

*WHEREAS government commits to collaborating with Gaelic communities to support the growth of Gaelic Nova Scotia through opportunities for language acquisition, cultural awareness and capacity building within communities to ensure Gaelic language and culture remain vibrant elements of the living linguistic and cultural landscape of Nova Scotia;*

*THEREFORE, I, Bonny MacIsaac, Warden of the Municipality of Inverness County do hereby proclaim May 2026 as "Gaelic Nova Scotia Month" in the Municipality of Inverness County*

### **6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** *That the Regular Council meeting minutes of April 2, 2026, be approved as presented.*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Poirier

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of April 16, 2026, be approved as presented.*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **7. PRESENTATION: DIANA POIRIER, DEPARTMENT OF OPPORTUNITIES AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DISABILITY SUPPORT PROGRAM**

The Nova Scotia Human Rights Remedy is a comprehensive plan to address systemic discrimination against people with disabilities, ensuring community-based support and greater choice in living arrangements.

The Remedy aims to:

- End systemic discrimination against people with disabilities receiving social assistance.
- Provide real choices about where and how people live, with appropriate supports in place.
- Promote inclusive, community-based support, moving away from institutionalization.
- Implement a five-year plan to fulfill recommendations from independent experts, monitored by an appointed independent monitor.

Implementation and Monitoring:

- Independent monitoring to ensure unbiased assessment of the province's compliance.
- Annual progress reports are submitted to the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission.
- Public updates and timelines are available on official websites.

## **8. PRESENTATION: COLETTE MESHER, BRAS D'OR LAKES BIOSPHERE REGION ASSOCIATION**

The Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Region Association, established in 2006, is a group of volunteers who worked to have the Bras d'Or Lake and its watershed designated as a UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Region. The region is located at Bras d'Or Lake, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, Canada. It is a salt-water estuary watershed 'inland sea' with three passages to the Atlantic Ocean. The biosphere's surface area is 356,788 hectares with a core area of 7,712 hectares. The Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Region Association works with local organizations to promote conservation, sustainable development, and capacity building in their programs. The lake is a living ecosystem where Arctic and subtropical influences converge, supporting diverse wildlife and providing recreational opportunities.

## **9. 2026 HEALTHCARE AWARDS**

Interviews conducted with the 2026 Excellence in Healthcare Award winners were shared with Council. The 2026 Award Recipients were:

- Outstanding Doctor – Dr. Suze Egar, Inverness Consolidated Memorial Hospital
- Outstanding Nurse – Jessica Deveaux, Sacred Heart Community Health Centre
- Outstanding Long-Term Care Professional – Cathy Spence, Foyer Père Fiset
- Outstanding Mental Health Care Professional – Adam Matthews, Inverness Consolidated Memorial Hospital
- Outstanding Allied Health Professional – Brenda Rankin, Inverness Consolidated Memorial Hospital

- Outstanding Youth Healthcare Professional (30 years and under) – Hallie MacEachern, Inverness Consolidated Memorial Hospital
- Outstanding Support Services Professional – Jenny MacDonald, Inverness Consolidated Memorial Hospital & Betty Deveaux, Chéticamp Medical Clinic
- Outstanding Direct Patient Care Professional – Janet Fortune, Inverary Manor
- Excellence in Community Health and Wellness (Group or Volunteer) – The Inverness County Singers

**10. MARKETING LEVY BYLAW: PUBLIC FEEDBACK OPPORTUNITY AND SECOND READING AND SUMMARY OFFENSE TICKET FINE SCHEDULE**

The proposed amendments to the current Marketing Levy Bylaw, if adopted, will give the authority to Council to collect the marketing levy from short term rental Internet platforms, such as AirBnB. No written or oral submissions were received in response to this public feedback opportunity.

**MOTION:** *That Council approve the amendments to the Bylaw Number 44 – Marketing Levy Bylaw as presented, effective today.*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**MOTION CARRIED**

**11. SECOND READING: PRIVATE FIRE HYDRANT BYLAW**

**MOTION:** *That Council table the Second Reading of the Private Fire Hydrant Bylaw to a future meeting of Council.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm

**MOTION CARRIED**

**12. COMMUNITY GRANT POLICY**

**MOTION:** *That Council approve the Community Grants Policy, Policy Number 2026-05-07 effective today.*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Poirier

**MOTION CARRIED**

**13. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM APRIL 16 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**Community Development Grant Applications:**

- i. **Inverness/Victoria Federation of Agriculture: Agri-Advance Initiative; \$10,000**

**MOTION:** *That Council support this request in full with funds coming from the Regional CDC funds.*  
**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gillis  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Poirier  
**MOTION CARRIED**

ii. **North Mountain Cultural and Recreation Association: Community Centre Flooring; \$1754.92**

**MOTION:** *That Council support this request in full with funds coming from District 6 CDC funds.*  
**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gillis  
**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**14. NOTICE OF MOTION**

This is notice to Council that during a future meeting the following policy will be presented for Council's consideration and discussion. All the information that you will need will be in your package in advance of the discussions.

- Special Constable and Bylaw Enforcement Officer Policy (required for provincial approval)

**15. TEMPORARY BORROWING RESOLUTION EXTENSION- Renewal Project: Sewage Plant**

**MOTION:** *WHEREAS Section 66 of the Municipal Government Act provides that the Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness, subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, may borrow to expend funds for a capital purpose as authorized by statute;*

*WHEREAS pursuant to a resolution passed by Council on the 20th day of March, 2025, the Council postponed the issue of debentures and with the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing dated the 14th day of April, 2025, did borrow from a chartered bank or trust company doing business in Nova Scotia a sum not exceeding 10 million dollars (\$10,000,000) for the purposes set out above and for a period not exceeding twelve months; and*

*WHEREAS Council has deemed it expedient that the period of borrowing be further extended;*

*BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED*

*THAT subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the authorized period of borrowing in the amount not exceeding 10 million dollars*

*(\$10,000,000) be extended for a further period not exceeding Twelve (12) months from the date of the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gillis  
**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm  
**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **16. JOINT POLICE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

**MOTION:** *That Council approve the Joint Police Advisory Board's request to advertise for the position of member-at-large to represent Inverness County on the Board.*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Poirier  
**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **17. ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

##### Accessibility Advisory Committee Appointments

**MOTION:** *That Council approve the Committee's request to initiate the appointment process for the purpose of providing Council with a list of applicants to be nominated to the Accessibility Advisory Committee to fill two vacant positions.*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Gillis  
**MOTION CARRIED**

##### Accessibility Advisory Committee Policy Review

**MOTION:** *That Council approve the renewal of the Accessibility Advisory Committee's policy without amendment.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gillis  
**SECONDED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm  
**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **18. CORRESPONDENCE**

Notice was received from the Department of Municipal Affairs regarding legislation, regulation or administrative actions that could have the effect of decreasing revenues or increasing the required expenditures of municipalities.

**19. NEXT MEETING DATE**

May 21, 2026, 9:30 a.m.: Committee of the Whole

**20. "IN CAMERA"**

**MOTION:** *That Council move to "In Camera" at 11:49 a.m. to discuss one land item and one human resource item.*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Gillis

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION:** *That Council move out of "In Camera" at 1:48 p.m.*

**MOVED BY:** Deputy Warden Chisholm

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Poirier

**MOTION CARRIED**

**21. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** *That Council adjourn at 1:48 p.m.*

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Phillips

**MOTION CARRIED**