Municipality of Inverness County

Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, October 1, 2026
9:30 a.m.
Council Chambers

MINUTES

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

Staff: Keith MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer
Morgan Murray, Director of Culture and Community Development
Jim Davis, Director of Finance
Erin Gillis, Chief of Operations
Debbie Nicholson, Administrative Assistant to Council/Chief Administrative Officer
Siobhan Beaton, Communications & Digital Marketing Coordinator
Michelle Coffin, Policy Analyst (virtually)

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: Deputy Warden Chisholm
SECONDED BY: Councillor Poirier
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. PROCLAMATION: MI'KMAQ HISTORY MONTH

The following proclamation was read by Warden MacIsaac:

WHEREAS *Mi'kmaw History Month was established in 1993 by the Province of Nova Scotia in*

partnership with the Mi'kmaq Grand Council, to recognize and celebrate Mi'kmaw culture and heritage; and

WHEREAS *Treaty Day on October 1st celebrates the anniversary of the 1752 Treaty of Friendship and Peace, which is still in effect today; and*

WHEREAS *October provides an opportunity for all Nova Scotians to learn more about Mi'kmaw history, traditions, and contributions, and to strengthen relationships built on respect and understanding; and*

WHEREAS *the Municipality of the County of Inverness is located on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People, and acknowledges the importance of honouring this enduring connection; and*

WHEREAS *celebrating Mi'kmaw History Month supports the work of reconciliation and encourages a deeper appreciation of the Mi'kmaq Nation's role in shaping the past, present, and future of our province;*

THEREFORE*, I, Bonny MacIsaac, Warden of the Municipality of the County of Inverness, do hereby proclaim October as* ***Mi'kmaw History Month*** *in the Municipality of the County of Inverness.*

5. PROCLAMATION: NATIONAL SENIOR'S DAY

The following proclamation was read by Warden MacIsaac:

WHEREAS*, National Seniors Day was instituted by the Government of Canada in 2011 to celebrate the continuing contributions of Canada's seniors; and,*

WHEREAS*, National Seniors Day provides an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many contributions older adults make to the life, strength, and vibrancy of our communities as leaders, caregivers, volunteers, mentors, neighbours, and friends; and,*

WHEREAS*, the health and well-being of older adults contribute to the health, well-being, and vitality of our communities; and,*

WHEREAS*, the knowledge, experience, skills, and stories shared by older adults continue to enrich our communities and benefit generations to come; and,*

WHEREAS*, the Municipality of the County of Inverness continues to work toward creating age-friendly communities in accordance with the World Health Organization's Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities framework; and,*

WHEREAS*, the Municipality of the County of Inverness recognizes that every individual deserves to*

age with dignity, safety, respect, inclusion, and a strong sense of belonging; and,

***WHEREAS**, the Municipality of the County of Inverness is proud to recognize and celebrate the valuable contributions of older adults throughout our communities;*

***THEREFORE** BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Bonny MacIsaac, Warden of the Municipality of the County of Inverness, do hereby proclaim October 1, 2026, as "National Seniors Day" in the Municipality of the County of Inverness and encourage all residents to take time to recognize, celebrate, and appreciate the older adults in our families and communities, and the many ways they continue to contribute to the places we call home.*

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: *That the Regular Council meeting minutes of September 3, 2026, be approved as presented.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Poirier
SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips
MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of September 17, 2026, be approved as presented.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips
MOTION CARRIED

7. PRESENTATION: NICHOLE BRIAND, STRAIT AREA TRANSIT CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED

Nichole Briand, Strait Area Transit General Manager provided an update to Council. Presentation highlights include:

- 2025-2026 Ridership: 4,239 Total Passenger Trips (3,471 fixed route, 768 dial-a-ride).
- Strait Area Transit operates through a combination of provincial, federal, municipal and fare-based support.
- Fleet of seven vehicles (4, 7, 9 and 17 passenger vans).
- Staff of seven drivers, one dispatcher, and the General Manager.
- Annual financial request of the Municipality is $112,000.

Direction to staff to reach out to the Board Chair of Strait Area Transit requesting a meeting between the Strait Area Transit Board and the Municipality of the County of Inverness re: funding contributions.

8. OVERVIEW: DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENT VISIT (Morgan Murray)

Social Innovation Lab is a graduate course in Dalhousie's Faculty of Management, taught by Jenny Baechler. She recently collaborated with the Municipality. Students travelled from Halifax to Inverness County on Sunday, September 27 to learn about our region. They visited with Municipal staff and explored various businesses and facilities. Project groups explored their topics through local activities. The visit established a shared starting point for the students' research. The next phase is to compare approaches from other communities and assess their suitability for Inverness County.

9. 2027-2028 J CLASS ROADS SUBMISSION

The following roads were selected by Council to be submitted to the Provincial Department of Public Works for the 2027-2028 J Class Road Improvements Cost Share program:

District 1 – Venette Lane
District 3 – Celtic Drive, Maple Street
District 4 – MacInnis Road, Allan's Lane
District 5 – Clan Ranald Road, Beaton Road
District 6 – Lauchlin Drive, MacFarm Lane

10. UPDATE: BELL MEETING

Warden MacIsaac, CAO MacDonald, and the two MLAs representing the impacted area met with Bell representatives on September 25 to discuss issues with cell service gaps in the Municipality. Load increases in the summer months can result in a service decrease of 30-50 %. Bell is exploring a more satellite-based system within the next two years that will also support emergency services.

11. SEPTEMBER 17 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS: RESOLUTIONS

i. Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Region Association

Whereas the Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness has recommended funding this request at the September 17 Committee of the Whole Meeting;

Therefore it be resolved that Council approve funding this $6,250 request from the Bras d'Or Lake Biosphere Region Association for a Community Engagement around the Bras d'Or project in full with funds coming from the Regional CDC funds.

Resolution Passed

ii. Margaree Salmon Museum

Whereas the Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness has recommended funding this request at the September 17 Committee of the Whole Meeting;

Therefore it be resolved that Council approve funding this $5,000 request from the Margaree Salmon Museum for a window replacement project in full with funds coming from District 2 CDC Funds.

Resolution Passed

iii. Margaree Area Development Association

Whereas the Council of the Municipality of the County of Inverness has recommended funding this request at the September 17 Committee of the Whole Meeting;

Therefore it be resolved that Council approve funding this $1,000 request for a Community Beautification & Gardening project with funds coming from District 2 CDC funds.

Resolution Passed

12. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS

i. Update: Inverness County Centre for the Arts (ICCA)

The Municipality granted ICCA $10,000 in 2022 for the creation of a mobile stage. The mobile stage was never built. These funds were used for roadway upgrades to the existing stage.

Direction to staff to invite the Board of ICCA in to present to Council.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received regarding concerns surrounding governance and leadership at The Gaelic College.

Direction to staff to speak with the Gaelic College CAO re: previous funding allocated to the Gaelic College from the Municipality.

14. NEXT MEETING DATE

October 29, 2026, 9:30 a.m. Committee of the Whole

15. “IN CAMERA”

MOTION: *That Council move to “In Camera” at 10:52 a.m. to discuss three items re: Section 22.2(a) acquisition, sale, lease and security of municipal property, two items re: Section 22.2(e) contract negotiations, two items re: Section 22.2(c) personnel and one item re: Section 22.2(h) public security.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis
SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips
MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: *That Council move out of “In Camera” at 11:31 a.m.*
MOVED BY: Deputy Warden Chisholm
SECONDED BY: Councillor Phillips
MOTION CARRIED

16. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *That Council adjourn at 11:32 a.m.*
MOVED BY: Councillor Gillis
MOTION CARRIED