



TOWN OF STELLARTON

PO Box 2200 Stellarton, NS B0K 1S0

Phone: 752-2114 Fax: 755-4105

www.stellarton.ca

**Committee of the Whole
Agenda
March 23, 2026
5:30 PM
Large Committee Room**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
- 3. Presentation: Carissa Ainslie, Executive Director, Creative Pictou County**
- 4. Approval of Previous Minutes – February 26, 2026**
- 5. Business Arising from the Minutes**
- 6. Correspondence:**
 - a) Warden Nicholas MacInnis, Municipality of the County of Antigonish, Re:
Letter of support for Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty**
- 7. Volunteer of the Year Selection**
- 8. Request for Support, National Big Chair Month**
- 9. Council Committee Updates**
- 10. Round Table**
- 11. Next meeting date: April 27, 2026**
- 12. Adjournment**

**TOWN OF STELLARTON
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
February 26, 2026**

MEETING

A Committee of the Whole meeting of Stellarton Town Council was held on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the large Committee Room, Stellarton Town Hall.

PRESENT

Chair Deputy Mayor G. Pentz, Councillor S. Campbell, Councillor S. Eis, Councillor M. Fortune, and Mayor D. Stroud. Also, present CAO A. Grover.

1. **Call to Order** Chair G. Pentz called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved on motion Councillor M. Fortune, seconded by Councillor S. Eis as amended. Amendments: add Property Issues as Item 3 and combine Meeting Minutes and Creative Pictou County grant request with Item 7. **Motion Carried.**

Planner, Roland Burek submitted his regrets and will not be presenting at this evening's meeting.

3. **Property Issues**

Councilor S. Eis raised concerns regarding a rental property on Fairview Avenue following a resident complaint. The resident expressed frustration with the lack of resolution after contacting the owner and property manager.

A Grover advised that the Police Department is monitoring the area and will refer any warranted matters to Street Crime. The issue will also be raised at the next Police Commission Board meeting. Residents are encouraged to report concerns through the police non-emergency line or Crime Stoppers.

4. **Approval of Previous Minutes – February 2, 2026.**

The February 2, 2026 minutes were approved as presented on motion Councillor M. Fortune seconded by Councillor S. Campbell. Motion Carried.

5. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Crosswalk and Lighting: A Grover advised that the Police Chief and Town Engineer are reviewing the crosswalk, noting there is currently not streetlight at the location and options to improve visibility are being explored.

6. **Correspondence**

- Pictou County Partnership Oversight Committee: Business plan currently under review.
- Police Commission: Meeting schedule for next week.
- Glen Haven Manor Committee: Meeting scheduled with governance discussions ongoing.
- Pioneer Coal: Meeting scheduled next week.

11. Round Table

- Councillor M. Fortune raised a snow removal concern on Fairview Avenue, which will be referred to Public Works.
- In response to a Tax Sale question by Councillor M. Fortune, A Grover clarified that under the Municipal Government Act, councillors, staff, and their spouses cannot bid on tax sale properties and noted that Lori Dunbar, who looks after the town tax sale, will issue a letter referencing this provision.

12. Next meeting date: March 23, 2026

13. Adjournment Councillor S. Campbell.

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

285 Beech Hill Road, Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4
Web antigonishcounty.ca
Tel (902) 863-1117
Fax (902) 863-5751

February 12, 2026

The Honourable Tim Houston
Premier of Nova Scotia
Office of the Premier
7th Floor, One Government Place
1700 Granville Street
Halifax, NS B3J 1X5

Dear Premier Houston,

RE: Letter of support for Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty

On behalf of the Municipality of the County of Antigonish, I am writing to express our support for the concerns raised by the Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty (ACEP) regarding the need to increase social assistance and disability support rates in Nova Scotia.

Council recognizes the important work being done by ACEP and its member organizations in supporting individuals and families across Antigonish and Guysborough Counties. We are aware of the growing pressures facing residents as costs for housing, food, energy, and other essential needs continue to rise. Many individuals and families in our communities rely on social assistance and disability benefits to meet their basic daily needs.

While we acknowledge the announced 1.6% increase to social assistance and disability rates for 2026, Council shares the concern that this adjustment does not keep pace with inflation or the rising cost of living. As outlined in ACEP's letter, current benefit levels remain below established poverty thresholds, including the Market Basket Measure. Without more substantial increases, many individuals and families will continue to experience significant financial hardship.

The Municipality supports ACEP's call for a meaningful increase to social assistance and disability support rates, with the goal of ensuring that Nova Scotians are able to meet their basic needs and live with dignity. Addressing poverty strengthens not only individuals and families, but also the overall health and resilience of our communities.

We respectfully encourage your government to carefully consider these concerns and to engage in further discussion with community partners, including ACEP, to identify solutions that better support vulnerable Nova Scotians.

Sincerely,



Warden Nicholas MacInnis
Municipality of the County of Antigonish

CC: all Nova Scotia Municipalities

[Draft] National Big Chair Month - May

From alanna.grover@stellarton.ca

From: Ian Turner <whsbobcats@hotmail.com>
Sent: March 2, 2026 7:10 PM
To: Paige Draper <Paige.Draper@Stellarton.ca>
Subject: National Big Chair Month - May

Hi Paige,

National Big Chair Month doesn't exist, so let's start it. Pictou and Westville are on board. The main goal is to get people out and get pictures on the big chair in your town. Perhaps share their photos on their social media or your town facebook page. The following is an AI generated email.

Hello,

We're inviting communities across Canada to participate in a new national spring initiative: National Big Chair Month, proposed for May.

National Big Chair Month is designed to launch the community season — celebrating connection, pride, creativity, and people coming back together after winter. Oversized Big Chairs act as landmarks, storytelling stages, and photo magnets that signal one clear message:

“Our community is open, welcoming, and ready for the season.” Come get your picture taken and share it with others.

Why May

May is the ideal moment. It's when communities re-emerge, tourism planning begins, volunteers mobilize, and public spaces come back to life. By placing National Big Chair Month in May, communities gain momentum heading into summer rather than competing with it.

How the Month Works

Each week of May features a national theme. Communities may participate in one week or all four, adapting activities to suit local culture, scale, and resources.

Week 1 – Leaders, Builders & Volunteers

Celebrate elected leaders, first responders, municipal crews, service clubs, and volunteers — the people who hold communities together.

Week 2 – Families, Friends & Neighbours

Highlight families, youth, seniors, returning residents, and community groups with welcoming photo moments and gatherings.

Week 3 – Animals, Land & Working Life

Feature pets, farm animals, fishers, farmers, wildlife organizations, and rural life through fun, authentic storytelling and engagement.

Week 4 – Art, Culture & Creative Expression

Invite artists, musicians, makers, and cultural groups to transform the Big Chair into a canvas, stage, or symbol of local identity.

What Participation Offers

- A strong visual landmark for your community
- Easy social media and media engagement
- Tourism and downtown activation
- Flexible, low-barrier programming
- A positive, shareable national narrative

Flexible by Design

Communities may:

- Use an existing Big Chair or create a temporary installation
- Participate in one theme or the full month
- Align activities with existing events or festivals

National Big Chair Month is about starting the season together — one big seat at a time.

If your community, organization, or event would like to participate or collaborate, we'd love to connect.

Warm regards,

Ian Turner

Big Chairs by Ian Turner

Ian Turner

See Facebook page [Big Chairs by Ian Turner](#)