



Town and Gown Committee Meeting

December 18, 2023

10:00am

Council Chambers
Town Hall, 359 Main St

Agenda

Call to Order

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Committee Meeting, October 5, 2023

3. Public Input / Question Period

PLEASE NOTE:

- Public Participation is limited to 30 minutes.
- Each Person is limited to 3 minutes and may return to speak once, for 1 minute, if time permits within the total 30-minute period.
- Questions or comments are to be directed to the Chair.
- Comments and questions that relate to personnel, current or potential litigation issues, or planning issues for which a public hearing has already occurred, but no decision has been made by Council, will not be answered.

4. Presentation

- a. Red Spruce Counselling Centre project, Tanya Surrette Kelly
Brenton & Birdie Bezanson
- b. Wolfville Housing Needs, Devin Lake



5. Old Business

- a. 2023-2024 Town & Gown Workplan – Results to Date
(*attachment*)

6. New Business:

- a. 2024-2025 Town & Gown Workplan – Initial Process
Discussion

7. Round Table

8. Next Meeting

- January 22, 2024

9. Adjournment

BRIDGING THE MENTAL HEALTH GAP IN RURAL NOVA SCOTIA

2023-10-20 12:00

ACADIA'S MASTER OF EDUCATION COUNSELLING PROGRAM OPENS DOORS TO A NEW COMMUNITY COUNSELLING CENTRE, RED SPRUCE MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE.

Red Spruce Mental Health Centre, an integral component of Acadia University's [Master of Education \(MEd\)](#) Counselling Program, is proud to announce the opening of its doors. The Centre will provide graduate counselling students invaluable experiential learning opportunities and help address mental health care disparities for rural Nova Scotians without counselling access.

"As an innovative mental health support and education model, the Centre provides responsive counselling services to individuals, groups, couples, and families while fostering professional growth for future counselling professionals through Acadia University's MEd Counselling Program," explains Dr. Corinne Haigh, Dean of Faculty of Professional Studies.

The developmental journey of the Red Spruce Mental Health Centre was initiated by research excursions to North Carolina to engage with programs embracing a CCERC (Community Counselling, Education, and Research Centre) model focused on multiculturalism, equity, justice, and love. Inspired by these tenets, Acadia faculty partnered with The Red Door Youth Health and Support Centre in Kentville as their first community partner, welcoming their first clients on September 10. Simultaneously, Red Spruce Mental Health Centre, located at the newly renovated Willett House on campus, opened its doors to clients on September 25, with full operational capacity slated for early 2024.

"The hands-on learning opportunities at Red Spruce Mental Health Centre allow graduate counselling students to gain supervised practicum experience at two strategic locations while offering free services to those without professional access while prioritizing equity and inclusion," says Dr. Tanya Surette, co-founder of the Red Spruce and Associate Professor in the School of Education.

Surette says the innovative approach aligns with the Nova Scotia Office of Addictions and Mental Health mandate to provide essential mental healthcare for underserved Nova Scotians. By enhancing Acadia University's nationally accredited MEd Counselling Program, Red Spruce Mental Health Centre bridges the gap for rural communities through transformative learning experiences steeped in social justice.

With the potential to provide over 8,000 hours of counselling services annually, Red Spruce Mental Health Centre will service more than 300 clients who lack access to mental health care annually. The Centre will offer part-time and full-time practicum placements for up to 40 students.

"Red Spruce Mental Health Centre symbolizes reciprocity in action. Our students will be a part of the solution to address the mental health needs of Nova Scotians without accessible, community-based counselling services. Through this community care model, students will demonstrate a commitment to practices of social justice, equity, and responsiveness while developing their skills as compassionate counsellors. We are proud to realize this long-discussed vision within our program," says Dr. Kelly Brenton, co-founder of the Red Spruce and Assistant Professor in the School of Education.

Since its conception, Red Spruce Mental Health Centre has developed in close partnership with Acadia's Counselling Centre. It will support the campus counselling centre through intake sessions and counselling appointments to reduce wait times for Acadia students needing mental health support.

"Our partnership with Red Spruce Mental Health Centre greatly enhances our ability to support students and the community with essential mental health resources. We are dedicated to our shared values and goals and excited about the positive impact this collaboration will have," says Erica McGill, Director of Health, Counselling, and Accessible Learning at Acadia.



(L-R) Counselling faculty Tanya Surette, Ahlam Rahal, Kelly Brenton, and Birdie Bezanson

PARTNERSHIPS AND ACCREDITATIONS

Acadia University's MEd Counselling Program is one of only four institutions in Canada to be nationally accredited. A vital factor in securing this accreditation was embedding experiential learning throughout the program, including two practicums under close supervision. "It's inspiring and invigorating to see this innovative and impactful centre come to life, a centre that represents the mission and priorities of our school for transformative education towards the development of leaders in the counselling profession," says Dr. Janet Dymont, Director of the School of Education, and enthusiastic supporter of the Red Spruce.

With no current access to counselling for its clients, the [Red Door Youth Health and Support Centre](#) became an ideal location for students in the MEd Counselling Program to provide counselling services through a partnership with the Red Spruce as a satellite location.

"We're thrilled to partner with Acadia University's MEd Counselling Program and Red Spruce Mental Health Centre, which has the potential to provide much-needed mental health support for our community," says Erin Eavis, Office Manager with the Red Door.

Erin Gaudet, a current student from the MEd Counselling Program and first intern at the Red Spruce Mental Health Centre, expressed their appreciation for this partnership: "I'm honoured to have been asked to help pilot this partnership. There is such a need for accessible mental health support, and The Red Door is a beautiful space to offer these services to a population which includes folks in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community."



Christina Forgeron, current full-time student working at Willett location

MOVING FORWARD

This initiative has been possible due to the dedication and support of various individuals who believe in the incredible potential of Red Spruce Mental Health Centre, explained Surette, adding that a Harrison McCain Foundation Award and funding through Acadia's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Institutional Grant have supported the project's research component.

To reach its full potential, Red Spruce Mental Health Centre requires funding for needed infrastructure and sustainable funding for a full-time coordinator position.

ABOUT RED SPRUCE COUNSELLING CENTRE

The Red Spruce Mental Health Centre is an educational, research, and community-focused initiative to provide no-cost, accessible mental health services to rural Nova Scotians. Serving as an essential resource for Acadia University's Master of Education Counselling Program, Red Spruce allows students to gain hands-on experience while positively impacting the lives of individuals without access to counselling services.


[Go back](#)

HELPFUL LINKS

[Contact Us](#)
[myAcadia](#)
[Career Opportunities](#)

[Safety & Security](#)
[Cookie Policy](#)
[Media Centre](#)

[Report a Website Issue](#)

 Acadia University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw nation.

[MEDIA CENTRE](#)

[COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE](#)

MEDIA CONTACT

Robyn McBain
Director, Brand and Marketing
media_relations@acadiau.ca
[902-585-1705](tel:902-585-1705)

Memorandum of Understanding

Town of Wolfville, Acadia University and Acadia Students' Union

2023-24 Workplan (updated December 18, 2023)

Administrative Leads

Town of Wolfville: Erin Beaudin, CAO

Acadia University: Ian Murray, Chief External Relations Officer, Acadia University

ASU: Alicia Johnson, General Manager, Acadia Students' Union

Delivering on Principles

<i>Deliverable</i>	<i>Working Group</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress to Date</i>
<p>Explore Options for Partnership to Meet Equity and Anti-Racism Requirements for Public Bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider formation of a joint committee and plan and make recommendations to Acadia and the Town to inform the 2024-25 Budget Process • Review 2023-24 Town Initiatives • Action Joint initiatives 	Barb Shaw, Allison Smith, Polly Leonard, Kaden Thibault, Marjorie Lewis	August – December 2023	The Town has identified three initiatives for this fiscal year and there are some natural synergies and partnerships with Acadia. The Soups and Sides Program at the Farmers Market was a success and discussions are underway to see if the program can be sustainable long-term. The Town is in the process of hiring an Acadia International Student to make recommendations for the rejuvenated Host Family Program.
<i>Deliverable</i>	<i>Working Group</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate and co-fund a Welcome Event for Acadia Students and Community Members 	Nick Zamora, Barb Shaw, James Sanford	September 4, 2023	This event was very successful, with several hundred students and residents attending.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate on promoting local Indigenous cultural and learning 	Ian Murray, Barb Shaw, Nick Zamora	September 2023 – May 2024	No progress to report. There is an opportunity to partner on Truth and Reconciliation

<p>opportunities to both University and Town</p>			<p>Events, Mid-Winter Feast and to bring in a series of Indigenous Speakers throughout the year. Acadia has commenced a search to fill the vacant Associate Vice-President of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism position and is awaiting the return of its Coordinator of Indigenous Affairs (in May 2024) who has been on secondment.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review shared accessibility challenges and opportunities • Review key events to determine if barriers have been created (ie Convocation, Remembrance Day) 	<p>James Sanford, Barb Shaw</p>	<p>January – March 2024</p>	<p>The Chair of the Town’s Accessibility Committee participated alongside faculty, staff, and representatives from the ASU at the Accessibility Foundations Workshop held 6 December 2023 at Acadia. A meeting of the two Accessibility Committees will be scheduled in the new calendar year.</p>

Economic Development

<i>Deliverable</i>	<i>Working Group</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress to Date</i>
<p>Develop a process for partnership on Key Annual Events between Events Acadia and the Town of Wolfville</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine appropriate levels of annual funding • Determine how annual events will be chosen • Develop a template for reporting outcomes to stakeholder 	Nick Zamora, Tanya Colburne, Erin Beaudin, Ian Murray	June – November 2023	<p>Events Acadia has presented to Town Council and funding by the Town was provided for bids for the 2024 NS Music Week and the 2025 Curling Olympic Pre-Trials. There is more work to be done on determining a base annual amount of funding and to develop a regular reporting template for results. Discussions with Events Acadia have been positive, Director Tanya Colburne being receptive and eager for more fulsome collaboration.</p>
<p>Develop a comprehensive plan to promote social, cultural, entertainment, educational, and sporting activities open to the public.</p>	Nick Zamora, Tanya Colburne, Francois Cote, Sports Information Acadia Athletics	November 2023-March 2024	<p>Preliminary discussions were held with Tanya Colburne about how public events can be shown on the Acadia events calendar. Improvements to the events calendar on Acadia’s website have been made to better facilitate access by citizens and information sharing generally. The calendar can be found by visiting: Event Calendar - Acadia University</p>
<i>Deliverable</i>	<i>Working Group</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress to Date</i>
<p>Create Awareness of Economic Development Resources at Acadia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town update and tour of Acadia’s STEAM space • Town update and tour from Acadia’s ICE (Industry and 	Ian Murray, Erin Beaudin	September 2023 – July 2024	<p>June 2023 – Tour of ICE space with Town Council and REN Acadia’s VP Student Experience presented an update on Acadia’s enrolment strategy to Committee of the Whole on October 3, 2023.</p>

Community Engagement)			
--------------------------	--	--	--

Facilities, Infrastructure and Environment

<i>Deliverable</i>	<i>Working Group</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress to Date</i>
Pilot Pickleball Facility on Campus in Tower Community Park, Inform Final Location Recommendations for Parks Master Plan	Nick Zamora, Brian Finnis, Tanya Colburne	June – November 2023	Usage over the summer was monitored. The facility was well used. Council is considering their 24-25 Capital Budget and is interested in exploring continuing a temporary arrangement at Acadia with some court improvements until a permanent site can be selected.
Collaborate on Regional Recreation Facility Next Steps and Develop a Medium-Term Plan for the Acadia Pool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine Annual Funding Contribution • Develop Template for Reporting Pool Usage and How Contributions are Spent • Continue to engage with Acadia on the Regional Recreation Facility 	Nick Zamora, Brian Finnis, Erin Beaudin, Ian Murray, Darrel Youden	June – November 2023	Brief discussion was held between Darrell Youden and Erin Beaudin on the Acadia pool contribution. Some hesitancy was expressed by Acadia to have an annual funding amount specified or provided by the Town (related to expectations management) Pending confirmation of Acadia’s request, Brian Finnis to provide further information on a potential annual level of funding and how it would be used.
Review Acadia’s Housing study, Advanced Education’s Housing study, and Wolfville’s Housing Needs Assessment to inform a discussion on an integrated housing/affordable housing strategy	Marcel Falkenham, Devin Lake, Darrell Youden, Erin Beaudin	November 2023— April 2024	SCION was back in early October for further consultations. He University should be ready to share results early in 2024. The Housing Needs Assessment is now public and will be presented to Town and Gown in December. Mayor Donovan hosted a preliminary discussion, attended by Acadia staff and faculty, on non-market housing needs on November 22, 2023. Mayor Donovan and Ian Murray participated in a virtual townhall-style information session offered by the Town and Gown Association of Ontario (TGAO) focused on student housing strategies and featuring research

			conducted by Dr. Luisa Sotomayor from York University.
<p>Collaborate on Sustainability opportunities per the UN SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow food/locally sourced • Carbon footprint • Acadia Farm 	Jodie Noiles, Lindsay Slade	November 2023- March 2024	<p>President Hennessy hosted a panel discussion on Zero Hunger (UNSDG #2 Zero Hunger), an interdisciplinary perspective on sustainable development. This event showcased Acadia research, teaching, and service from the Faculties of Arts, Professional Studies, and Pure and Applied Science</p> <p>https://sustainability.acadiau.ca/un-sustainable-development-goals/president-s-panel-on-zero-hunger.html</p>

Community Well-Being

<i>Deliverable</i>	<i>Working Group</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress to Date</i>
Complete Feasibility Study for Community Safety Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee and inform work of Dr. Schneider • Ensure consultation with key stakeholders is completed • Secure funding for pilot 	Patrick Difford, Barb Shaw, Chad Johnstone, Sam Taylor	August 2023 – February 2024	Pilot funding was secured for \$35,000 between Acadia and the Town. Work is underway and a final report expected in February. A public consultation was held on November 15 and Dr. Schneider has interviewed ~10 Acadia stakeholders.
Provide Support for Farm Market Expansion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize commitment to maximize use of DeWolfe Building and the surrounding area 	Devin Lake, Marcel Falkenham, Jodie Noiles, Sam Taylor	June 2023 – March 2024	This is underway.
Review food bank/food cupboard programs to seek opportunities to collaborate and strengthen. Explore opportunities with the Community Oven and SOUP Program	Chad Johnstone, Alicia Johnson. Sam Taylor, Barb Shaw, Marjorie Lewis	October 2023 – March 2024	No update to report.
Expand Toolkits for Landlords and Tenants Took Kits Should Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Practices • Summaries of Bylaws and Regulations • Tips and Tricks • Who to Call • Waste Information • Nuisance Party and Noise Information • Rights and Obligations • Model Leases 	Kaden Thibault, Maren Schmidt, Olivia Lynch, James Sanford, Sadie McAlear	September 2023 – December 2023	This is underway. A meeting to discuss improvements to dealing with nuisance and related property issues was held between the Town, Acadia, RCMP and landlords in late October. This will help to inform this deliverable. The Town and University collaborated on an off-street parking and winter parking ban communications early in December 2023.
Introduce Off-Campus Advisors as an integral part in the development and creation of	Chad Johnstone, Olivia Lynch, Kaden Thibault	September 2023	This is underway, contingent on funding approvals. Implementation is anticipated for 2024.

Acadia's off-campus housing support service			
Conduct Review of Acadia's Off Campus Provisions in the Student Code of Conduct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile Enforcement Stats • Assess how it's currently working and recommend any changes if required 	James Sanford, Olivia Lynch . Kaden Thibault	June 2023 – March 2024	This is underway. Some preliminary stats have been provided.

In addition to the above initiatives, the following deliverables are also in the workplan:

- Joint Community Celebration for Acadia's Founders Day was held on November 15th with Town and Gown involvement
- Scheduled presentations to COW on a regular basis by Acadia staff will cover various aspects of Acadia and its operations. The first presentation was Scott Duguay on October 3rd presenting on the Strategic Enrolment Plan
- Scheduled strategic presentations will become part of every Town and Gown meeting (Committee to inform)
- Town and Gown Committee will become more involved with the International Town and Gown Association and the Ontario Town and Gown Association.