



**COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY**  
DISTRICT 9 ONLINE NEWS  
HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

**WELCOME MARCH! BIENVENUE MARS!**



March is the time to welcome spring, celebrate Francophonie Month/Day, start Daylight Saving Time, celebrate Ramadan, for students to enjoy March break, to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day and this year, celebrate Easter! It is also a time for my council colleagues and I to continue debate on the 2024/25 budget. [We encourage your participation](#) at each budget committee meeting to have your say on how you wish to see your tax dollars allocated.

Keep reading for important information on the HRM Community Grant Program, spring weight restrictions, municipal trade apprentice positions, Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry and much more!

If you have questions about a municipal program or service, contact me at [Shawn.Cleary@halifax.ca](mailto:Shawn.Cleary@halifax.ca) or call 902.579.6746.

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### MARCH MEETINGS

Regional Council, Budget Committee, Halifax & West Community Council and Regional Centre Community Council meetings will be held on the following dates:

#### Budget Committee

Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

#### Regional Council

Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

#### Halifax & West Community Council:

Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

#### Regional Centre Community Council:

Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Please check our [website](#) to confirm dates/times.

### DID YOU KNOW....

March is [Francophonie month](#).

March 3<sup>rd</sup> is [Employee Appreciation Day](#)

March 8<sup>th</sup> is [International Women's Day](#)

March 10<sup>th</sup> to April 8<sup>th</sup> is [Ramadan](#)

March 10<sup>th</sup> is the beginning of [Daylight Saving](#)

March 18<sup>th</sup> is [Transit Operator Worker Appreciation Day](#)

March 19<sup>th</sup> is the [First Day of Spring](#)

March 20<sup>th</sup> is [International Francophonie Day](#)

March 21<sup>st</sup> is [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#)

March 29<sup>th</sup> is [Good Friday](#)

### 2024/25 BUDGET UPDATE



The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents of the following key dates as part of the

2024/25 Municipal Budget process..

**Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>** (Contingency: Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>)

Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency  
Fiscal

**Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>** (Contingency: Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>)

Halifax Regional Police  
RCMP  
Corporate Services (con't)

During each meeting, time will be set aside for the public to provide insight and comments. For residents to be added to the speakers list, pre-registration will be available until 4:30 p.m. the business day prior to the meeting. More information will be available on [halifax.ca/city-hall](https://halifax.ca/city-hall) before the meeting.

Residents will also be able to virtually participate any in-person meetings. Residents who wish to speak through the virtual option must still pre-register.

On **Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>** (Contingency: Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>), Budget Committee will review the Budget Adjustment List (BAL). The BAL includes all



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additional items that business units have presented beyond their proposed budgets, including add-ons ("overs") and subtractions ("unders").

A full review of the 2024/25 Municipal Budget and the 2024/25 Capital Budget will occur on **Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>** (Contingency: Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>).

For more information on the budget process, visit [halifax.ca/budget](https://halifax.ca/budget).

### BUDGET & MULTI-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN APPROVED



Regional Council has approved the 2024/25 Capital Budget and the 2024/25 Multi-Year Capital Plan, which are the basis for staff's planning and

resourcing preparations required to implement capital projects within the current year and next three years.

Some key projects in this budget include the Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Recreation Centre recapitalization, Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency (HRFE) Headquarters and Station 1, active transportation, sidewalk recapitalization, HRFE fleet replacement, Burnside & City of Lakes Industrial Park, electric bus procurement and municipal building retrofits as part of HalifACT.

For more information, click here to read the [staff report](#).

### HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS



Further to the progress announced in the [municipal statement on February 23<sup>rd</sup>](#), Saunders Park is now completely vacated. This area remains closed to the public and will be assessed for any required clean-up efforts.

The Province of Nova Scotia has assured the municipality that there are enough spaces available in indoor shelters and supportive housing options for everyone in the de-designated locations.

At the time of the municipal statement on February 7<sup>th</sup>, there were approximately 55 individuals sheltering outdoors among the five de-designated locations. Latest numbers indicate that there are approximately 29 individuals still sheltering in de-designated locations. The province, service providers and navigators are discussing appropriate indoor sheltering or transitional housing options with those experiencing homelessness in the remaining locations.

Continuing with the municipality's measured approach, municipal housing and homelessness staff are verbally communicating the next steps of





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the process with people sleeping rough in the de-designated locations.

Read the [February 28, 2024 Municipal statement about encampments and de-designated locations](#)

## HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUND ANNOUNCEMENT



As part of the Housing Accelerator Fund, the municipality is collaborating with partners and other levels of government in a national effort to support housing. The municipality is proposing updates to planning policies to enable more density and flexible housing types in residential areas.

To learn more about the Housing Accelerator Fund and the proposed amendments, [click here](#).

## SPRING WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

To minimize potential damage to municipal roads, the Halifax Regional Municipality will introduce its annual spring weight restrictions, beginning at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and ending at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.

These restrictions are for heavy vehicles travelling on municipally maintained roads. Residents can

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view which roads are exempt from spring weight restrictions on a [map](#). Regular weight tolerances apply on exempt roads.

The municipality's spring weight restrictions are consistent with those of the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works. More details of vehicle restrictions can be found [online](#).

### Spring weight restrictions

The Halifax Regional Municipality has implemented regulations restricting the maximum vehicle and axle weights permitted on all Halifax maintained roads NOT referenced in Schedule "B".

**Schedule "B"**

1. WINDGATE DRIVE	FROM BEAVER BANK ROAD EASTERLY 1.2 KM
2. BEAVER BANK ROAD	WINDGATE DRIVE TO SACKVILLE DR
3. BISSETT ROAD	COLE HARBOUR ROAD TO BISSETT LAKE ROAD
4. COBEQUID ROAD	SACKVILLE DRIVE TO ROCKY LAKE DRIVE
5. COLE HARBOUR ROAD	CALDWELL ROAD TO ROSS ROAD
6. COW BAY ROAD	MAIN ROAD TO CALDWELL ROAD
7. DUKE STREET	ROCKY LAKE DRIVE TO HIGHWAY 102
8. MAIN ROAD	BELMONT AVENUE TO COW BAY ROAD
9. ESTATES ROAD	GLENDALE AVE SOUTHERLY TO END OF PAVEMENT
10. FOREST HILLS DRIVE	MAIN STREET TO COLE HARBOUR ROAD
11. GLENDALE AVENUE	COBEQUID ROAD TO HIGHWAY 102
12. HAMMONDS PLAINS RD.	LARRY UTECK BOULEVARD TO HIGHWAY 103
13. LAKE MAJOR ROAD	IN TOTAL
14. LUCASVILLE ROAD	SACKVILLE DRIVE TO HEFLER'S MILL
15. ROCKY LAKE DRIVE	DUKE STREET TO HIGHWAY 2
16. SACKVILLE DRIVE	HIGHWAY 102 TO PATTON ROAD IN UPPER SACKVILLE
17. ST. MARGARET'S BAY RD.	PROSPECT ROAD TO HIGHWAY 103, EXIT 4 IN TIMBERLEA
18. HIGHWAY 2	ROCKY LAKE DRIVE TO SUNNYLEA ROAD IN WELLINGTON
19. MAIN STREET	RIDGECREST DRIVE TO LITTLE SALMON RIVER BRIDGE
20. HERRING COVE ROAD	OLD HALIFAX CITY BOUNDARY TO HERRING COVE
21. EVERGREEN PLACE	IN TOTAL
22. WINDSOR JUNCTION RD.	400 METRES NORTH FROM COBEQUID ROAD
23. TIMBERLEA VILLAGE PKWY	ST. MARGARET'S BAY ROAD TO HIGHWAY 103
24. ALL STREETS	IN THE FORMER CITY OF HALIFAX, DARTMOUTH & TOWN OF BEDFORD

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## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



March 8<sup>th</sup> is International Women's Day, a time to celebrate the incredible accomplishments of women, girls, gender diverse and non-binary people, while raising awareness that gender inequality still exists in institutional biases, stereotypes and discrimination.

This year, the Government of Canada's theme for International Women's Day (IWD) 2024 is **Invest in**

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**Women: Accelerate Progress.** It's a call to action and a reminder that gender equality is one of the most effective ways to build healthier, more prosperous, and more inclusive communities.

We all have a role to play in building a future where everyone can reach their full potential. Learn more about upcoming events in celebration of International Women's Day by clicking [here](#).

### DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME



When local standard time is about to reach Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at **2:00 a.m.** turn clocks forward one hour to Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> **3:00 a.m.** local daylight time.

Sunrise and sunset will be about one hour later on March 10<sup>th</sup> than the day before. There will be [more light in the evening](#).



### MARCH BREAK IN HRM



Looking for fun things to do over March Break?

Halifax Public Libraries have plenty of activities planned! Check out their [What's On Calendar](#) for free events and activities for the whole family to enjoy—at-home and in-person!

Halifax Rec also has an awesome lineup of March Break programs at the Power House Youth Centre! Most workshops are free, but be space is limited so be sure to register to save your spot.

Visit [www.halifax.ca/powerhouse](http://www.halifax.ca/powerhouse) for a full list of events and registration info.

Check out [Discover Halifax](#) for more ideas and announcements!



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### MUNICIPAL TRADE APPRENTICE POSITIONS



Are you ready to embark on a journey that combines hands-on learning with real-world experience? As a dynamic and forward-thinking organization, we are seeking motivated individuals who are eager to jump-start their career in the fleet trades. Our comprehensive apprenticeship program is designed to provide you with the essential tools, knowledge, and practical skills needed to thrive in today's competitive workforce. This isn't just a job; it's a chance to cultivate your talents and contribute to meaningful projects that make a difference to your community.

Read the full job descriptions and apply for the positions shown below:

[Truck & Transport Apprentice \(position #78639768\)](#)

[Autobody Apprentice \(position #78639770\)](#)

[Welding Apprentice \(position #78639769\)](#)

Visit [halifax.ca/jobs](https://halifax.ca/jobs) to view all current opportunities.

### HRM COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

2024-25

## Community Grants Program

A guide to different types of Community Grants, eligibility criteria and how to apply

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The 2024 [Community Grants Program](#) is now accepting applications. The deadline for submissions is April 1<sup>st</sup>. *Note: the annual deadline of March 31<sup>st</sup> falls on a weekend, so the deadline has been extended to April 1<sup>st</sup>.*

The Program provides annual cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities located throughout the Halifax region. There are two types of grants: a project grant of up to \$5,000 OR a capital grant of up to \$25,000.

Applicants should review the [Program Guidebook](#) prior to submitting an [application](#). First-time applicants are encouraged to contact staff prior to submitting an application.

#### Staff contacts

Peta-Jane Temple - Team Lead, Grants and Contributions

902.490.5469

[templep@halifax.ca](mailto:templep@halifax.ca)

Peter Greechan - Community Developer, Grants



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and Contributions

902.497.0479

[greechp@halifax.ca](mailto:greechp@halifax.ca)

### VOLUNTARY VULNERABLE PERSONS REGISTRY (VVPR)



Approved by the Regional Council in June 2023, the Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry (VVPR) is a voluntary, self-referral list only for residents of the Halifax Regional Municipality who may require support during emergency situations.

The VVPR provides important information to Emergency Management staff, volunteers and, first responders to help appropriately respond to resident needs in situations such as sustained power outages, severe storms, and more.

Registering for the VVPR is voluntary and easy and starts by completing an intake form. Click [here](#) or call 311 to get started.

#### Who should consider registering?

The Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry (VVPR) is a voluntary, self-referral list only for residents without 24-hour support who experience severe difficulty with any of the following:

- Mobility
- Vision impairment
- Hearing impairment
- Developmental disabilities
- Cognitive impairment
- Mental health conditions
- Any resident who requires electricity for life sustaining equipment such as oxygen, dialysis, etc.

The VVPR is not for all residents. For example, those receiving 24-hour support or homecare aide may not be eligible. Those receiving care or assistance in long-term care or supportive housing facilities are not eligible.

Residents under the age of 18 and receiving parent or guardian support would typically not be considered eligible for the VVPR; however, children with intensive needs that require electricity for life-sustaining equipment may be considered. In such cases, the caregiver will be registered to the program.

If you doubt whether the VVPR is right for you, complete the [intake form online](#) or call 311.

### PLANAPP 2023-00534 6590 BAYERS ROAD

At the February 12<sup>th</sup> special meeting of the Halifax & West Community Council, a public hearing was held on the development agreement for PLANAPP 2023-00534 regarding 6590 Bayers Road.

The proposed development involves a redevelopment of the existing gas station and

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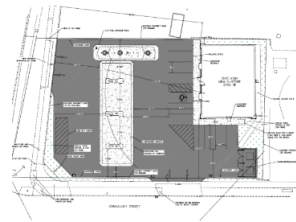


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convenience store. For more details, read the staff report [here](#). Halifax & West Community Council approved the proposed development agreement.

### Proposed Development



**Applicant:** Irving Oil  
**Location:** 6590 Bayers Road  
**Proposal:** Redevelopment of Existing Gas Station and Convenience Store  
**Type of Application:** Development Agreement

PLANAPP 2023-00534

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### Site Context



General Site location in Red



Site Boundaries in Red

PLANAPP 2023-00534

HALIFAX

### Policy Consideration

In reviewing the application against the policy criteria found in IM-21 and IM-7, staff found that the proposal:

- Improves site access;
- Reduces intensity of development and potential impact on adjacent and nearby land uses;
- Allows for the continuation of a well established service to within the community.

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### Development Agreement

The proposed development agreement includes clauses which regulate:

- Number of fuel dispensers: 8 to 6
- Size of convenience store: 275m<sup>2</sup> to 255m<sup>2</sup>
- Number of access points: 4 to 2
- 11 parking spaces (with 1 accessible space) & bicycle racks
- Outdoor solid waste enclosure
- Soft landscaping

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## FRANCOPHONIE MONTH



Bonjour tout le monde! Mars est le Mois de la Francophonie, un moment pour célébrer la

langue française et les diverses cultures francophones de notre région et du monde entier. La Journée internationale de la Francophonie est célébrée le 20 mars chaque année pour commémorer la fondation de l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie.

Nova Scotia is home to diverse Acadian and Francophone communities. March is Francophonie Month, a time to commemorate the French language and Francophone cultures in our region and across the world. International Francophonie Day is observed annually on March 20<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the establishment of the International Organization of la Francophonie.

As an organization and as a region, the municipality is committed to advancing French service initiatives more broadly. In June 2021, Regional Council unanimously adopted the [French Language Services Strategy](#) which aims to strategically plan and use resources to better serve and engage local Acadian and Francophone residents. Read the annual updates to the strategy [online](#).





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### SOCIAL VALUE CATERING



The municipality is seeking applications from catering businesses who meet Social Value Guidelines for inclusion on a Social

Value Catering List.

We are looking for businesses who are owned, operated by:

- Women
- African Nova Scotians / People of African Descent
- Indigenous peoples
- Veteran
- recent immigrants
- people with disabilities
- social enterprises

Learn more and apply [here](#).

### HFXGO INSTALLATIONS UNDERWAY!



Installation of HFXGO validators is underway on [#hfxtransit](#) buses!

Some validators are

already installed but will not be active until installation is complete on the entire fleet. Please continue to show your HFXGO ticket or pass to your Operator when boarding.

### PROFESSIONAL & PUBLIC ART JURORS



Halifax Regional Municipality is seeking new peer evaluators of the Municipality's Grants

to Professional Arts Organizations funding program and Public Art selection juries.

[Deadline to apply is March 31<sup>st</sup>.](#)

Eligible applicants will be added to a standing roster of prospective jurors. Members will be selected from this roster annually and invited to perform assessment of applications to the Grant Program and Public Art selection juries. This is a paid opportunity. Individuals selected for a public art jury are provided with a fee in accordance with CARFAC's Professional Jury Rate.

The implementation of the peer jury process reflects a commitment to efficacy, transparency, and accountability. This jury roster must be composed of artists and other members of the arts community who bring open-mindedness and respect for the views of others, represent a diversity of specializations, artistic practices, and cultural backgrounds, offer fair and objective analysis, based on assessment criteria without bias or prejudice, and are able and willing to work collaboratively.

For help with your application, contact Lindsay Cory, Community Developer, [Lindsay.cory@halifax.ca](mailto:Lindsay.cory@halifax.ca) or 902-456-8384.



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### REC FEES CHANGING

#### Parks & Recreation

Recreation encompasses parks, trails, facilities, fields, youth programs, recreation programming, culture and heritage, beaches and more.

In 2022, changes to the Parks & Recreation fee structure for recreation programs, services, rentals, drop-ins and membership fees were announced. In accordance with the five-year fee structure changes, Parks & Recreation fees, including membership fees, will be increasing effective April 1<sup>st</sup>. Please see the full list of changes [here](#).

### CULTURE AND HERITAGE PRIORITIES PLAN

#### Supporting Culture and Heritage in the HALIFAX Region

Regional Council has endorsed the proposed direction in the Culture and

Heritage Priorities Plan.

Sharing our Stories: Halifax Regional Municipality's Culture and Heritage Priorities plan is a comprehensive strategy aimed at promoting and preserving the diverse, cultural heritage of the Halifax region. The plan outlines a set of 44 actions that will help to build a more inclusive, diverse, and vibrant cultural community through focused investment, program development, service delivery and ongoing community engagement. The plan's actions will provide high-level guidance in budget and business planning across municipal departments in the areas of culture and heritage

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programming and will directly inform the 2023 review of the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy.

One of the main objectives of the plan is to expand and improve the representation of equity-seeking groups across the municipality, such as Mi'kmaq, African Nova Scotian, Acadian, 2SLGBTQ+, persons with disabilities, and immigrants and newcomers. Engagement with these communities led directly to the development of actions that will enhance the municipality's approach to diversity and inclusion throughout its programs and services.

For more information, click here to read the [staff report](#).

### AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN ROAD TO ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

An information report has been provided to Regional Council outlining key activities of the Road to Economic Prosperity for African Nova Scotian Communities from September 2022 to September 2023.

The report outlines activities around the Strategic Priorities, including the following:

Build unity and capacity among African Nova Scotians

- Through the guidance of the Advisory Committee, the outcome of this priority requires effective and culturally specific information sharing, collaboration with partners and establishment of a framework for supporting community capacity building efforts.

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Establish land ownership, develop infrastructure, and attract investment

- This priority addresses historic and current issues related to land ownership and environmental racism, strengthens the revitalization of African Nova Scotian communities through investment and development, and supports the exploration of international economic and cultural opportunities.

Increase participation in education, employment and entrepreneurship

- The Advisory Committee continues to collaborate with its partners and stakeholders around opportunities to advance this action.

For more information, click here to read the [staff report](#).

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I am a member of Halifax Regional Council, Halifax and West Community Council, Regional Centre Community Council and the following boards and committees:

Transportation Standing Committee  
Community Design Advisory Committee

March 2024

Audit and Finance Standing Committee

Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee

Halifax Climate Investment, Innovation, and Impact Fund Committee

Investment Policy Advisory Committee

Chain of Lakes Trails Association

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

### Land Acknowledgement

The Halifax Regional Municipality is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. The municipality acknowledges the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.

Halifax is committed to strengthening its relationship with Indigenous communities and honouring the significant contributions of Indigenous peoples. Another way the municipality has demonstrated this is by formalizing the official Land Acknowledgement:

*"The Halifax Regional Municipality is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. The municipality acknowledges the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People."*

Historically, a Land Acknowledgment is a traditional practice shared amongst Indigenous groups to recognize the Indigenous land and territory they are visiting. Making a respectful Land Acknowledgement now, remains a way to express gratitude and respect to Indigenous peoples for

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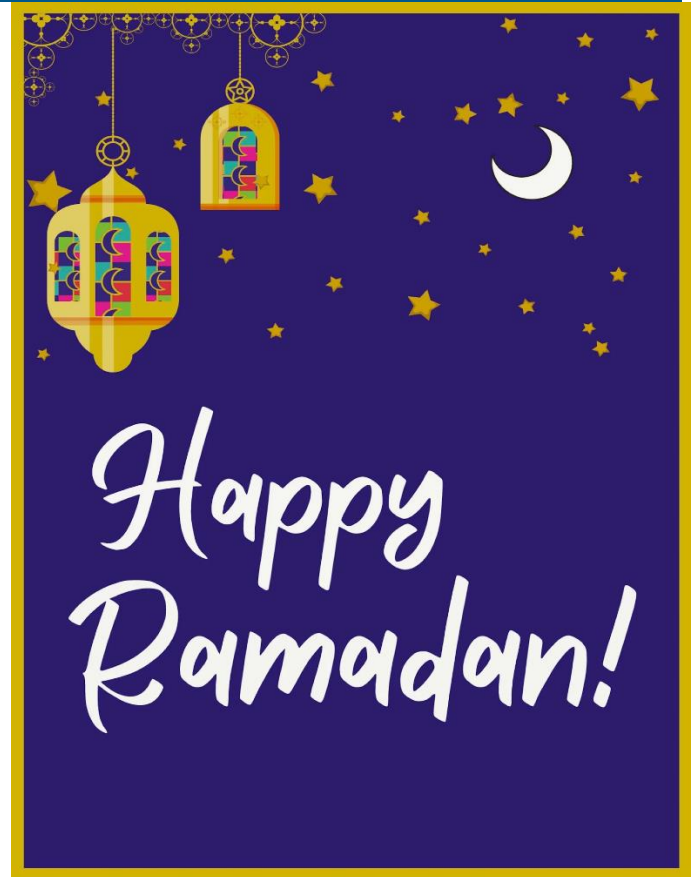


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being stewards of the land we live and work on. It is a crucial step in reconciliation.

In Nova Scotia, we are all Treaty People; with that comes roles and responsibilities.



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