

ATLANTIC MAYOR'S CONGRESS

WINDSOR , NS

April 25 – 27

Thursday April 26 – 9:00

IN ATTENDANCE

Anna Allen	Mayor Windsor NS	(Chair)
Nancy Dicks	New Glasgow NS	
Craig Pollett	Executive Director MNL Newfoundland	
Wayne Mason	Deputy Mayor Halifax NS	
Stephanie Anglehart-Poulin	Mayor Campbellton, NB	
Martin Bell	Deputy Mayor Lunenburg District NS	
Percy Farwell	Mayor Gander Newfoundland NL	
Allison Gillis	Mayor Cumberland County NS	
Bill Karsten	First Vice President FCM	
Cecil Clarke	Mayor CBRM NS	
Matt Kerrigan	AMC	
Christine Blair	Mayor Colchester County NS	
Tony Keats	President MNL Newfoundland	
Geoff Stewart	President UNSM	
Peter Muttart	Mayor Kings County NS	
Jim MacLeod	Councillor CBRM NS	
Bill Mills	Mayor Truro NS	
Bill Martin	Mayor Summerside PEI	
Jeff Cantwell	Mayor Wolfville NS	

## MINUTES

April 26

9:00

Anna Allen - meeting called to order. Anna Allen welcomes everyone to Windsor. Anna Allen informs Mayors that Windsor is the Birth Place of Hockey, with an update on Windsor's New Hockey Heritage Building, and this should be beneficial to all of East Coast.

Anna Allen : Motion to approve minutes of meeting in Moncton - second by Tony Keats... all in favor.

Matt Kerrigan thanks VanEssa Roberts for organizing conference.

9:15 – 9:40

Debbie Cleveland-Foster: Intro to Cedar Centre, site of Congress . Gives brief history of Centre . Built in 1800, used to build furniture until late 1800, when it was rebuilt. Unused until 1960 when it was used as a school. Then late 1992 Hawbolts acquired as furniture store and storage. 2009-2010 closed . 2018 rebuilt and reopened as Cedar Centre by Dr. Matthias Jaepel. Now a medical exercise therapy and training centre. Also used for conferences, weddings, meetings and Acadia University uses centre for concerts.

9:40 – 10:20

Matt Kerrigan introduces Bill Karsten- First Vice-President FCM

Bill Karsten: At Federal Level and local government is improving life of Atlantic Canadians, and Atlantic Mayor's Conference is important . FCM and local government making history with historic outcomes. Building more vibrant and competitive communities. Local municipalities can only take us so far. Learning more how Federal Government intends to roll out these investments. Ottawa has signed bilateral infrastructure agreement for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Government followed FCM advice in 3 key areas. 1. Commits to support provincial and municipal with fair balance for infrastructure. 2. FCM cost sharing system formula 40% Federal 40% Provincial 20% Municipal. Provinces committed only 33% at this point. Federal level has accepted these bench marks. Ottawa has now signed bilateral infrastructure agreement for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Agreement will either strengthen or limit our goal to build stronger communities. 3. Bilateral agreements also

recognize nation building, includes communities of all sizes. Hear from big city Mayors not enough from rural Mayors. At board meetings, executive table, rural communities are discussed as equal partners moving forward. MANN – Municipal Asset Management Program, 75 million dollars ear marked to all communities of all sizes, to be involved in asset management grants up to \$50 thousand funded through Infrastructure Canada. Over 70% of the 22 million dollars gone to communities with less than 5% population. Rural communities do have programs ear marked specifically for them. Federal Government has responded to pleas from rural communities, to boost Federal cost shared to for projects in rural Canada to 50%, 60% in communities fewer than 5, 000 for better roads, waste water treatment, and better quality of life. FCM will continue to work with Federal Government.

FCM is continuing to focus on Cannabis.

FCM recently had opportunity to present the Senate community on Cannabis chaired by Art Eggleton, former Mayor of Toronto. FCM released a comprehensive Municipal guide to cannabis legislation to help local governments get ready. Get your staff to refer to Municipal Cannabis Guide which is helpful. FCM is very proud of this piece of work on their Web-Site. Federal Government announced it will release 25% cannabis excise tax to provinces to help municipalities with major costs of legalization. Communities need to have the right financial tools. FCM will work hard, empowering local government. We Are The Future.

Anna Allen thanks Bill Karston , FCM.

10:20 – 10:35 – Break

10:35 – 11:20

Matt Kerrigan introduces Jim Abrahams- ClimAction Group: Climate Change, Extreme Weather and Municipal Infrastructure.

Biggest threat is flooding, due to climate change. Climate change will increase flooding, of fresh water and seal levels. Infrastructure is at risk due to aging. There will be 10 billion people by 2050. Air is warming, temperatures rising, ocean temperatures warming, ice caps melting, causing oceans rising 20-30 centimetres. Ocean is rising 1 meter by end of century. Insurance is up in cost (flood insurance). All governments know this is happening. We have biggest challenge; our infrastructure is aging. With “rain fall events:” we are all at risk. Municipalities are our first line of defence. There are not enough resources. We must focus on risks to infrastructure. People need to be aware of the risk. Insurances have done mapping of flood areas. They need to share these maps. Jim Abrahams has flood maps. Matt Kerrigan has Jim Abrahams Web-Site.

Questions/Comments

Christine Blair-Colchester County NS

Q: One of the things we are hearing with regards to Nova Scotia, dykes across from New Brunswick are wearing out, the CN Rail track is holding water back; what are risks NS becoming an island?

A: A Gale moved up the Bay of Fundy 1969. Storm surge was about 2 meters therefore 2 meters of water over top of the dykes. The sea has risen since then by 37 centimetres and is continuing to rise and the infrastructure of those dykes is an expensive thing. This is our fundamental transportation system between NS and NB. This is BIG. Natural Disaster waiting to happen.

Bill Martin-Summerside PEI

Comment: Our city installed 2 box culverts. We were laughed at; cartoonist were having a field day with it. We had an event in November where the water was a foot from top of storm box culvert.

Wayne Mason-DM Halifax NS

Comment: Water rising, and how fast is critical. Happening on coastal areas all the time. People are changing their way of life. Construction codes changing. Q: How fast do you see this becoming critical?

A: We are there right now. At high tide (storm) we are 20-25 centimetres higher. During Hurricane Juan there was flooding. People are getting this. Time has more than passed for municipalities to start talking about it and making tough decisions. It is a shared responsibility between governments.

Peter Muttart-Kings County NS

Comment: We need to have Provincial Government that recognizes where the allocation of the resources should go. To twin a highway to get near the town rather than protect the town from a flood is not comforting. We don't need to twin that highway, we NEED to rebuild those dykes to protect the land. And they don't have the money.

A: The Federal Government has infrastructure money, and Government wants provinces using that money that mitigates the impact of climate.

Martin Bell-DM Lunenburg District NS

Q: If there are very detailed maps to identify these flood plains, maybe these maps should be made public. Is it a danger that a municipality could be held accountable? How do we handle that?

A: It is not right to utilize a map done 100 years ago, 50 years ago, you can't go back, when you get new knowledge, you take advantage of new knowledge which needs to be shared. It is a political risk to do nothing, because when the insurance companies....when people start finding out that they are at risk, the insurance company knew they were at risk and the municipality didn't, that to me a bigger risk.

Anna Allen; Thank you so much for coming.

11:20 – 12:00

Mat Kerrigan introduces Colby Milne- Regional Economic Network and Fusion.

Who likes new opportunities? Who wants new business? Who wants new Residents? Our efforts should be about attraction, attraction, attraction. We see the advertisements, videos for tourism, nice big landscapes, all ocean front shots. This is just a sales pitch. We live in the most informed time in history. We need to look at attraction from a different stand point. Push verses Pull strategy – this is actually a marketing strategy. We spend a lot of money on trying to make or push ourselves on other people. Pull strategy is when consumers are seeking a product and looking for specific brands based on quality, goodwill. They are looking for something instead of trying to find it. People are looking for best options to meet their needs. Any business large or small is not going to relocate or invest in areas in , cities, region, town, that is not the right fit, and doesn't meet their needs, and is not ready for investment. You need to be able to create the culture, environment, sustainable community and support what you want to attract. If you have everything ready, people will see. We need to keep people here.

Immigration Retention Strategy – People will come through, but won't stay, unless there is employment, or places for children to learn and play. Make it easy for businesses to do business, this will keep businesses. Retention is not exciting. Retention is a way of saying we are investing in our businesses. We want to help the residents now. Stop chasing the new- start looking at the old. More appealing, more vibrant, when the "Pull" happens. "Push" needs to be followed by strong "Pull". All resources should go into the "Pull". Strong "Pull" creates strong ambassadors, empower residents and businesses, to be your ambassadors. If every person brought another person, that's significant. Focus on "right fit" . Start targeting people who will benefit from your resources, like universities, Bay of Fundy, natural assets, natural resources and FOLLOW THROUGH!

Questions/Comments

Jim MacLeod-CBRM NS

Comment: Great presentation. REN very important. What works in Valley, may not work in Cape Breton, Yarmouth. Halifax has no idea how the rest of NS goes. What you just said, we need a government that will start listening.

A: I agree. This can be done on a small scale. Let's try and sort through these things, let's try and empower our communities to pull this stuff together work together for larger piece of pie; example ; Burger Wars, competition at its finest. Start small.

Peter Muttart-Kings County NS

Comment: Thanks Colby, great presentation. I want to congratulate you on the approach that you identified that we all should be following, but you need people, resources to work on this for you, if you don't have them within your own municipality. I would like to comment on this business about

competition. There is a ripple effect. Annapolis Valley is an example. Whatever development occurs in Windsor, there is a ripple effect. Whatever happens it spills out.

Bill Martin-Summerside PEI

Q: How many REN's in NS?

A: There are 7 now.

Q: Are they all fully funded?

A: All partially funded by the province, and partially funded by the towns.

Anna Allen thanks Colby "You are an amazing young man"

12:00 – 1:00

Lunch Cedar Centre: Quiche with local cheese, Fresh Herb Salad, Cherry Squares dessert.

12:20 Pictures taken of Mayors.

1:00 – 1:40

Matt Kerrigan introduces Robert Fawcett, JD Irving, Robert John- Canadian Forest Service: The Spruce Budworm Program.

Robert Fawcett (Irving). I want to take a minute to think back to last year in Summerside. We talked about the Spruce Budworm. The government announced 75 million dollars to help fight this Spruce Budworm epidemic with this early intervention strategy that Robert Johns is going to speak about. I will leave brochures and business cards. Started tree planting in 1957, that year planted 3,000 trees. Now a good student plants 3,000 every day. We have come a long way. Also big news 2018 we are going to plant our 1 billionth tree. Introduces Robert Johns. Phase 2. Phase 1 started 4 years ago. All caterpillars start at pupa stage, that is when moth comes out. Over course of outbreak, does not take long before you see RED forest. 1970 enormous outbreak all across Canada. Spruce and Fir – 55 million hectares. 1992 – could not find anywhere. Lull for about 20 years. 2006 – started creeping up along North Shore, continue to spread since then.

Moths deliver their offspring to different areas. Larva do damage. Each moth carries 200 eggs. Early intervention is key – containment from North to South. A stagey looking at doing. 1. Monitoring of

where things are, hot spots. 2. Targeting those hot spots to slow that spread. 3. Monitoring if being effective, is this working. 4. Proactive with public, communication and engagement.

Our Hypothesis is, basically, that early detection and treatment of these populations will be an effective means. It's about the Healthy Forest partnership. Healthy budget this year. 74-75 million dollars. All levels of government to apply and test. All Atlantic Provinces on board, and will try to be as open as possible; where, when, what we are spraying. WWW. Healthy Forest Partnership.ca

Questions/Comments

Jim MacLeod – CBRM NS

Q: Are there any trees that can retain their needles, what about a tree that can resist or reject the Spruce Budworm?

A: Cannot completely make Budworm resistant trees, however, soon able to put something in seedling. Not a cure. Like a flu shot.

Jeff Cantwell – Wolfville NS

Q: Spray over water, what kind of life does it have?

A: 2 products being used ETK-bacterial pesticide -8 or 9 days, hormonal insecticide last 3 months.

Bill Mills – Truro NS

Q: First Nations water is sacred, Holy, I understand where they are coming from. Do you have any opposition from First Nations?

A: We have done a lot of outreach to First Nations. So far no push back, but concerns, more concerns about fish, wildlife. New Brunswick has spoken out.

Anna Allen thanks Robert Fawcett and Robert Johns.

1:40 – 2:20

Matt Kerrigan introduces Sara Beanlands- The Jewish Legion

Stories define us. Important we share our stories. Thank you for inviting me here to share this story about Windsor.

Training of the Jewish Legion at Fort Edward 1918. Not a typical war story. A story about a man who arrived a folk hero, but left as a soldier and a leader, destined to become the most important Jewish statesman in modern history.

1966 Robert Dimmick – Mayor of Windsor, wrote a letter to David Ben Gurian 1<sup>st</sup> Prime minister of State of Israel. We do not know what it said but we know the response, a copy is on display at Hants West Historical Society. David Ben Gurian served in Jewish Unit in Windsor to fight for the liberation of the land in Israel. “I will never forget Windsor”. He was 80 years old when he wrote these words.

1915 Ben Gurian boarded train in Boston bound for Nova Scotia. He was leader in Zionist movement, and already well known in Jewish circles. Took 3 days to travel from Boston to Windsor, with stops in Newport, Bangor, and Truro.

There is a picture of David Ben Gurian on display in Tower of London. the picture was taken in Windsor, where he first received his uniform. Early spring 1918, Hants Journal recorded that the boys are looking forward to the opening of the playing field and are already arranging baseball and football teams. (Jewish Legionaries). Evidently the Jewish recruits excelled at baseball winning at margins that embarrassed their opponents.

In general there was good rapport between Jewish Legionaries and local community of Windsor. Summer 1918 the Jewish troops help extinguish a forest fire which raged in the district for over a week. David Ben Gurian helped save Castle Frederick in Falmouth, which still stands today. David Ben Gurian spent little over a month in Windsor, final letter from fort Edward is dated July 9<sup>th</sup> 1918.

May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1948 David Ben Gurian became the first Prime Minister of the new state of Israel. As a young man he picked NS apples for pocket money. Fort Edward and Town of Windsor played important role in the development of the Jewish National Identity.

The Jewish Legion in Windsor was a significant event in the First World War, definitely in history of David Ben Gurian, and of Canada, it is most significant to the Jewish people around the world. 2018 is 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the training of the Jewish Legion in Windsor.

Past and existing members of the Atlantic Jewish Council, have come together and members of Hants West Historical Society, have come together to establish a Jewish Legion Centennial Society. You must understand David Ben Gurian is an extremely, extremely, important individual, certainly in Israel, and for most Jewish Communities around the world.

A Memorial site is proposed at the centennial swimming pool, over next couples of years. It will bring people from all over the world. Sept 16, of this year Windsor holding special event.

Questions/Comments

Bill Martin-Summerside PEI

Comment: (Teasing) Before we leave here , pass a resolution that Windsor National Capital of Firsts... He (David Ben Gurian) was the First Prime Minister of Israel... Hockey

A: Indeed.

Martin Bell-DM Lunenburg District, NS.

Q: Thank you for this story, I am ashamed, I have been a resident of NS for 60 plus years, I have not heard this story, just as important as Halifax explosion. I am really glad you made this story part of the conference.

Anna Allen thanks Sara Beanlands.

2:20 – 3:00

Matt Kerrigan introduces Sara Lee Lewis – Mermaid Theatre.

Mermaid was founded in Wolfville, 1972 and based in Windsor 1987. Theatre has 6 full time employees and 40 contract workers, with annual budget of 1.6 million dollars. We are one of Canadas major cultural employers.

Majority of audience, are under 7 years old. Serve as cultural ambassador for Windsor, for Nova Scotia, for Canada. What is interesting and sets us apart from other companies is 98% of earned revenue is generated outside of the Province.

Headquarters on Gerrish St. Windsor houses administration and we own and operate Mermaid Theatre Performing Art Centre on Gerrish, which features home town entertainment. We run the institute, the art of puppetry. It is a joy to welcome elementary school children who get to see the same Mermaid Production that their counter parts enjoy in Singapore, San Francisco, and Saskatoon. Our company is registered federally, provincial and in the U.S. as Non Profit. We put on show (puppetry) appearing in 26 states, 4 provinces, as well as China. We performed at an International Young Peoples Festival in Washington.

Our Mermaid Theatre and MIMAC have become a major community assist and our sold out shows at MIMAC benefits Windsor and local establishments and pubs.

Anna Allen thanks Sara for taking time to speak to us.

3:00 - 3:20

Break - Sponsored by Frank Cowan

3:20 – 4:00

Matt Kerrigan introduces Kathy Monroe and Catherine Jamieson of Makers.

Makers has 2 store fronts on Gerrish Street in Windsor. New Non- Profit organization.

We want to be a thread to pull the community together with goals to involve People from Halifax to Truro. We want to involve everyone of all ages, seniors who can pass lost skills on to younger people, from cooking classes and carpentry skills.

All our materials are donated, cloth for sewing, wool for knitting, wood and tools for carpentry.

We are really trying to get kids who fall through the cracks, to learn new skills. This is an informal setting. We have 3 floors each floor has different work- shops. We hope to have a safe place for teens to gather, to chat and a place to hang out. On the other side we have tables and cubbies to have coffee and conversation. Membership fee is \$100 per year. All materials are donated.

It is like a revival of the old time "Community Hall" with future programs for young teens.

Grand opening April 28.

Questions/Comments

Peter Muttart-Kings County NS

Q: How do you plan to pull people in?

A: Word of mouth, posters, and ads.

Anna Allen-Windsor NS

Q: How long from first imagined to now?

A: 1 year. Acquired space in February.

Bill Martin-Summerside PEI

Q: Where are you located?

A: 21 Gerrish Street, Windsor NS

Anna Allen thank you "They are making the Dream"

ATLANTIC MAYOR'S CONGRESS

WINDSOR NOVA SCOTIA

Friday April 27

8:00 – Breakfast at your accommodations

9:00 – 9:45

Matt Kerrigan introduces Joe Seagram- Head Master Kings Edgehill School

Joe thanks Mayors, knows what a difficult job it is being Mayor.

School started in 1778. Massive change in demographic, a shift in last 7 years. Our market has shrunk by 7%. Year 2000 – 20% fewer school age children in Atlantic provinces. We lead the nation in the Atlantic Regions in terms of fewer kids. Happening right across Canada.

Windsor, town of many firsts. The actual Swine Flu Vaccine you get is from our students, "Little Town of Big Firsts" (laughter). Students from China, Africa, 29 different countries and nationalities. They are not just coming to the school, they are living here, moving here, so their kids can attend the school.

Windsor, The Birthplace of Hockey. What a magnificent statement for the world to see and recognize. If we could have something "here" that would help celebrate The Birthplace of Hockey. Think of the

visitors that would come, annually. President Obama went to Cooperstown. Shows slides of link between the school and Long Pond.

Kings Edgehill oldest school outside of Britain 1776. Kings Edgehill brings 7.2 million dollars to Atlantic Canada. Will be building a dance studio, and a new regulated track and field. Community of Windsor uses the school's theatre, swimming pool, and will use the new track. Will be huge for the community. Purchased property from dill family, providing part of it for Hockey Heritage. Working with Town of Windsor. Putting it in the heart of the town, to celebrate the game of hockey.

Anna Allen thanks Joe Seagram.

9:45 – 10:15

Matt Kerrigan introduces Jennifer Taylor-VP Marketing and Member Relations Tourism Association of Canada.

Tourism is a fantastic industry. 2017 was 150 years. Celebration was fantastic for Canada with 94.7 billion dollars in tourism revenue. Significant economic driver for this country. Tourism employees over 700 thousand people in Canada. When I talk numbers most of time, I'm talking about those coming from outside Canada, coming into Canada.

Things are looking great for 2018. 120 Atlantic Canadians went to US to promote this region. From Atlanta to Philadelphia, New Jersey, and finally Boston. Now we are looking at Mexico, India, Brazil and China. China is a significant opportunity for all of us from coast to coast.

Every province has experienced growth. New Brunswick tourism spending estimated at 1.3 billion. Nova Scotia have 204 million non-resident visitors coming. PEI went from 433 million to 447 million non-residents in 2016. Newfoundland highest level of non-resident visitation and spending in the provinces history.

Canada is ranked 18. Federal Government focused on getting back to top 10, 31 % increase in international visitation, and doubling Chinese tourism by 2021. Tourism is everyone's business, everyone should be at the table. 95 million dollars for Destination Canada. Canada-China relations a priority. We are up 47% of Mexican visitors coming to Canada.

More money going into culinary, which is a big thing now. LGBTQ tourism huge investment and making sure parks are intergrading with the Indigenous theme.

Anna Allen thanks Jennifer.

10:15 – 10:30

Break – Sponsored by MCT Insurance

10:30 –11:40

## MAYORS ROUNDTABLE

Jeff Cantwell-Wolfville NS

After Joe Seagram's presentation we are in support of The Hockey Heritage Centre as hockey is Canada's National Winter Sport and core piece of our culture and heritage, and where as hockey has known to have its first game at Long Pond Windsor Nova Scotia, therefore being resolved at Atlantic Mayors Congress to support the location of The Hockey Heritage Arena Centre at Long Pond Windsor Nova Scotia, I will move that: Peter Muttart second, all in favour, please raise your hands. Passed unanimously

Anna Allen- That will help in our promoting and fundraisers, to have support from the Atlantic Regions.

Wayne Mason-DM Halifax, NS. Anna you and your staff, this has been great. Registry of Joint Stocks has not been updated (The Mayors Congress) expired 2011. I would suggest, financial transparency, motion for staff to update Registry of Stocks, current board, officer information, address, update budget, detailed financials. I'd like to make that motion. seconded. *Matt Kerrigan-NSRJS -we will update our registration. Web Site -We had a group in Halifax doing it for us, web-site they disappeared.* Wayne Mason-Happy to help Matt Kerrigan. Loved to see web-site up to date all the time. Let the minutes be pretty full about the discussion around this, otherwise it would seem there is a problem around this and I don't think there is. The main argument about being registered in Nova Scotia, it can be any province, PEI, or Newfoundland, It just easier \$25.00. Federal is more expensive.

Anna Allen- All in favour of the motion? Unanimous approval.

Jeff Cantwell- Wolfville, NS. Fantastic few days. Wolfville area; we are trying to formalize our relationship with Acadia. with recreation program with Acadia which they do very well. On commercial side of things, Cidery coming to Wolfville, will be a boon to Downtown. In September, a former United Church, changing to Craft Beer, Micro Brewery, a booming business.

Bill Martin-Summerside PEI. Anna, you did a tremendous job. In terms of what is happening in Summerside; If you recall Credit Union Place, all that property, we will be launching a 4 -star Hotel will be built there. We are putting up a 51 affordable apartments in a building, downtown, which not only provides affordable housing also populates downtown. Joint venture with Samsung to build 65 million dollar solar farm, hooked up to utility cable, battery. This same system has potential to be used in 150 Northern Canada Communities. Exciting things in the hopper.

Peter Muttart-Kings County NS. Municipality of Kings, things look really really, good. Agriculture sector, provides 1% of tax base. We have great communications with our towns. Economy looks great, tourism looks great. Working on a Solar Farm. Working on the Broad Band issue. We have zoned southwest portion of our municipality, which includes a few thousand acres of land (not residential); municipal planning strategy as an alternate energy zone. All those opportunities. Agriculture community doing

well. Things are good. I'm encouraging everyone to create partnerships amongst us. I have enjoyed the Congress.

Geoff Stewart-UNSM- Thank you for hosting and hospitality over the last couple of days. The rebranding exercise is coming to a close and the Conference in Yarmouth, we will be unveiling new logo and the web-site will go live in Yarmouth. We will then be called The Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, unveiled in 2 short weeks in Yarmouth. We continue to work with the Municipal Affairs and AMA on municipal modernization. There is a round table type of discussion second week of May in Halifax, some in this room will be attending. Ministers round table coming up same week, right now in the middle of our regional meeting getting ready for up coming Fall Conference on resolutions and priorities on what's been done and what's been accomplished and where we go with that. Partnership agreement will be updated in the next couple of weeks. We will begin discussions with the government on where these are and what effects on individual municipalities.

Tony Keats-MNL- Thank you for your hospitality. We just signed contract 700 thousand dollars, website, tool kits, 5 regional pods. The goal is to develop municipalities to adapt practices to welcome immigrants, new comers to our communities. Good to integrate those into our communities. We had 3 regional meeting in last couple months. Brings us closer into closer approach to our members, 60-80 communities come to our events. Our symposium is coming up in Gander. 3 days of meetings and sessions. The New Municipalities Act. The government just did the first review, not been done since 1973. We are the last in Canada to get done and refreshed. We are very busy.

Christine Blair-Colchester County NS- Thank you for hosting, I enjoyed every moment. One of the first things I did upon becoming mayor was to sign a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs in Nova Scotia asking that a REN be set up for the partners of Truro Colchester, the town of Stewiacke and Nova First Nations and working with the Chamber of Commerce, Colchester Chamber of Commerce. This is something that we now have, board of directors that consists of business people, we have a liaison oversight committee that includes Municipal people and we have funding intact and hired a CEO. He is a "dynamo". We have a Debert Business Park and a Debert Airport. We completed branding for new business park. We have replaced some infrastructure, we are in process of new water tower, sewer lines have been replaced. We're planning on building a round-a-bout of exit 13 going into the park and have land there for sale. In the airport which is Former WW2 airport. We have Cadets there we have a flying school, we do have a new navigation system and automated weather observation system and we are consulting with Halifax International Airport. This is a prime location right on 100 series highway, 1 hour away from Halifax-rail is available. We also have an archeological site, comes under the Confederacy of Mi'kmaq, where we will have people coming from around the world to see that facility. Agriculture Centre very important as is for rest of the province. We have the educational facility through Dalhousie Agriculture Campus. We have industry that is strong in the area. Looking at Fundy Discovery Site, at the head of the bay-10 acres of prime land-5 years fully developed, 20 million dollar project, partner with Town of Truro. Right now Phase 1. Looking at Geo Park, process of doing application now. Issues with Internet Services, rural area. Work very closely with town of Truro. We have joint meetings. Meet regularly with Mayor Mills, Mayor Robinson of Stewiacke, Chief of Millbrook First Nations. Did not raise taxes this year. We have a debt service ratio just over 9%. The external

issues that we have no control over are the provincial bills, education, policing and so on, about 48% of our budget goes towards those. We are very busy.

Percy Farwell-Gander NL- Thanks so much for hospitality. This is my first Mayors Congress. I've enjoyed it. You had a nice line up of speakers. Few things going on in the town of Gander. One that you probably heard, the whole exposure the community is getting as result of post 9/11, and the recognition the community is getting. A lot of interest, a lot of tourist. Gander has been more of a service centre for the surrounding tourism than it has been for a focal point. Lot of people coming because of the story, the musical. We are working feverishly to coordinate with the surrounding areas too. It was not Gander alone. We want to be ready when people start showing up. a lot of interest coming out of US. Getting calls at the Tourism Office, calls to Bus Tour Companies. This will hopefully help central Newfoundland. We are involved with some infrastructure projects currently. We mandated to conform to waste water standards by 2020. We're in the middle of 30 plus million dollar project to renew our waste treatment facilities. We are trying to invest in recreational structure. Gander tends to be centre for special events conferences. You just can't stand still. I was very interested in Joe Seagram's presentation this morning about track facilities. We are looking at exactly that. Hospital in Gander is major referral centre. We have challenges in relation to family physicians and health specialists.

Craft brewery opening soon too in Gander. We are very excited about the airport in Gander. It is getting major renovations to the terminal. It's the reason the community exists not the other way around. Although not something that will not be financed by the municipality, we will be very actively engaged in lobbying for their funding.

Martin Bell-Lunenburg District NS- I found this a good learning experience. I particularly liked this girl yesterday about the Jewish Legion. I lived in NS all my live, I drove by that Fort Edward Block House yesterday, I never knew the story behind it. You demonstrated this small town can host an event like this and do it well. We gave a one-year notice that we are withdrawing from REN. On the south shore we want to no longer be associated with that, as did the town of Bridgewater, as did the district of Chester? We felt that under the current structure that the people in Halifax advising us how to run the REN are out of touch with how we do business on the south shore. We do plan on having some form of REN, but it is going to be more on our terms instead of the provinces, and with that comes all the scary stories that they suggest could happen to us. But I am quite confident that we will still be there in a year or two, with regards to unification of partnerships, on the other hand what we have been doing with the municipal joint services board, we have intergraded our IT services, but currently grouping together our building inspectors and fire inspectors so that we will be doing inspections in the town to make those lines disappear and work out of one office. We started a few years ago with the recycle and waste site and that worked well. and also, we are looking at recreation, as we will be able to fit under that jointly. We are trying to find ways that we can work together but under our terms, rather than have someone dictate to us and we are not necessarily finding that we are saving money doing this, but what we are finding is that we can get back on permits quicker, the turnaround ran quicker and the people who live in the area find it easier. Sometimes our policies and bylaws didn't line up completely together.

We did have one successful internet project that we did. We found it was costly but it did bring internet to 280 more homes than what we had. The centre of our district doesn't have high speed internet and this is really affecting the real estate market in our area. This is a serious problem that needs to be addressed. We are willing to partner with groups. We are willing to take the lead but we were kind of upset with the funding announcement with the ISP. We are not necessarily looking to start a public utility with internet but we have looked at some models out of Alberta and some out of Quebec. We looked at area rates but that sometimes encompasses people who may not get the service and ending up to pay for it. So, we thought with co-op method it was a friendlier one. What we are trying to do this year is update our sub-division by-laws, haven't been done for 18 years, and how it affects municipal roads and private roads. Now we have found that this has been a very hot topic, and we have had no trouble filling our council chambers. We are getting a rude awakening about what people expect now, so we have to make some changes. I understand that Mayor Mills from Truro was putting in a road maintenance tax this year and I would like to hear about that. HRM has really pioneered this road issue to the fact that you require municipal roads to be built to a hard surface. We actually think that is a good thing. But I need to tell you people say they "want it like HRM". We want our councillors to give us proper roads, safe roads and roads that will allow two fire trucks to pass in an event of an emergency.

We purchased 17 acres on Sherbrook Lake for a municipal park. This might not seem strange, but it is when the park and land is in a different municipal district than your own. We want access to the lake. We did with public input. One of the biggest projects we have started this year a replacement for any people on the LeHarve River to have straight pipes that run raw sewage from their homes into that water supply. 18 million dollar partnership between the Federal Government, Provincial Government and ourselves. We will be passing our budget shortly. We will be about 29.7 million and with our long term and short-term funding we will be debt free in 2021. People do expect local government to do something to help. I thank you for the opportunity.

Wayne Mason-DM Halifax NS- We passed our budget, I am happy with this. I will get to the stuff that matters with this group. Peter has talked about it and Jeff, a little bit, about trails and tourism.

Interesting to see the first identified trail coming into Halifax is the Rum Runners Trail, coming out of south shore. Rum Runners Trail could provide an excursion all the way to Lunenburg which is "huge". All the stuff we are trying to do with tourism and business attraction in Halifax is very much about selling "hallo" around us and the entire people living in Atlantic Canada and none of the things we're doing are strictly about Halifax by itself. For example, of the big things we have in front of the Feds right now, we need to expand our Cruise Port and get a plan to put space over on the Dartmouth side at what we used to call the "coal pier". Maybe we can put two cruise ships over there. That just won't help Dartmouth it will help the entire port and region. We are not competing with anyone in this room. We are competing with Toronto and Montreal. We had 3.3 million visitors at the water front last year, and its over crowded. We need to spread it out. I want to close by saying, Halifax is really a welcoming place, Mayor Savage, has made that a priority.

Craig Pollett-MNL- Tony our president gave a great overview of our big issues. One thing I'm going to mention is, we've been working with our RGM, asking the province to ban the use of single use plastic

bags. They have been pushing back very hard. One thing they can do to show the public that something can happen, because right now nothing is happening. They have been spinning their wheels on what may happen 10 years from now. We have had 2 resolutions and you can't bring the same resolution more than twice. There is a huge amount of public support for it. I've been reading that in NS there are issues now about what gets into the landfill. There are all kinds of their plastics that need to be dealt with as well. This should be put on the agenda at next meeting.

Nancy Dicks-New Glasgow NS- We have completed a 5.2-million-dollar treatment plant expansion. We had a young student in a science fair recently, who has gone on to nationals, who tested water, different waters and New Glasgow water came out on top.

We are also doing a hospital expansion. We have finished phase 1, our emergency department, and now into phase 2, pharmacy department. This is a cost sharing initiative between the province and the municipalities.

We are in the process of a sale of our old stadium property which has been on going challenge. We are hoping for the right person to come along with the right vision for that area. We believe we have found that. We also have a municipal heritage building downtown for sale, again, would have to go to a person that had a vision for it and understand the importance of restoring it.

We have Race Relations Committee. We are the home town of the Viola Desmond story, not where she is from, but where the whole incident happened, that created a lot of conversation. I think this has brought some heightened conversation around culture and sensitivity to our community. We are really trying to be proactive with that and find ways to be intentionally engaging, with our black community, which is a large community in our town. In Pictou County we can't get much past a year without major controversy in our community. Now we are facing controversy of our Northern Pulp Industry. We have all our neighbours, New Brunswick and PEI becoming involved in this situation. It has significantly divided our community to the point where our employees at Northern Pulp are almost afraid to go to certain events. We are going to keep our fingers crossed. We have until 2020 the whole department will be shut down and a decision has to be made before then about what is going to happen.

Anna Allen-Mayor Windsor, NS- There has been a big shift in our community. What Joe Seagram showed you originally about downtown, he took the worst of the worst unfortunately. The Windsor Town Council has been very adamant about looking after derelict buildings. We tore down three. One was a big facility and two were homes. We are being very strict about derelict places. The two that you saw have to do with ownership. There is interest out there, but the owner wants 1 million for his property. We have done a lot in our town. I challenge anybody to try to rent downtown right now. There are a couple places for rent, but other than that we are full house in town. At our last meeting I couldn't say that.

We do have a development plan in town for the Hockey Heritage Centre When it is complete- Look out. Happy Community Project – I don't know if anyone has heard – it's going crazy. This man lives outside of

town. He wanted to start "The Happy Community" project. Many, many volunteers are helping, bring people together like never before. So many projects going on to bring the community. A lot is going on in this community it's amazing and I am thrilled about. I would like to thank you all so much for coming. We have three Newfoundlanders that is awesome, such a long distance. to come, and PEI. I thank Matt one of the originals. And what can I say about this girl....thank you VenEssa.

Matt Kerrigan- Thanks Anna Allen and VenEssa in particular, and thanks to all of Mayors for coming, because you bring all the energy and the fascinating dynamics to these meetings.

We are going to St Johns. Look at the last couple of weeks in October. 17-19 or 24-26 of October. Wednesday to Friday.. Probably October 17-19th.

I will let you know.

Meeting Adjourned !!

