



Town and Gown Committee

Monday, April 22, 2024

Alumni Boardroom, Fountain Commons, Acadia University, 10:00 a.m.

#### Call to Order

1. Approval of Proposed Agenda
2. Approval of January 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes
3. Public Input / Question Period
  - a. Public Participation is limited to 30 minutes.
  - b. 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.
  - c. Questions or comments are to be directed to the Chair.
  - d. 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. Presentations
  - a. Community Safety Office Feasibility Study B. Shaw, S. Schneider
  - b. Wolfville International Student Support Program B. Shaw, A. Sharma
5. Old Business
  - a. Workplan Updates - Acadia University, Acadia Students Union, Town of Wolfville
6. New Business
  - a. Proposed Working Group Composition
7. Round Table
8. Next Meeting
9. Adjournment

Workplan Update: Acadia University, Town of Wolfville, Acadia Students Union

### **Shared Goal #1: Economic Development**

#### **A. Events**

Structural Changes:

- Tanya Colburne has taken on a new role as Executive Director, Business Development, broadening her portfolio to include revenue generation, ancillary services, and operations (Events remain within this portfolio).
- Nick Sharpe, formerly Marketing & Events Manager, with Events Acadia, has assumed the role of Director.

Business Development initiatives:

- The Events Acadia (EA) team attended the annual Sports Event Congress in March, where they met with 18 National Sport Events Rights Holders to pitch Acadia/Wolfville as a host of National & International sporting events, as well as National Team camps. EA will attend the upcoming Event Atlantic Summit in May.
- At the time this report was prepared, EA had submitted competitive proposals for 3 large 2025 national conferences.

Major Events:

- In partnership with the Town of Wolfville and Music Nova Scotia, Events Acadia announced Wolfville as the host of the upcoming Nova Scotia Music Week, hosted in the Valley for the first time ever. The event takes place November 7 – 10 across 6 showcase venues, in addition to an international delegate conference with 50+ industry delegates. A host committee has been finalized to proceed with planning.
- Work continues for the 2025 Curling Canada Canadian Pre-Trials Team Championships, hosted at Acadia in October 2025.

Events with Significant Regional Benefits:

- Hosted an arena concert (our third in the last year, after almost 20 years without hosting arena concerts prior to), on April 5, featuring Canadian Country Music Star, Brett Kissel.
- Hosting 2 Harlem Globetrotters shows on May 3, bringing substantial profile benefits to Wolfville.
- Hosting Special Olympics NS Summer Games for the second consecutive year in July.
- Strategically hosted the Regional CUCCOA (Canadian University and College Conference Organizers Association) in February, welcoming our university counterparts from around Atlantic Canada for 3 days of sessions.

#### Other Events Hosted at Acadia:

- Hosted 47 events (both internal and external) excluding Varsity sports games, from January 1 – March 31, 2024.

#### **Shared Goal #2: Facilities, Infrastructure, and Environment**

##### **A. Housing**

- A recent study concluded that Acadia currently has a sufficient number of beds to meet needs of students, but in practicality the university acknowledges that its traditional residence buildings are weary and are in need of updating to meet contemporary student preferences. Recognizing the importance of enabling the development of new or reconfigured housing, Acadia and the Town have had several meetings to explore how a blend of new and renovated on-campus residential offerings might ease pressure on the local affordable housing market. The university is also open to investigating options for third-party development on university-owned land that could service non-student residents.

##### **B. Recreation**

- Acadia's Director of Athletics Brian Finniss and Director of Business Development provided an update to Wolfville Town Council at Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, outlining the current state of Acadia's athletics and recreational infrastructure and to provide insights into providing ongoing access for the citizens of Wolfville. Information was also provided to Council pertaining to the events attraction strategy.
- President Hennessy hosted a meeting with Mayor Donovan, Councillor MacKay, and the Town's Interim CAO Rob Simonds (who attended virtually) on campus on March 11, 2024. During that meeting with Vice-President Finance and Administration, Erin Beaudin, Director of Athletics Brian Finniss, Facilities Director Marcel Falkenham, and Ian Murray, discussions were held to review the Town's access to Acadia's athletics complex/pool as well as to provide an update on the status of the Regional Recreation Facility initiative.
- Acadia's athletics and recreation facilities have long served the needs of residents, sports teams and event organizers representing the broader community. While it is the university's pleasure to make these assets and facilities available for use by all, the university is challenged to support the complex financially. As such, Acadia and the Town are seeking to identify opportunities to enhance and expand the capacity of the current complex to meet the broader recreational and events needs of Wolfville.
- To move discussions related to mutually beneficial facilities/infrastructure/housing developments forward, the Town and University will establish a joint ad hoc committee guided by the principles of the MOU.

### **Shared Goal #3: Community Well-Being**

#### Community Safety/Wellness Office Feasibility Study:

- By the end of 2022, through an engagement cycle completed as part of our Policing Services Review, our community had identified on-going, unmitigated, and unmanaged nuisance party occurrences and road safety as priority areas needing attention in the Town. Community members also noted the need for better efforts on small crime, property damage and residents had expressed a desire to experience relationship building with law enforcement.
- In conversation with Dr. Stephen Schneider, from Saint Mary's University, the Policing Services Review Committee was hopeful that these areas of concern could be addressed through the provision of a Community Safety Office. A Community Safety Office would be able to provide additional service in the Town, filling gaps that result from the limitations of our current policing services provider.
- In April of 2023, Dr. Schneider was engaged to consider feasibility and develop a plan for a Community Safety Office pilot project for the Town of Wolfville that would include the hiring of a Community Safety Coordinator.
- This planning phase required delivery of a report that would articulate the mandate, goals, principles, strategies, programs, and services of the proposed office. It was also expected to provide a preliminary estimate of the resources required for this office, an initial description of the Community Safety Office Coordinator position, and a framework to monitor and assess this pilot project.
- In March 2024, Dr. Schneider delivered a Wolfville Community Safety and Wellness Model Draft Study and Planning Document.
- The complexity of Dr. Schneider's recommendations and model goes far beyond the usual scope of a municipal unit of our size. This confirms our understanding that everything from the misuse of alcohol to theft, violence and vandalism can be linked back to complicated root causes.
- While staff are committed to working through the report with our partners at Acadia and the RCMP, there does seem to be some indication that our current approach is already moving in a direction that the report recommends, albeit on a much smaller scale.
- The on-going, collaborative efforts of the Town, Acadia and now, notably, the RCMP, have allowed us to adopt a far more effective way of tackling concerns that were raised in our 2022 community engagement cycle. Staff have never hesitated to connect with other levels of government, or to pull in community experts and organizations when there is a need. This

approach has allowed us to be agile and effective in managing some on-going issues in our community.

- The idea of a navigator that is outlined in Dr. Schneider’s report is also something that staff are already contemplating in terms of accessibility and inclusion with our service delivery. This is something that staff can continue to focus on.
- It’s also crucial to note that during the year that Dr. Schneider worked on this study, our relationship with both the RCMP and Acadia has evolved to a level of cooperation and collaboration that we have never previously enjoyed. While road safety continues to be a major concern for our community, nuisance party issues have declined thanks to a community safety approach and harm reduction strategies. Staff anticipate more positive outcomes on major issues as we continue working in a cooperative and collaborative manner, using proactive communications with all partners focused on removing the real and perceived barriers that exist in the community.
- As staff continue to unpack this report and make recommendations on which model, if any, should be piloted, full costing will be contemplated.

**MOU Partner Collaboration:**

- Town and University staff continue to meet weekly, generally on Mondays, to review weekend activities, to assess the efficacy of operational plans deployed, and to plan.

**Student Services Statistics:**

- Acadia’s Off-Campus Code of Conduct Statistics May 1<sup>st</sup>- August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023  
 Summer 2023 SOT/NPOs:

| Violation-   | May 2023 | June 2023 | July 2023 | Aug. 2023 | Summer Total: | Comparison to Last Summer |
|--|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Nuisance Party                                     |          |           | 3         |           | 3             | ~ (3)                     |
| Excessive Noise                                    |          |           |           |           | 0             | ~ (0)                     |
| <i>Nuisance Party Order (Warning)</i>              |          |           |           |           | 0             | ↓(2)                      |
| <b>SOT Total:</b>                                  |          |           | 3         |           | 3             | ~(3)                      |
| Overall Off-Campus Incident Total (with Warnings): | 0        | 0         | 1         | 0         | 1             | ↓ (5)                     |

\* All 3 SOTs were issued to the same property for the same incident, which is why incident total is 1.



- Acadia’s Off-Campus Code of Conduct Statistics September 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 – April 1<sup>st</sup> 2024  
Academic Year 2023-2024 Semester 1 SOT/NPOs -

| Violation-   | Sept.<br>2023 | Oct.<br>2023 | Nov.<br>2023 | Dec.<br>2023 | Jan.<br>2024 | Feb.<br>2024 | March<br>2024 | April<br>2024 | Year<br>Total: | Comparison<br>to Last Year |
|--|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Nuisance Party   | 1             | 1*           |              |              |              |              |               |               | 2              | ↓(9)                       |
| Excessive Noise  |               |              |              |              |              |              |               |               | 0              | ~ (0)                      |
| Nuisance Party Order<br>(Warning)                        |               |              |              |              |              |              | 1             |               | 1              | ~ (1)                      |
| <b>SOT Total:</b>  | <b>1</b>      | <b>1*</b>    |              |              |              |              |               |               | <b>2</b>       | <b>↓(9)</b>                |
| Overall Off-Campus<br>Incident Total (with<br>Warnings): | 1             | 1            | 0            | 0            | 0            | 0            | 1             |               | 3              | ↓ (10)                     |

*\*Not included in Statistics: Of the three SOTs forwarded by the Town in October, one was confirmed an Acadia student (included in stats), one a non-student and the third could not be verified based on the name provided (these two are not included in stats). The one SOT sent in December was confirmed a non-student and is not included in the stats.*

*Student Follow Up: Information regarding July and September’s SOTs was forwarded to Acadia on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023. As a result, there was no Student Code of Conduct follow-up during the fall 2023 semester. One student has been engaged in the Student Code of Conduct in March 2024.*

#### Proactive and Preventative Programming

- Winter Orientation - educated students on substance use, offer programming to draw them on to campus.
- Acadia@Night – offered fun, social, substance free events every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night. Promoted on @acadiaatnight Instagram account. Attendance is anywhere between 15 – 400 ppl depending on type of event. A health promotion ‘best practice’ pilot program for 2.5 years, this initiative is as part of Acadia’s harms reduction strategy. Each year attendance and interest continue to grow significantly. Developed and delivered by Student Services, Acadia students run the events, which contributes to increased attendance and participation.
- Acadia A-lympics – Ran for 8 weeks every Saturday from February 8th to End of March, all communities on and off campus were invited to compete in a variety of different challenges to determine the winner of Winter A-lympics. The closing events aligned with our harms reduction efforts for Cheaton weekend.

- Naloxone Training for staff and students.
- March Harms Reduction Planning – included a weeklong awareness week on Drugs and Alcohol that resulted in students saying they plan to make a change to their substance use behaviours with what they learned.
- High-energy programming on campus to compete with unsanctioned community events during St Paddy’s and ‘Cheaton’ weekends.

#### International Town and Gown Association (ITGA):

- Members of both the Town and university will attend the annual ITGA Association conference in June, 2024, to expand learning and seek best practices regarding town-gown relations.
- Ian Murray is currently enrolled in the ITGA’s Level I Town Gown Relations Certification.
- Both Ian Murray and Mayor Donovan have joined and have been attending (virtually) meetings with the Town and Gown Association of Ontario (TGAO), and have contributed to discussions exploring repositioning that organization to encompass all of Canada.

#### **B. Food Security Initiatives**

- Acadia Community Farm – The Acadia Farm, established in 2008, continues to serve as the Town of Wolfville community garden. Interest in community gardening emerged as a priority in the Town of Wolfville Sustainability Initiative, a community planning exercise conducted in 2006. In 2023 the farm hosted over 30 community garden plots for students and community members. We coordinated over 20 education programs including Wolfville day camps and Try-it-in Wolfville events in partnership with Parks and Recreation. Interest in the community garden is growing aligned with interest in sustainable food systems and high rates of food insecurity. Over 300 youth, students and community members participated in farm activities in 2023. Acadia is currently exploring opportunities for expansion and collaboration with Parks and Recreation.
- UNSDG #2: Zero Hunger – In 2021 Acadia became the first university in Canada to sign the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Accord. Each year Acadia adopts a single goal to focus education and operations activities. The 2023/2024 theme was SDG #2: Zero Hunger. Fall program highlights included the [President’s Panel on Zero Hunger](#) a research showcase open to the public. The [Student SDG Passport Program](#) involved a self-guided challenge during SDG month focused on awareness raising activities related to each SDG and directing students to food security resources and supports on campus and the community, such as the ASU food cupboard and community oven. In the winter semester students in BUSI 2993 - Professional Development taught by Kent Williams organized a variety of events and activities and

volunteered for food security initiatives on campus for national UNSDG week in March.

- World Food Day – The inaugural World Food Day event hosted by the Acadia Sustainability Office was held at DeWolfe House in October 2023 and was sponsored by Acadia Dining Services. The free catered event for students featured educational activities to raise awareness about global food issues, to foster an appreciation of local organic food, and highlight the connections between sustainable food systems and food security.
- Organic Nova Scotia Partnership – With funding from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Acadia and Organic Nova Scotia partnered on a variety of initiatives on campus including student food assistance programs. The partners worked with the Wolfville Farmer’s Market to create a **subscription program** available to students in need through referrals from student services and the counselling centre. **Holiday food boxes** were provided to students remaining in residence over the holiday break. **Organic Pop-Ups** for students were held in fall and winter with bags of free organic food such as apple cider, coffee, potatoes, eggs and more from local organic producers. 40 bags were distributed in December and 36 bags distributed in March. This popular initiative will continue in 2024/2025.
- Wolfville Farmer’s Market – Acadia is exploring the creation of an MOU with the Market to further collaborate on a variety of programs and initiatives including those with a focus on food security. This builds on many years of collaboration and support for student experiences. We are also exploring a new iteration of the student subscription program now that the Organic Nova Scotia project has concluded.
- Acadia Dining Services – In partnership with Chartwells, Acadia’s food service provider, multiple food security initiatives are supported with the **Giving Back Fund**, either with cash contributions, catering credits, or bulk food buys. Examples include the ASU Food Cupboard, student grocery gift card program, Wolfville School Breakfast program, Wolfville & Area Foodbank, Acadia Launchbox Agtech Student Challenge program, and more. The **Connecting to Food** annual campaign helps raise funds for food purchases for the ASU food cupboard throughout the fall and winter.
- Grocery Cards – Grocery cards (\$100 and \$50 value) are provided to students in need through the Counselling Centre and Student Services referrals. \$4000 in cards were distributed in the fall and \$2000 in cards in the winter semester with support from the Giving back Fund.
- Meal Passes – Guest passes for meals at Wheelock Dining Hall are provided to off-campus students in need through the Counselling Centre, Student Services, and staff referrals. \$3500 in meal passes were available in 2023/2024 with support from the Giving Back Fund.
- Supporting Men’s Mental Health: A Peer and Community-Based Program – The Acadia University Counselling Centre is partnering with Duncan Ebata, Executive Director, Co-founder, Front Street Community Oven to create mental health programming for men. This initiative was designed to



provide both peer-to-peer and professionally facilitated programming. Mr. Ebata and David MacPhee, MSW, RSW, of the Acadia Counselling Centre team create a peer-to-peer space for male students to cook together at the Front Street Community Oven (or at an on-campus kitchen), or to gather around a bonfire in the K.C. Irving Environmental Centre gardens in a safe space to explore and share their experiences around mental health issues. A program assessment will be provided at a later date.

- Chapel Soup for Soul & Body – This is a joint program between the Counselling Centre and the Manning Memorial Chapel. It is a student drop-in held every Tuesday evening from 5-6 pm in the Student Union Building for a cup of soup, a bread roll, and conversation. Fall meals were sponsored by the Giving Back Fund, winter meals were funded by the Chapel and Counselling Centre. A kitchen renovation is in progress at the Chapel, which will enable more food service and support food security programming in the facility.
- Soup & Sides – This community soup program was started by CODE students in 2023 as part of their course work in programming. The WFM continued the program for a 6-week trial. The Town is currently exploring ways to support the program. Acadia is also exploring how to support this program.
- Enactus/Food Sharing – Started by Enactus in collaboration with the Food Cupboard FoodSharing Acadia has hosted over 8 pop up meals which provided students with dinner or lunch. Over 1000 meals have been provided to students. Left over meals were placed in the Union Market or the Food Cupboard providing students with fast grab and go options.
- Community Outreach Acadia Food Drive – In November and March of this year students went out into the community to collect food donations. Donations are split between the Wolfville Area Food Bank and the ASU Food Cupboard.
- ASU Food Cupboard – Founded in 2018 the Food Cupboard Strives to provide food and personal hygiene products to students who are experiencing food insecurity. Fundraising partnerships have included Church Brewery and the Vintage Bus.
- Seminary Haunted House – the proceeds from this annual event have been donated to the Food Cupboard this year and is a partnership that will likely continue.
- Food Security Working Group – Co-Chaired by Alicia Johnson and Jodie Noiles, the working group was established in March 2024 to better coordinate Acadia's response to food security on campus.
- Student Applied Projects – Acadia courses in multiple disciplines incorporate applied learning opportunities for students connected to curriculum outcomes, and many of these projects over the years have been focused on food security and local food. A recent example is the **Make a Change** project in ESST 2003 Leadership in Sustainability taught by Dr. John Colton. Students

created a recipe book called *Mindful Meals for a Sustainable Life* for off-campus students with a focus on affordable, healthy, and sustainable meals.

- Campus Involvement – There has been an increase in staff and faculty to support Food Insecurity with numerous departments hosting events on campus. These include Bake Sales, Department donations and bonus points from professors for students who donate.

### **C. Wolfville International Student Support Program**

- Acadia international student, Aditi Sharma, was hired on a ten-week contract as a program development assistant. She worked to understand the former Host Family Program, speaking to program facilitators, host families and Acadia alumni who had participated in the program. Focus groups were held with current international students and numerous interviews were held with those connected to the Wong Centre and also with folks who provide in-home accommodation-based programs in the Town.
- At the end of the contract period, there is evidence of interest in the program, and evidence of need. With a new program format, it seems feasible to launch a new version with the Town as the anchor of the Wolfville International Student Support Program, (WISSP).

Town and Gown Committee  
April 22, 2024  
Proposed Working Groups

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**Shared Goal:** **#1 Economic Development**  
**#2 Facilities, Infrastructure and Environment**

**Objective:** **1) Events** - Improve communication to strengthen collaboration between the partners on matters pertaining to large-scale events that are anticipated to produce economic spinoffs. This cross-functional working group will act as an information sharing hub to keep each partner informed and appropriately engaged in the attraction and execution of large-scale events.  
**2) Recreation** - With an eye to better integrating Town and University facilities and resources, including parks, trails the natural environment, jointly explore opportunities to expand recreation services and opportunities to enhance active living.

**Members:** **Nick Zamora, Manager, Community Development (Co-Lead)**  
**Nick Sharpe, Director, Events Acadia (Co-Lead)**  
Rich Johnston, Facility and Recreation Manager, Athletics Operations  
Brent Legrow, Coordinator Residence Education  
ASU GM or designate  
ASU VP Events and Promotions  
Representative WBDC  
Ian Murray, Executive Advisor

**Meeting Schedule:** Quarterly

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**Shared Goal:** **#2 Facilities, Infrastructure and Environment**

**Objective:** **1) Housing** - Jointly explore opportunities to enhance, and possibly expand, housing options and/or availability for all residents of the Town of Wolfville.

**Members:** **Devin Lake, Director, Planning and Development (Co-Lead)**  
**Tanya Colbourne, Director Revenue Generation (Co-Lead)**  
Marcel Falkenham, Director, Facilities  
Chad Johnstone, Director Residence and Student Life  
ASU GM or designate  
ASU President and/or ASU Community Relations Representative  
Ian Murray, Executive Advisor

**Meeting Schedule:** Quarterly

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|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Shared Goal:</b> | <b>#3 Community Well-Being</b>  |
| Objective:          | <b>1) Community Harmony</b> - Focused effort on recommendations of the Community Safety Office research initiative.   |
| Members:            | <b>Barb Shaw, Manager, Communications and Strategic Initiatives (Lead)</b><br>Rob Simonds, CAO<br>Kaden Thibault, Community Compliance Coordinator<br>Erin Beaudin, VPACFO<br>Alicia Johnston, ASU GM<br>James Sanford, Executive Director Residence and Student Life<br>Courtney Sheedy, Coordinator, Campus Health Promotion<br>Olivia Lynch, Coordinator, Student Conduct and Community Support<br>Ian Murray, Executive Advisor |
| Meeting Schedule:   | Quarterly   |
| Objective:          | <b>2) Food Insecurity</b> - Develop a comprehensive guide of food bank/nutrition supports in place across the campus and in the Town by gathering information and promoting a directory linking efforts intended to combat food insecurity.   |
| Members:            | <b>Alicia Johnston, ASU GM (Co-Lead)</b><br><b>Jodie Noiles, Sustainability Coordinator (Co-Lead)</b><br>ASU President<br>ASU VP Events and Promotions<br>ASU Community Relations Representative<br>ASU Food Cupboard Coordinator<br>Kim Rymes, Manager Scholarships and Financial Aid<br>Ian Murray, Executive Advisor<br>Community Representative   |
| Meeting Schedule:   | Monthly   |
| Objective:          | <b>3) Wolfville International Student Support Program</b> - connect permanent Wolfville residents with international students, building relationships and support networks.   |
| Members:            | <b>Barb Shaw, Manager, Communications and Strategic Initiatives (Co-Lead)</b><br><b>Diana Joanes, Manager, International Student Affairs (Co-Lead)</b><br>Sharon Churchill -Roe, Manager, English Language Centre<br>ASU Community Relations Representative<br>Rev. Dr. Marjorie Lewis, Chaplain<br>Community Representative  |