



Town and Gown Committee Meeting

March 3, 2026

1:00 p.m.

Council Chambers – Town Hall

Agenda

Call to Order

Land Acknowledgement & Recognition of Historic Contributions

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Town and Gown Committee Meeting, November 24, 2026

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

4. Chairpersons Comments

5. Public Input

PLEASE NOTE:

- *Reminder to all speakers that the Town conducts its business with the seven sacred teachings in mind, truth, honesty, love, courage, respect, wisdom and humility.*
- *Members of the public participating in public input will conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful to the public, council and staff. Should this not*
- *occur, the Chair will advise them to end their questions and/or comments immediately.*
- *You have up to 5 minutes to provide input to be directed to the Chair.*
- *Responses will be provided after the meeting either via email or in person and may be included on a future report.*



- *Any input that relates 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 responded to.*

6. Old Business:

- a. Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

7. New Business:

- a. Update from the Town of Wolfville
- b. Updates from Acadia University
- c. Updates from the Acadia Students' Union
- d. Community Safety Plan for Spring Thaw and St. Patrick's Day

8. Roundtable

9. Next Meeting

- a. TBD

10. Adjournment



Land Acknowledgement

The Town of Wolfville acknowledges that we are located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

As a town committed to reconciliation and respectful governance, we ask that all who live, work, and gather here do so with the Seven Sacred Teachings in mind: Truth, Honesty, Love, Courage, Respect, Wisdom, and Humility.

These teachings guide us in building a community rooted in understanding, fairness, care for one another, and for the land.

Please pause for a moment of reflection - How can we be good guests on this land?

Recognition of historic contributions

We also acknowledge the histories, contributions and legacies of the African Nova Scotian people who have shared these lands for over 400 years, and we acknowledge the shared ancestry of all people of African descent in Nova Scotia.

ATTENDING

- Mayor Jodi MacKay
- Deputy Mayor Jennifer Ingham
- Shelley Fleckenstein, Board of Governors, Acadia
- Jeff Hennessy, President and Vice-Chancellor, Acadia
- Erin Beaudin, Vice-President, Finance & Administration and CFO, Acadia
- Alicia Johnson, General Manager ASU
- Yas Jawad, Acadia Students Union President
- Stephen Wolfe, Community Member
- Glenn Horne, CAO
- Recording Secretary, Laura Morrison

ALSO ATTENDING

- Barb Shaw, Manager of Communications and Strategic Initiatives
- Kaden Thibault, Compliance Coordinator
- Maren Schmidt, Compliance Officer
- Brian Finnis, Athletics Director, Acadia
- James Sanford, Executive Director, Student Services, Acadia

ABSENT WITH REGRETS

- Ian Murray, Chief External Relations Officer, Acadia

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Mayor MacKay, called the meeting to order at 1:00pm and the Land Acknowledgement was read by Deputy Mayor Ingham.

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions
1. Approval of Agenda	THE AGENDA WAS APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.
2. Approval of Minutes	THE MINUTES OF APRIL 28, 2025, WERE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.
3. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None
4. Public Input	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No one for public input.
5. Chairperson's Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and introductions
6. Old Business	



Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions
<p>a. RFD 047-2025 – Amendments to the Acadia, ASU & Town of Wolfville MOU</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAO Horne presented on the pre-circulated MOU and report, with amendments highlighted. • Discussion on meeting frequency. • Final recommendation to meet three times per year, in spring, fall and winter and as required for anything unforeseen. • From a public perception, while it is only the meetings that are seen, a lot of operational work is ongoing regularly. <p>IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE REVISED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ACADIA UNIVERSITY, THE ACADIA STUDENTS UNION AND THE TOWN OF WOLFVILLE BE APPROVED WITH MEETINGS BEING HELD IN THE SPRING, FALL AND WINTER.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</p>
<p>b. Homecoming Debrief</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acadia, ASU, Town and RCMP worked closely together for Homecoming. • Main focus of activities put on by Acadia was in the Students Union building where there were food trucks, a mechanical bull, washrooms and a games area set up to provide space for students without alcohol. From 11am to 4pm. At the same time an event took place in the Axe for those of drinking age. Set up from 11am to 4pm. Incentives were provided for students to attend such as tuition credits. • Breakdown of costs to Acadia for food, prizes, security was close to \$20k. Staff were on duty from early morning Saturday to early morning Sunday. • Approximately 300-350 students attended. Has been a decline in numbers year on year. • Students looking for a large space to gather unsupervised, which is seen as problematic on campus. No mechanism currently in place to host that but regulatory models are being looked at. • Students have criticized having homecoming at the end of study week. Study week is not movable. This is the second



Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions
	<p>year the homecoming/study break has taken place at the same time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could Homecoming be more structured to happen at the same time between institutions. • Observations from the Town’s perspective: the RCMP are emphatic about homecoming coming at the end of study week as it offers a community safety benefit, fewer students in the community and off campus events have not been as raucous as previously. • Opportunity to have conversation with other Presidents to look at same homecoming dates taking place at the same time if possible. • Alcohol harm reduction considerations. • There was some excessive drinking and one individual that needed assistance, others going from place to place looking to have a good time. • A student reached out to the Town prior to homecoming, came into Town Hall and asked how they and their friends could party responsible. They don’t want to be ticketed. • Compliance observations are most students were respectful, they are not out to cause trouble, they just want somewhere to go to listen to music and have some drinks. Around 10am to midnight, people were just looking for a place to go. No issues from 99% of them. • Working with RCMP to disperse large crowds. • Summer St busy all night, RCMP assisting with injuries, EHS did attend. Challenges with the command post, resourcing it and costs. • Debrief from Sgt. Pelletier - there were 30 calls for service on the Saturday, - 2 assaults, 1 assault with a weapon, 3 Liquor Control Act violations, 7 traffic offenses, 2 impaired drivers, 2 mischief, 2 theft, 4 lost items (wallets) and 7 others which could be anything such as having to provide EHS assistance. • RCMP don’t have a mechanism to track where the students are from. • University code of conduct – are students from other institutions violating their codes of conduct. Worth having the conversation with other institutions and working together.



Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a Code of Conduct for Acadia students but they would not be informed of criminal charges. • RCMP are the supervision level on the street. • The streets had at least 600 students. Last few events have been on Winter, Gaspereau but mostly Summer. Town’s mandate is to keep streets open, flowing through the community safety to allow emergency vehicles access. • Dynamic can change very quickly. Pushing people inside buildings creates a different risk, only a certain number of people should be inside a building. All supervision is gone when they are inside the home. • Town continues to discuss support with Acadia and look at new and innovative events, but things have to change. • A number of landlords do not want parties in their buildings. Residential tenancy is governed by the province; it is a civil matter between landlord and tenant. The Town works to provide landlords with communities of practice, sharing information, guidelines, and we have the Nuisance Party Bylaw, where fines can be levied. Once the tenant signs that lease it is a private dwelling of the tenant and the tenant may allow all those people in their house. Covenants are used by many. • Campus police would not have jurisdiction off campus. • Discussion on Super Subs, concern around underage students. • Progress has been made since mid COVID years. Time for more thorough assessment, and all parties must be willing to try new things and be innovative. • Mostly the house parties are in homes where there are 6 or 7 bedrooms which is problematic. • Beer garden with a big name to the event will keep them off the street and you could charge for the event. • All partners will think of ideas to bring back in the spring. • These kids are here the responsibility of all partners and stakeholders in the Town and we want to look after them and keep them safe.



7. New Business	
<p>a. Events Acadia Information Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in events portfolio. Couple of resignations over last 6 months. • Temporary staff moves to give them support. • New booking systems on campus and which may change staffing needs. • Working internally on business plan on Events Acadia. What events have been successful. • Discussions with DMO what that looks like and what we could partner on with the Town. • If opportunity comes forward, we can look at contracting out on case-by-case basis. • No major events taking place that were affected by change in staffing.
<p>b. Recreation Facility Engagement Information Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the closure of the pool, there are preliminary discussions on what's next for that space. • Plan on engaging with key stakeholders, students, faculty, facility members in early 2026. Any engagement with community would be with the Town's input. • Heard 40 to 50 different ideas, most common is turning the area into a fitness centre. • Recreational programming is a gap.
<p>c. Town of Wolfville Strategic Plan 2025-2029</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council recently approved their strategic plan. There are several specific references to Acadia University. All current strategies align with the university's shared goals and perspectives. There is frequent reference to partnerships or individual aspects where Acadia and Town are closely aligned. • Frame out relationship go forward with university, such as work on Micro Transit and work on traffic study along Main street.
<p>8. Round Table</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town of Wolfville - Launchbox and Town looked at scenarios and plans for Micro Transit pilot. Five teams participated and all brought something interesting and innovative. Expect something from each of them will find be included into the

	<p>final pilot. Looking at more opportunities to work with Acadia in this way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Video Surveillance Pilot has ended – cameras have now been removed. The Town will share the information re the video pilot with Kentville, but the cameras did not belong to the Town.• Town working with partners to assess viability of a marketing levy for the valley, which dovetails with Acadia. More discussions to come regarding economic development, tourism development etc.• Milling and Paving at University Ave, in the 2026/27 Operational Plan to include some parking and Active Transportation.• Housing Accelerator Fund, working its way through council now with multiple meetings over the course of the next couple of months. Multiple initiatives relate to Acadia property, revenue generations and student housing.• CAO of the Town and Acadia Executive Advisor, Strategic Initiatives, have partnered to establish networking program known as Masterminds with the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators. This is a forum designed to provide a discussion space to learn from one another and candidly discuss complex problems and opportunities. CAO Glenn Horne serves as Chair of the forum. Two sessions have been held and topics covered include information on housing and infrastructure, research funds (particularly as they touch municipalities), the international student file, and the recent federal budget. Future topics include aligning priorities and challenges / opportunities in provincial policy.• The Town is hosting an intern student from Acadia who is keen to learn about municipal government. <p>Acadia update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A couple of research awards in biochemistry, childcare, student centre, national awards, successful union negotiation with another union negotiation on the horizon.• Challenges are enrollment with the cap on international students and the processing time it takes for international students. Federal government does not seem to be relenting on this except for grad students not being included. The immigration cap is targeting students.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a deficit if can't continue to maintain enrolment of international students. • Applications are highest on records, but still not converting into admissions. If deposits are made, there is no way to know if the students will be in attendance come September in certain cases. • Working on a sustainability plan, how to generate more revenue. Relationship with province is very strong, there are a lot of good connections being made. • Two major influences are funding and legislation – bilateral funding agreements with province that have ties that didn't previously exist. We have been able to satisfy the requirements, but next year there will be more and expecting a major academic program review to assess if meeting needs which will be a complete program renewal or review to consider revitalisation, modernisation, rationalisation or closure of programs. Propose an academic program they will want to support. Arts programs are under pressure as enrollment is dropping. • Legislation Bill12 will require a restructuring of our board – 37-member board will be reduced. Government has a lot of say in how that will look. • We are undertaking a sweeping review of all systems, functions and making sure its all-encompassing. Good time for Acadia to look at future and create more of a spirit of innovation. Optimistic. • Officially creating a Childcare Committee with two spaces for Town of Wolfville representation. <p>Acadia Students Union</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Fundraiser Axes in Action - food insecurity. Trying to support off and on campus initiatives. ASU Food Cover pantry and Wolfville foodbank. Different fundraising. Raised nearly \$1000 this year. Events and promotions included a t-shirt design contest to sell to community. • Advocacy work happening, over last two weeks, participated with students in Advocacy week in Halifax. Attended Parliament Hill, lots of politicians, advocating on behalf of students, two pressing issues for students is affordable student housing, and youth employment and unemployment.
9. Next Meeting	TBD



10. Adjournment of Meeting	MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:28PM

Approved at the Town & Gown Committee Meeting
As recorded by Laura Morrison, Manager of Administration & Town Clerk

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

TOWN OF WOLFVILLE

hereinafter referred to

as The Town and

ACADIA UNIVERSITY

hereinafter referred

to as Acadia and

ACADIA STUDENTS' UNION

hereinafter referred to as the ASU

REVISED on March 3, 2026, this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into by and between The Town, Acadia, and the ASU. The entities listed above may collectively be referred to as the Parties to this MOU.

I. PURPOSE:

Recognizing that we are stronger together than if working in isolation, the Town, Acadia, and the ASU wish to transcend the traditional Town and Gown framework to create the most unified university-town model possible to support our collective goal of becoming an integrated community in which we live, work, and study. This MOU describes a framework that mobilizes our efforts to ensure we best meet the needs of the comprehensive community and our respective institutions.

II. KEY PRINCIPLES:

The Parties are guided by the following key principles:

1. We acknowledge that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We embrace the principles of equity, diversity,



inclusion, accessibility, and sustainability in our collaborative work.

2. Wolfville is only Wolfville with Acadia, and Acadia is only Acadia with Wolfville. The Town, Acadia, and ASU recognize that our organizations are intrinsically intertwined, each living up to its full potential of success only with the support and partnership of the other. The Parties actively invite one another to optimize the academic, research, cultural, athletic, recreational, business, economic, and entertainment opportunities provided through their various offices and departments.
3. We willingly invest in each other through dedicated resources, funding, and collaborative partnerships. The Town, ASU, and Acadia believe that greater benefit will be achieved if each invests in the other's success.
4. We share a joint responsibility to commit to a high standard of community livability for all residents of Wolfville. Residents deserve to live in a town that is attractive, safe, healthy, and affordable where neighbours appreciate, support, and respect one another. Challenges posed by food insecurity, poor or inadequate housing, or behaviours that are incompatible with the objectives of community well-being are addressed promptly, through collaboration and with sensitivity to all parties.
5. We have a duty to ensure the success of all Acadia students. Acadia students gain experience and knowledge not only through Acadia's academic programs and on-campus experiences, but by participating as proud -residents of the Town of Wolfville. Their involvement as residents should be enriching and contribute to an overall positive experience for all.
6. We will proactively consult and collaborate frequently with each other, with students of Acadia, residents of the Town, and other key stakeholders on matters of mutual concern before decisions are made by any one Party that would impact another.

II. SHARED GOALS:

1. Economic Development



The Parties, through engagement with entities including, but not limited to, Events Acadia, Acadia's Office of Industry and Community Engagement, the Wolfville Farmers Market, Valley Regional Enterprise Network, Kentville Research and Development Centre, and Wolfville Business Development Corporation, pursue and leverage joint research and economic development opportunities that provide benefit to the Town, University, and ASU.

2. Facilities, Infrastructure, and Environment

Through consultative and collaborative strategic planning, the Parties manage and promote facilities and infrastructure, including parks and open spaces in addition to physical infrastructure, in an environmentally sustainable manner such as to optimize their mutual benefit to all residents and visitors to Acadia and Wolfville.

3. Community Well-Being

The Parties work together to create and sustain a healthy, safe, supportive, affordable, and respectful community for all residents and visitors by:

- a. encouraging the engagement and interaction of all members of the community
- b. seeking affordable and safe housing options for all residents, including students and future students
- c. developing community-based solutions to enhancing food security
- d. committing to compliance of all federal and provincial statutes and regulations, Town bylaws and policies including but not limited to the Noise Bylaw & Nuisance Party Bylaw, and Acadia's Non-Academic Judicial Student Code of Conduct, and
- e. explore new and innovative opportunities to enhance community safety through cooperation with community partners.

4. Communication

The Parties work together to share successes, opportunities, learning, and initiatives with other Town & Gown relationships and regional, national, and international organizations and the broader community.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION:

1. The Parties will provide representatives to the Wolfville and Acadia Town and Gown Committee as follows:
 - President and Vice-Chancellor of Acadia University
 - 1 member of the Board of Governors (2-year term)
 - President of the Acadia Student Union
 - One member of the Students' Representative Council (SRC), usually the Community Relations Representative
 - Mayor of the Town of Wolfville
 - 1 member of the Town Council (2-year term)
 - 1 resident of the Wolfville community. Both the Town and Acadia will cause notice of this position and its subsequent vacancy to be advertised publicly. The member so chosen shall be selected by the other 6 Committee members (2-year term, renewable for 1 additional term subject to Committee approval)
2. The Committee will be chaired by the Mayor of the Town of Wolfville and the President and Vice-Chancellor of Acadia University on an alternating annual basis.
3. The mandate of the Committee is to serve as stewards of this Memorandum of Understanding and to promote its shared goals.
4. The Committee meets three times annually, usually in spring, fall, and winter or as required.
5. Each partner will appoint an administrative lead to support the Committee and



champion the deliverables of the shared goals.

6. A joint annual workplan is managed by the administrative leads.
 - a. The workplan is developed by the administrative leads with input from employees and other contributors as required. The administrative leads may from time-to-time establish working groups or ad-hoc committees to inform or execute the annual workplan.
 - b. The administrative leads will provide workplan progress reports at Committee meetings.
7. The Committee meetings may be held in a hybrid format (in-person and virtual)
8. The meetings are open to the public.

V. LENGTH OF AGREEMENT

1. Subject to paragraph 3 below, the Parties anticipate that this MOU will remain in effect indefinitely.
2. An informal review of effectiveness of this MOU will be held every two years. A formal review will be conducted every 4 years to ensure that the shared goals and key principles remain relevant and current. Any changes as a result of these reviews may require an amending agreement by the Parties.
3. Any Party may withdraw from this MOU with 90 days written notice. This MOU will cease to be in effect upon the withdrawal of any Party.

In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this MOU as of the last date written below:

Jodi MacKay
Mayor, Town of Wolfville

Jeff Hennessy
President, Acadia University

Yas Jawad
President, Acadia Students' Union

Date

Date

Date



