

INFORMATION REPORT

Title: Town of Wolfville Update to Town & Gown Committee
Date: 2026-03-02
Prepared by: Glenn Horne, CAO
Contributors: Town Staff



Innovation Challenge

Staff, along with members of Council and our Accessibility Advisory Committee, were excited to work with Acadia students through a Launch Box Innovation Challenge that focused on Micro-Transit.

Five student teams presented their micro-transit ideas on Nov. 20, and the quality of presentations exceeded expectations. Students focused on routes, ridership and accessibility. Many provided schedules, financial modelling, digital apps and websites. The top two teams also presented to Council during its January 27 meeting. Their work will now be shared with our consultants who are currently updating our micro-transit feasibility study.

Future challenges will be considered after this rewarding experience.

Acadia students building on Town's Equity and Anti-Racism Plan

Last semester, students studying with Dr. Cynthia Alexander, have spent time with the Town's first Equity and Anti-Racism Plan. In response to the work the Town is doing, and in support of it, students from disciplines and programs across campus will be presenting work they have developed with a focus on advancing cultural competency which promotes public safety and civic literacy through self-awareness, knowledge, and skills to bridge cultural divides, understand diverse perspectives, and foster more equitable, respectful community relationships.

Municipal Planning Strategy & Land-Use By-Law Amendments / Housing Accelerator Fund Implementation

The Town of Wolfville is entering the final year of the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) program. A Plan Review approach has been taken to implement the HAF Action Plan as well as make other housekeeping amendments to the Planning Documents. This process allows for a more holistic approach to ensuring the Planning Documents are up to date and address current challenges across the entire community.

Staff have taken community and Council feedback over the past 12 months to iterate solutions that, in their final draft version presented here, will ensure continued success for the Town. The documents as presented today represent the Final Drafts and reflect Council's direction and vision for the documents.

The Town's Commitments under the Housing Accelerator Fund are:

1. Amend planning documents to enable more than 1 dwelling unit in the Low Density Residential – Restricted (R-1) zone.

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2. Planning Document amendments to amend approval processes and zoning categories to reduce discretionary and political approval of developments, appropriately zone properties and increase building height in the downtown.
3. Create investment ready projects to increase residential housing development near university campus through a Student Housing Strategy.
4. Enable more affordable housing by creating a non-market housing working group, Housing Strategy, Non-Market Housing Grant Program, and a land bank.
5. Amend parking requirements.

Acadia officials have been engaged throughout the development of the Planning documents that are now before Council. The Committee of the Whole will be reviewing the complete package during its March 3, 2026, meeting. Once satisfied, the Committee will refer the documents to a Council meeting for First Reading and to schedule a Public Hearing.

The draft documents are available in the [March 3, 2026, Committee of the Whole agenda](#).

Student Housing Nova Scotia (SHNS) Development Agreement Application

SHNS has applied for a Development Agreement to permit a multi-unit dwelling on Hillside Ave. The proposed 12-unit building would be located on PID 55456875 and a portion of PID 55273908, near the top of Hillside Ave and in an area that has been zoned for high density development. The proposed building is three floors with two barrier free units.

Details are available on the [Current Planning Applications](#) section of the Town's website.

Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey

Wolfville will be amplifying messaging from Engage Nova Scotia until the end of March to raise awareness for the [Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey](#). The survey goes live on Feb. 23, and the data collected will improve our understanding of neighborhoods and communities in Wolfville and across the Province.

The Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey is a large-scale, province-wide survey designed to measure how people living in Nova Scotia experience life — not just in economic terms, but across many dimensions that contribute to overall well-being. It's led by Engage Nova Scotia, a non-profit organization, working with the Canadian Index of Wellbeing (CIW) and supported by government and community partners.

The survey is anonymous and will help paint a clearer picture of how people are living and what matters most to them — information that decision-makers and communities can use to shape a stronger future for all.

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Winter Operations

Winter Parking Regulations, including an overnight parking ban, remain in effect through to the end of March. Unfortunately, crews continue to observe vehicles parked roadside, which impedes snow removal and road maintenance operations.

Ongoing issues have been noted on Summer Street, Linden Ave, Prospect Street, and Westwood Ave. Staff continue to message the regulations across all channels and enforcement, including tickets and towing, should be expected.

Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA)

Masterminds: Town & Gown Relations

CAO Glenn Horne and Acadia University's Ian Murray facilitated the fourth CAMA Masterminds session on Town & Gown relations on Thursday, January 8, 2026. These sessions have brought together senior municipal administrators from across Canada to discuss and share learnings based on their experience in fostering partnerships between local government and post-secondary institutions.

Community Safety and Compliance Updates

Staff met in late February with partners at Acadia to chat about plans for the upcoming party weekends anticipated for March. Acadia is considering offering some on-campus activities to keep students diverted from off-campus hot spots. Staff continue to work with RCMP on a community safety approach for these weekends. Staff are requesting a higher level of enforcement, to prevent nuisance parties from growing to a size where safety is a concern.